

## Chair's report June 12, 2018

### Follow-up re April 29 vandalism in Archville

- I received a message from Stephanie Lemieux, our Community Policing Officer, indicating that at this time, there is no further information regarding this incident. She also indicated that she has not heard of any other problems in the area aside from the theft from vehicles which tend to increase during this time of year.
- she provided a reminder to the community to keep vehicle doors locked and remove anything of value from the vehicle. She noted that it is not enough to put things in the console or trunk as she has watched many videos of individuals getting into vehicles and going through the entire space, including the trunk.
- I would also like to note that one of the teenagers charged with Mischief to Property over five thousand dollars, Thomas Gagnon-Jones, has been approaching residents in the Archville area to apologize for his actions. He is trying to speak in particular to those residents directly affected by the vandalism. I have his e-mail address which I can share with anyone who would be interested in speaking with him.

### Provincial all-candidates meeting on May 17

- thank you to Ron Rose and Jaime Girard for their work with the organizing group of the 11 sponsoring community associations who sponsored this event
- there was a large crowd in attendance (with late comers forced to stand)

### Main Street perennial garden

- given the late fall warm weather and multiple freezes and thaws over the winter, a number of the shrubs took a beating
- the Board executive thus decided to provide funds (up to \$300) for the replacement of the dead plantings with some hardier shrubs; note that with the Councillor's contribution (below), we expect to be contributing about \$150 to this (hopefully) one time expenditure
- also our watering costs have been substantially lower than was budgeted so we will not be incurring a lot of additional costs
- our Councillor's office has also indicated that he will contribute \$150 to this cause

### Immaculata field update

- the recent Mainstreeteer featured an article on the field + the letter from the editor highlighted our new editor Lorne's concerns with the process
- construction is continuing even though a number of concerns have been expressed by the Neighbours for Community Fields group about the current plans not following the 1993 Site Plan Agreement between the Ottawa Catholic School Board and the City; there have been some issues identified with vibrations from construction equipment and some monitors are now in place
- I believe the Neighbours group is scheduled to meet with our Councillor on Friday, June 8
- also note that the Neighbours for Community Fields have a Twitter account; they have posted a number of tweets of interest
- and finally some of you may recall a short discussion at the last Board meeting about my request for the City to consider the Building Better & Smarter Suburbs policy for the inner city; this is a policy whereby the City and school boards share green space with a field being used by a school in the daytime, while in the evenings and on weekends, the community has access to the field
- I received the following reply from our Councillor about this policy:

"After carefully considering the specifics of the Building Better and Smarter Suburbs (BBSS) documentation I have to say that I don't feel it applies, as written, to the types of pressures we are experiencing in our dense urban neighbourhoods. These principles apply to large Greenfield developments in the suburban area where there is an over-abundance of land. .... Combining a

required developer-built City park with a planned School Board school makes perfect sense and ensures an effective use of those lands by the entire community ....

The on-the-ground situation in communities like our own are drastically different where the availability of vacant, publicly-owned land is at a premium. ....

What I will commit to is exploring what principles within the BBSS may be applicable, in a modified form, to the Urban context so that we see the smartest and most effective Land Use possible when private or brownfield lands are redeveloped in the core.

It is going to take me some time to look at how a city policy such as this — expressly designed for a suburban context, as the title implies — might be adapted or drawn from for a denser, older community such as OOE. There are indeed parallels, though not a neat fit. .... I will see if I can make any progress on this in the remainder of my term of office, and to get it into the work plan of the appropriate city staff."

### **June 2 Doors Open Ottawa**

- there were 3 OOE sites involved in this year's weekend event: the Ottawa Chinese Bible Church (61 Graham), the Peace Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church (83 Main) and the AIDS Committee of Ottawa (19 Main)
- Khaled Salam, the Executive Director of the facility at 19 Main has offered to come again to one of our Board meetings if we would like an update on the facility
- I would like to discuss this possibility at the June 12 meeting

### **Greystone pathway closure**

I received the following message from Erin O'Connor of Regional on June 1:

"Please be advised some additional works within the River Corridor is about to start on Thursday, June 7 at 7am which requires the River Corridor pathway be closed from the public for safety reasons. These works involve moving earth around to create the topography and landscape features such as the berms, similar how Phase 1 of the corridor was done. Once this work is completed, the contractor will seed the area with natural grasses to prevent erosion until such time as the final landscape plantings are completed. Those works are anticipated to occur late summer or early fall

The River Corridor pathway will be closed to the public starting from Deschâtelets Avenue to Springhurst Park on Thursday June 7 at 7am and will reopen to the public no later than Wednesday, June 13 at 5pm. We will arrange for signage to be erected advising of the closure on Tuesday to provide warning it will be closed. Signage will be placed at our entrance at Springhurst Park and at the bottom of the MUP switchback off Clegg Street warning there is no through way to Springhurst Park."

### **Main Event**

- the event will be back on Main Street on June 16 and we will again be using the barbeque as one of our main fund raisers; Andrew Power is once again acting as our lead and I would encourage board members in particular to volunteer
- the Community Activities Group (CAG) will once again be hosting many other activities during the event for all ages
- also note that the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre will once again be hosting a film night at Springhurst Park on Friday, June 15

### **Canal docks**

- in October 2017 we sent a letter to our MP Catherine McKenna thanking her for the docks in Old Ottawa East and the Glebe and suggesting that Parks Canada also consider some additional docks on the canal, particularly at the base of the canal where it meets the Ottawa River; this was a suggestion arising directly from our experience when we circumnavigated Rideau Island last September (one of our sesquicentennial events)
- we received a response from the Minister in mid-May, unfortunately indicating that no additional docks were planned at this time
- as the paddlers amongst us already know, the dock at Clegg was not reinstalled this year; we had hoped that the reinstallation was only delayed due to the bridge construction, however, we have just been informed that there is no plan to locate a dock at Clegg this summer
- this seems overly restrictive to us given that the dock and access gate are where bikes and pedestrians continue to be able to use the canal pathway; if this is a city decision (they are responsible for the footbridge construction), perhaps our Councillor could lobby on our behalf?

### **Main Street Road Safety Audit**

- the City will be undertaking a Road Safety Audit (RSA) this spring; the Consultant will be hired shortly with a timeline for completion being prior to the end of the French board's school year.
- the following high-level explanation of the RSA was provided by the City's Road Safety Studies Sr. Engineer:

"From a very high level, the purpose of the RSA is to have a team of road safety experts review a design (or in this case the actual road) to ensure that the roadway environment is built using the most up to date knowledge/best practice for road safety design. Design and construction jobs involve thousands of decisions, and sometimes decisions are made that inadvertently compromise safety. The RSA will identify any safety issues that fell through the cracks and will make suggestions to help mitigate the safety issues. Some of the things that the Road Safety Auditors will be looking for will be:

- Conflict areas (areas where different types of roadway users will cross paths with each other), and whether or not there is sufficient warning/accommodations of these areas.
- Hazards on and off the road that might result in damage or injury if they are hit
- Sight lines between road users, and traffic control devices
- AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) requirements for tactile and audible warning
- Locations that might be difficult for users from a human factors perspectives (Too many signs, too much information to process...etc.) I find that this one is particularly difficult for Auditors, and insight from the community is exceedingly helpful."