

Chair's Report – December 2015

(indicates agenda item at OOE CA Board Meeting of December 8, 2015)*

***Main Street Construction**

The latest City construction newsletter (#15) was released on December 4. Bi-weekly updates will stop over the winter months. The December newsletter outlines the planned traffic restrictions on Main over the winter, including the planned reinstatement of northbound traffic between Hawthorne Avenue and Echo Drive. This change, combined with the reopening of the left turn lane from Lees on to Main will significantly improve access out of the Archville neighbourhood. The newsletter also indicated that parking is now allowed on the east side of Main Street in the parking bays.

There continue to be issues with cut-through traffic on the streets south of Clegg, in particular on McNaughton, where an action hour was planned and then cancelled after the police alerted our Councillor of possible safety issues. The illegal cut-through traffic on Echo Drive north of Immaculata continues to be an issue as well.

***Greystone Village Update**

The City's Planning Committee approved the zoning application of Regional on November 24. Note that the process followed by the City in terms of posting up to date information and broadly communicating the details of the proposal were not good; there was, however, a last minute meeting with the CA planning committee which resulted in a motion at Planning Committee that addressed some of our concerns. There has been some additional discussion with Regional on our remaining concerns over the last several days, and there may be a resolution soon. (Stephen will address this more in his planning report.) The zoning proposal is scheduled to be presented to full City Council on December 9.

Greystone Village - New Park

Eddie Gillis continues to be the primary contact of the CA for this project. The City has recently changed their park planner; Diane Emerson has now been assigned to the file. Hopefully the community will soon be able to see the latest plans.

Sisters of the Sacred Heart's Park (on Springhurst Ave)

We received the following information from David Renfroe of Domicile earlier this week:

"I wanted to reach out to you and let you know that we will be moving the Blessed Virgin Mary statue next week. We will be moving the statue to the new park location on the Sisters of the Sacred Heart's property. 12 trees were transplanted last summer and we are currently preparing the concrete walkway and statue foundation this week. All of the landscaping works will be completed next summer. We are currently scheduling a Monday (Dec 7) movement of the statue, weather permitting."

The rationale for the move of the Statue is that it was not in a good handicapped accessible location for the Sisters and its current location was very close to the property line.

Rideau River Nature Trail / Western Pathway

John Dance recently wrote to the Councillor's office on behalf of the CA and requested information on the proposed work on the RRWP/NT. The City's site says that "detail design will commence in 2015 with construction likely to begin in early 2016."

In particular, he queried whether there was anything available from the Councillor's office or the city that would provide more detail and information on how the community will be informed?

***Cash-in-Lieu (CiL) funds**

John has been continuing his efforts to clarify OOE's current level of CiL funding (our estimate of our share is \$314.6k), as well as to seek city-wide CiL funds for creating a real playing field at 160 Lees. (This latter proposal has been rejected in part because the lands are not considered to be a "district park".)

There are also a number of other outstanding CiL questions:

1. Proposed kids' basketball hoop at side of Springhurst court (\$2,260)
2. Proper surfacing of Springhurst court (the city / councillor's office has not responded with costing for this)
3. Money for planning community centre
4. Other projects? (OOECA and/or the city said "no" to the proposed ping pong table, a notice board on Lees by bus shelter and a second dock for Springhurst)

***AGM (November 10, 2015) / Annual Membership Drive**

The Church of the Ascension again opened their doors to our CA for our annual meeting and allowed us to use their downstairs hall for the reception afterwards. We had a good turnout of

community members, and once again received excellent presentations by John Dance on behalf of the OOECA, Ian McRae on behalf of Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE) and Melanie Gilbert on behalf of the Community Activities Group (CAG). Chris Osler (from Sandy Hill Community Health Centre) was our time keeper again as well as moderator for our Q&A session. Thanks to everyone who participated in the meeting as well as helped in the set-up and clean-up.

A new slate of directors was approved, with 6 Board members retiring. A big thank you goes out to Caroline Hyslop (our outgoing secretary), Ron Rose (who lead on transportation issues), Jim Strang (who represented us at the Federation of Citizen's Associations), Jill Wherrett (who took on the Community Safety file during the term), Nick Masciantonio (Past President) and Syed Zaffar. And although John Dance retired as President, we are so very happy to welcome him as Past President on the new Board. Other new members include Katherine Simonds (Secretary), Ed Janes (Vice-president), Eddie Gillis (FCA rep + parks at Greystone), Kate Martin (City Centre Coalition), Glen Linder (transportation), Mark Seebaran (Community Safety), and Paul Goodkey (member-at-large). Since the meeting another member of our Community has expressed an interest in joining our Board as a member-at-large, Jocelyn Kearney. We will be making a nomination motion at the December meeting for Jocelyn to join the Board.

We also had a robust membership campaign this year. We have sold 661 memberships to date, with some additional canvassing planned for missed streets. Although there were not a lot of comments recorded from residents on the records, one of the issues that was raised a number of times was a concern re some of the infill projects that have been or are planned for our neighbourhood.

Breakfast with the Mayor and Capital Ward Community Leaders

On November 5 I had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor and our Councillor along with representatives of the Glebe, Old Ottawa South, Heron Park, Glebe Annex and Dow's Lake. Melanie also attended on behalf of the OOE Community Activities Group. Key issues raised around the table were: concerns with some of the planned developments and the number of variances sought by developers, the need for additional community space and parks in some neighbourhoods, and Bank Street retail (Glebe, Old Ottawa South and Lansdowne).

St Paul University (SPU) Excess Space

On November 21 a meeting was organized by our Councillor to discuss options with respect to the use of excess space at SPU, particularly their residence building. There were representatives from OOE CAG, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, Ottawa Community Housing and Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation.

The residence building is currently only about half full, although the university intends to move its counseling centre from its current location near the cafeteria in the Main building to one floor of the residence. The former counseling centre space will then be converted to other uses (such as a student hub / gym).

There was a wide ranging discussion of possible uses of the residence (and the new Main building area post construction), both from a short term perspective as well as in the longer term. We also received a tour of the residence to get a better sense of the current facilities.