

Chair's Report – September 2015

(* Indicates agenda item at OOECA Board meeting of September 8, 2015)

1. *Main Street Construction:

Project manager Josée Vallée reports:

“While the General Contractor, Karson Konstruction will shut down for the winter (from just before Christmas to approximately April), it will still be a construction site with lane restrictions (no northbound lanes from Clegg to Lees) because Hydro will be on site moving the hydro poles/wires.

“What the site will look like for the winter will depend on how much work the Contractor will get done by then. We will have a better idea in a couple of months. Temporary asphalt will be placed on sidewalks that are not done by then.”

From a traffic point of view City Traffic Operational Studies Officer Stacey Rathwell says:

“Generally speaking, the Main Street Renewal Project is on schedule at this point in time. With respect to traffic concerns surrounding the work zone, we have been addressing each individual inquiry in an attempt to constantly improve conditions in the Old Ottawa East community. The area has seen additional regulatory, warning and information signage, as well as increased enforcement by the Ottawa Police.

“The McIlraith Bridge Rehabilitation is also on schedule at this point. Since this project began, there have been alterations to conditions across the bridge to encourage a ‘Single File’ scenario between cyclists and cars. With a number of ‘Single File – 20km/h’ warning signs, ‘Do Not Pass’ regulatory signs, and lane centred ‘Sharrows’ painted in each direction, we have seen drastic improvement in cyclist safety on the bridge.

“With regard to traffic on side streets, I actually have not heard of any speed/volume concerns or inquiries from the community as of lately. With the most recent two week hard closure between Hawthorne and Lees there was definitely added cut through traffic attempting to find other routes within the community. I imagine this will continue to decrease back to volumes similar to before this closure. So far this week, volumes have already decreased in comparison. Average speeds, as well as 85th percentile speeds have

continued to remain in the same range, generally below the posted legal speed limits.”

In terms of upcoming work, Stephen Fitzpatrick, the new communications officer and Associate Environmental Planner with Parsons reports:

“I want to provide you an update on some of the works along Main Street. Towards the end of next week (August 31 - Sept 4), the southbound traffic lane between Springhurst Avenue and Clegg Street will be moved to the east side of the road (on the new asphalt).

“The pedestrians will also be directed to the east side of the road with crossing opportunities at intersections. The new asphalt cycle track in front of St. Paul University will be used for pedestrians while the sidewalk gets constructed. Construction will then start along the west side of the road. The major work (between Springhurst and Clegg) after the traffic flip will be:

- Hydro duct work for the LRT (requires excavation)
- Connection of water and sewer services to buildings (requires excavation)
- Installation of temporary waterlines for affected business owners to minimize disruptions
- Removal of current street furniture (benches, planters)
- Pouring of curbs and resurfacing.

“Access to businesses will be maintained during this work (the business owners would appreciate your help in advertising ‘business open as usual’ on your various social media outlets, and community outreach materials).

Connections are planned to begin at Springhurst, and proceed south down Main to Clegg. It will be an intensive time for construction, but the brunt of work should be complete by November ahead of the winter break. During the winter, it is expected that only Hydro will continue work to relocate the poles. Once I receive a timeline for servicing excavations and temporary water connections, I will communicate it with those affected.”

Other points:

In view of the installation of speed bumps on OOS’s Ossington and the increased traffic on some side streets should options be considered / proposed to the city so that there isn’t permanent significant increase of traffic

(often speeding) on side streets? Of note, Glenora residents have experienced considerable additional traffic and remediation measures may be required.

Also, I continue to be dismayed that the only way to deter motorists from breaking rules like illegal turns and wrongful passage (e.g., northbound on Echo at Church of the Ascension) is by having police enforcement. Surely there are other means - means that are relatively economical. Why is it that there can't be cameras to ticket such offenders just as there are cameras to ticket red-light runners or speeders?

2. Greystone Village Update:

Josh Kardish of the Regional Group notes:

- sales center will open in late September
- Regional is working with Josée Vallée to coordinate traffic management with the sales office
- marketing materials are being prepared to get potential customers onto the Regional site rather than using side streets
- If, after Regional opens the sales center, there are issues with our potential customers on side streets, residents may contact Josh Kardish. (“We plan on having full time staff to direct traffic onsite for the first few weeks (it may be overkill but it is a cheap measure to keep organized) so any issues can easily and quickly be dealt with.”)
- Regional is nearing “draft approval” from the City and will notify the CA when they get it (The City will do the same)
- the draft conditions will be posted on the Regional website
- the site clean-up start date has been slightly delayed until October
- Regional will have formal follow up to the LID (stormwater) working session on its website shortly (including detail lists and descriptions of projects that Regional is now pursuing onsite)
- Regional will provide a separate update on the district energy work that has been done this summer

- If there are people in the CA who would like a tour of the presentation center the week that Regional opens it, Josh Kardish will arrange a lunch-time walkthrough.

