

Chair's report June 11, 2019

Main Event

Please join us on Saturday, June 15 to enjoy the great programming of our Community Activities Group, including activities for children & music for all ages, and support your community association by buying a burger or hot dog at the barbeque

Old Ottawa East Community Association monthly meetings

The June meeting will be our last one before the summer break; mark your calendars for the restart of our monthly meetings on September 10

Also it is never too early to include the annual general meeting on your calendar; this year it will again be held at the Church of the Ascension on November 12

this is the year for a new board to be elected & therefore we will be convening a nominating committee shortly

We will be looking for new board members as well as hoping that some of our current board members may be willing to continue, either in their current positions or be willing to accept new challenges

Pedestrian crossing at Greenfield / Concord St North

not good news here as the recently reinstated crosswalk was once again run down by a large truck trying to turn east on to Greenfield while traveling north on Concord; as anyone familiar with the intersection will realize, such a manoeuvre was unlikely to be successful

Greenfield-Main-Hawthorne reconstruction project

Tom, Alexandra and I attended the 2nd Public Advisory Committee meeting on June 4; Tom will provide some additional information on this meeting and next steps in his planning report for our June meeting

Please note that there is a public information session on Tuesday, June 18 from 7:00-9:00pm in the multipurpose room of Saint Paul University, 233 Main Street

There will be a presentation by city staff and consultants on project goals and objectives, scope of work, proposed schedule and key features, plus outcomes from two Public Advisory Committee meetings held to date with community representatives

preliminary design panels and artists' renderings of streetscapes for Hawthorne, Main and Greenfield will also be on display

Project information is available at the following site: <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/greenfield-avenue-main-street-hawthorne-avenue-et-al-reconstruction-project>

Vision Springhurst

Rick made a powerful presentation at our last Board meeting; he is seeking community input on the visioning exercise that is underway as well as funding from multiple sources to enhance the potential use of Springhurst Park

Signs on the visioning exercise are up at the park, with an email contact (visionspringhurst@gmail.com); the deck that he presented at our May meeting + a summary of the discussion that night will be available when the minutes to our May meeting are posted on our website

Also check out this Facebook link to see how well the park is currently being used: Springhurst Park Action - SPA

Please note that I expect a motion will be put forward at our June meeting to financially support at least one of the new initiatives proposed

Archville vandalism incident

the minutes from our May meeting will be posted shortly; they contain a good summary of the information provided by Amber Montgomery of the Collaborative Justice Program: Restorative Justice Ottawa and Detective Hull

Note that the letters written by the 2 offenders will be included with these minutes

Greystone Village official plan amendment request

It appears that this request will be heard at the June 27 city planning committee meeting

Ron will provide some additional information at our board meeting in his planning report

Immaculata field LPAT hearing

We now have confirmation that this delayed hearing will be held on July 2

To briefly recap the situation, the city's planning committee on August 28, 2018 voted in favour of limiting the hours that the field was lit to 9:00pm Sunday-Thursday and until 10:00pm on Friday & Saturday; this decision was then appealed by the Ottawa Catholic School Board

While the decision is under appeal, the Footy 7s have been operating as if no limitation had been applied (I.e., up to 11:00pm 7 days a week - although I believe they have rarely thus far had league matches after 10:00pm)

Dogs in parks

Signs are now up at Brantwood Park soliciting the views of residents with respect to allowing dogs on leash anywhere in the park and dogs off leash in the baseball diamond area when that field is not otherwise being used.

The city is accepting comments until June 28, all comments to be directed to Kevin Heiss at By-law and Regulatory Services. He can be reached by phone at 613 580 2424 ex. 41864, or by email at: kevin.heiss@ottawa.ca

When dogs in parks was discussed over a year ago, there was also a proposal to consider changes to the 160 Lees and Springhurst Park areas; these changes are not being considered at this time

My understanding is that the general rule is that dogs must be on a leash, except in specific off-leash designated areas

I believe there is a need for signs / markers clearly delineating park boundaries at Springhurst as there are no dogs allowed in the park

Other issues recently raised by OOE residents

The state of the tennis courts at Brantwood Park; while the majority of the surface is OK, large cracks have developed along the service and side lines thereby warping the trajectory of the ball

Trees on Main Street (even those just replanted last year) looking pretty forlorn, & trimming that has in some cases been extreme (check out the tree in front of the Grande Allée where the main tree trunk has been chopped off; it was planted directly under a hydro pole steel support)

Dangerous corners (e.g., Echo Drive/ Graham) made more dangerous by cars & bikes rarely stopping at stop signs

Bikes going the wrong way on bike paths on Main Street

The impact of Airbnb rentals on the quality of life of neighbours; concerns included noise (often when rental units are being used to host parties), increased garbage & pests, and a feeling of unease/ lack of security as a result of some properties turning over rentals every few days ("if one wanted to live beside a hotel, you would not have chosen to buy a house on a quiet residential street")

The sorry state of the grass around the perennial garden at Riverdale & Main; also I believe the attempt to reseed the boulevard grass on Main Street was not very successful

On Thursday, May 30 I was cc'ed on a number of emails regarding the noise in the evening and over night emanating from the Nicholas bridge (I believe) reconstruction; it would be helpful to know if there are currently/ or are expected to be additional late night noise exemptions

Rental accommodations

The city is studying rental accommodation; the following website includes a lot of information on the work proposed, including a list of planned consultations <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/rental-accommodations-study#public-consultations>

the city's Rental Market Analysis report is also available: https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/default/files/RAS_RMA-en.pdf

The Councillor's May 24 newsletter also contained a number of links to city online surveys (e.g., Short-Term Rental Regulations, Student Housing Regulations and Rental Housing Conditions)

Contact his office to get on this distribution list capitalward@ottawa.ca

Meeting with Juanita Cody of Greystone Village Retirement Residence

I met with Juanita on May 15 & thought I would share a few of the items we discussed that I believe would be of general interest

Their presentation centre should be open soon; it will be in the the trailer that is in the NE corner of their property

First residents are expected to move in before the end of November 2019; there will be 148 rooms with a maximum occupancy of 172

They expect to hire 75-80 employees; note that there will not be any staff parking provided

There is also a plan to have 5 respite rooms for convalescence purposes; I think this would be the first such option in our community

Finally, there are a number of planned facilities including a big community room (to accommodate up to 140 residents), a gym, a library area, a spa & a restaurant; they intend to open a number of daytime and evening activities to the community