

## Chair's Report – January 12, 2016

*(\* indicates agenda item at OOE CA Board Meeting of January 12, 2016)*

### Main Street Construction

The following information was provided to us via the Councillor's office on December 15, 2015:

"Hydro Ottawa will be undertaking electrical service improvements starting the week of January 4, 2016. The project involves relocating hydro poles on Main Street between Hawthorne Avenue and Clegg Street. This project will improve the reliability of the electrical distribution system in the area.

Work is scheduled to commence as of January 4, 2016 and continue until the end of March 2016. Residents may notice an increased construction presence throughout the duration of the project, including excavation activities. In order to minimize noise concerns, we will ensure that work is completed weekdays between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Traffic control will also be implemented when required to ensure that roads and driveways remain accessible and safe to residents. Our qualified staff and contractors will conduct this work safely and efficiently, ensuring that any inconvenience is minimal.

Be assured that all residents and businesses in the affected area will receive advanced notice of the project and be provided with a point of contact regarding the service improvements in their area. Customers will also receive advance notification prior to any planned power interruption affecting their premises. In addition, an advertisement will be published in the EMC Ottawa East community newspaper on December 31, 2015."

### \*Greystone Village Update

The zoning application of Regional was approved by full City Council on December 9. A motion was introduced at this meeting to ensure that only underground parking would be allowed in the Traditional Main Street section of the development.

The current status of the project, as provided by Josh Kardish of Regional on January 5 is as follows:

- site clean-up is ongoing and will continue for the next few months
- Regional has signed a Letter of Intent with CADHCO that provides them with a 6 month exclusive window of time to establish a business plan to convert the Deschatalet building into a mixed use facility with a combination of non-profit housing and community based uses
- Regional hope to have a comprehensive package out to the CA shortly on the LID elements that we will be permitted to proceed with in Phase 1

## **Greystone Village - New Park**

Eddie Gillis continues to be the primary contact of the CA for this project. The Park Subcommittee will be meeting with the Councillor's office and the new City park planner, Diane Emerson, on January 29. It is our understanding that Diane has already begun some significant work with Novatech and Regional on overall design feature and budget specifications.

## **Proposed Development at 113-115 Echo**

Stephen, Paul, John and I met with Andrew McCreight, a planner with the City's development review team, and the Councillor (and Ian Grabina) in mid-December to discuss this proposed development on Echo. As residents in the area know, a rezoning application has been filed by the developer. The OOECA Planning Committee submitted our concerns during the comment period, and this meeting was an opportunity to provide additional clarification on our views to the City.

During the meeting we focused in particular on the following issues:

- while the proponents have requested Traditional Mainstreet (TM) zoning, they do not plan to have retail at grade (which is part of our TM7 zoning)
- the need for the City to protect a 23 metre right of way on this section of Main Street to allow for a complete street in the future (i.e., with a bike track rather than sharrows).

We have also received a copy of the numerous comments that were sent to the City by concerned residents (note that while we received a copy of the comments, all personal information was redacted from the material provided via our Councillor's office).

Discussion at the City's Planning Committee is not expected before March 2016; the City's Planning Department response will be available 10 days before this meeting.

## **Allocation of Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland (CiLP) funds**

After our discussion on this topic at the December Board meeting, I would like to provide a short update.

With respect to the possibility of new sports fields, we have received a response from our Community Activities Group who discussed this issue at their last Board meeting in December. They have indicated that "CAG cannot support the proposal for the soccer fields nor the use of Ward 17 CiLP funds for projects that are not intended to primarily serve OOE residents or that lack opportunities to increase OOE recreational programming."

In the course of investigating alternative funding sources for sports fields, John contacted the Ottawa Internationals Soccer Club in November to see if they might be interested in committing funds for the development of a soccer field. We received some additional information from them after our December 8 Board meeting.

While they expressed some interest, they indicated that there would need to be parking for at least 30-40 cars to even consider the site. Note that they have on occasion fully funded the costs of new fields if they receive exclusive rights to the fields created (which would still allow for community use during the day and on most weekends).

In terms of the Springhurst basketball courts, we discussed 2 projects in December:

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)

There was general agreement to proceed on these projects subject to CAG's approval. We are waiting to hear back from CAG.

There is nothing further to add re the desire for funding for planning community centre at this time.

### **\*Old Town Hall**

On December 8, Kevin Wherry, Manager, Recreation Planning and Facility Development, Parks and Recreation and Cultural Services, City of Ottawa attended our regular monthly Board meeting. He noted that, as a result of concerns with the structural stability of the existing back two-storey porch, the City is looking to remove the porch and restore the building's heritage style.

Kevin has recently provided an update re the work under consideration and timing. I am including excerpts of his message below:

"...The work is scheduled for 2016 – no date determined yet. It is not a line item in a budget book per se. It is part of a program bucket for lifecycle replacement of aging facilities. .... That program is under extreme pressure to fix / repair / replace much more items than it can afford to do. .... "

"For the porch it is obvious that both stories must be removed. It is no longer required for the lift and keeping it isn't a requirement under heritage designation ... But I was able to advocate and demonstrate that the porch has a program use beyond that of a simple landing and steps

as was there historically. This was courtesy the program need your association had demonstrated and explained well at the last meeting.”

Kevin also indicated note that the accessibility ramp is now expected to be completed by January 22, 2016.

### **Letter of thanks to the NCC for the safe crossing at Colonel By**

John Dance kindly drafted a letter to the Chair of the NCC which was reviewed by OOECA Board members, and which I then sent on behalf of the CA on January 8, 2016. (A copy of the final letter will be shared electronically shortly.) A number of Board members noted that it was a very good initiative since we often tend to focus on issues that are irritants or problems and do not always celebrate or credit the good things that happen in our Community. So if there are other similar letters that could/should be written in the future, let's all stay vigilant to the opportunities and take action.