- In terms of the 30m open space along the river, Regional continues to engage the RVCA Trust

3. Greystone Village - New Park:

Eddie Gillis is arranging a public meeting with the City and Regional Group - likely some time in October - that will allow residents to review what Regional and the City have produced as a result of the public workshop on proposals for the Grand Allée / Forecourt park. This is an important opportunity to help ensure the new park works well for the “village” and OOE as a whole.

4. Corners on Main Update:

Domicile’s David Chick reports:

“... we decided to sell Phase 1 of our Corners on Main project (which is the building away from Main Street that sits beside the convent) from our Kavanaugh Sales Centre on Beechwood – 84 Beechwood. And, I might add, without much fanfare. We had a strong list of followers from the early days of pursuing municipal and community approval, and decided to focus on these followers first. They appear to like what we have done. And have embraced the project - we’ve done remarkably well with over 40% of the Phase 1 building sold at this point. With the continuing interest we’ve had over these last couple of weeks of “summer” (additional sales), and now in the blink of an eye it’s August 31st, we are confident we will pick up the remaining pre-sales we need over the next couple of months. Plans are therefore underway for an early 2016 construction start. Planning to sell Phase 2, the Main Street building with the ground floor commercial/retail, as a result of this great start, is also in the works ... The townhomes cannot be demolished until we have our building permit for the new. The permit has been applied for, and sits awaiting our first permit for Phase 1.”

5. Main Event - BBQ

Many thanks to Ron Rose for so thoroughly organizing the association’s BBQ and thanks to the many of you who volunteered. The CAG-led “Main Event” worked superbly at Brantwood Park on a beautiful June day Now, with Ron’s pending retirement from the OOECA Board, there is the need for a new leader of the BBQ organization.

6. *Organization of AGM (November 10, 2015, Church of the Ascension)

I would propose that we follow the pattern we used for last year’s OOECA-CAG AGM in terms of agenda and organization. OOECA would cover the donation to Church of the Ascension, the liquor licence and the wine. CAG would look after the food (it has have a \$200 budget for this).

Last year we successfully limited the “talking heads” portion of the meeting, focusing more on Q&As with SHCHC’s Chris Osler moderating. We also invited Joe Paraskevas and Rebecca Aird to speak briefly of, respectively, the Mainstreeter and SLOE. I suggest we do this again.

The one outstanding question is whether more than 10 minutes should be allowed for each of OOECA / CAG presentations ... perhaps an extra two or three minutes?

7. *New Slate for Board, 2015-2017*

A new slate will be proposed for the membership’s consideration at the AGM. Volunteers have come forward for most positions, including Phyllis Odenbach Sutton who is willing to have her name stand for president. The outstanding vacancies are: Community Safety and the association’s representative on the City Centre Coalition.

8. *“Welcome to OOE” Brochure*

Thanks to the hard work of Jan D’Arcy with significant contributions from CAG and others, the long-talked about “Welcome to OOE” brochure is nearing completion and will be available for the membership drive. Through an email vote, Board members approved expenditures for a professional layout and the actual printing of the brochure. And many thanks to Steve Fick who created a special map for the brochure and Jamie Brougham who provided photographs. Finally, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre is providing a generous \$250 contribution to offset printing costs, the balance being covered by OOECA.

9. *City Budget: Footbridge and Pathway*

I’d propose that the association write to Mayor Watson and Councillor Chernushenko requesting that the 2016 budget allow the advancing the Clegg-Fifth Canal Footbridge from the proposed 2020-2025 period and that the completion of the Rideau River Western Pathway / nature trail be funded. Unfortunately, the federal government did not approve the city’s request that sesquicentennial infrastructure funding be provided for the pathway.

10. *Proposed Use of “Cash-in-Lieu of (CIL) Parkland” Funding for Operational Expenditures*

Both OOECA and CAG have strongly objected to the proposed change in the City’s CIL policy that would allow this development-driven funding source to also be used for operational / maintenance purposes rather than, as is currently the case, just the creation of additional parkland or capital

improvements to existing parkland / facilities. Councillor Chernushenko has spoken against the proposed change as well.

11. **Planning Committee Work*

While over the summer there has been relatively little activity on the part of the Board this is most definitely not been the case for Stephen Pope's planning committee. A great thanks to the committee for its efforts, including the provision of advice to residents of Chestnut and Hazel and also for the ongoing efforts of challenging the City's Infill 2 bylaw as it pertains to R3 neighbourhoods.