



Meeting of the Old Ottawa East Community Association Board

Tuesday, 13 December 2016, 7 p.m.

Old Town Hall, 61 Main Street

AGENDA

Attendees

Board Members

John Dance
Don Fugler
Phyllis Odenbach Sutton
Eddie Gillis
Paul Goodkey
Ed Janes
Jocelyn Kearney
Mark Seebaran
Katherine Simonds

Others present

Diane Breton
Roland Breton
Jamie Brougham
David Chernushenko
Jan D'Arcy
Cynthia Dwyer
Steve Furr
Eddie Gillis
Ian Grabina
Wendy McRae
Ian McRae
Chris Osler
Christian Pupp

1. Call to Order – Phyllis Odenbach Sutton – 7:02pm.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - Moved: Ed Janes; 2nd: Eddie Gillis; Carried.
3. Approval of October 2016 Minutes
 - Moved: Wendy 2nd: John Dance; Carried.
4. Councillor's Report – David Chernushenko
 - Children's Garden – The City of Ottawa has identified issues with soils following recent testing, finding that the Children's Garden is in need of significant remediation.
 - No immediate risks from the soil, but further soil sampling will be conducted. The City will develop a plan from these soil samples to take risk mitigation measures, however a season of use of the park will be lost.
 - MacIlraith Bridge now opened for two-way traffic. Lighting is on order but delayed.
 - Greystone – Meeting between Regional and City and other stakeholders took place during the first week of December. Discussions surrounding the ability to include a community centre continue.
 - Due to lagging condo sales, inclusion of additional rental units is being explored within the new development.

- Oblates turn (aka the turning lanes on Main St. leading to last-minute merging near Oblates and St. Paul's) will require a redesign. Current plan involves shaving off some of the right-hand lane. Solution being sought.
- 7 or 8 members of City Council will submit a minority report to the ONB.
- Concerns were raised by a meeting attendee about a derelict house located at 21 Bower. Noting that it remains an eyesore, neighbours would like the by-laws to be changed so that the condition of the house can be addressed. Property rights and provincial legislation prevent the City from taking further action at this time.

5. Chair's Report – Phyllis Odenbach Sutton

- Report circulated by email. See Appendix 1.
- Heritage inventory project, putting work in OOE on hold, will finish Lower Town and Sandy Hill list first; expecting to hear from them later in March 2017.
- Chair of the Planning Committee – still vacant.
- Springhurst Park basketball court resurfacing – will seek quotes as soon as snow clears in Spring 2017. CAG has submitted an application.
- Chris Osler indicated that it looks likely this project will move ahead.
- John commended SHCC for paying 50% of the costs of the basketball resurfacing.
- Signage needs replacing at the corner of Mason. Not all signage that was in place prior to construction has been re-installed.

6. Treasurer's Report - Don Fugler

- Don reported that there is \$21.5K in the bank for the OOECA.

7. Committee Reports

- Planning - Stephen Pope
 - No report
- SLOE – John Dance
 - Report attached. See Appendix 2.
- Transportation – Ed Janes
 - Report attached. See Appendix 3.
- Federation of Citizens' Associations - Eddie Gillis
 - Report attached. See Appendix 4.
- City Centre Coalition - Kate Martin
 - No report.
- Communications - Catherine Pacella
 - No report.
- Community Safety – Mark Seebaran
 - Report attached. See Appendix 5.
- Membership – Suzanne Johnston
 - Wendy McRae presented on Suzanne's behalf. Memberships totalled 716 as of 13 December, slightly lower than last years total.

8. Community Activities Group

- No report. Seeking new CAG rep.

9. 2016 AGM feedback and honouring contributions by community members – Phyllis and John
 - Overall positive feedback for location and structure.
 - Question and Answer portion may be amended depending on elected officials able to participate.
 - There was discussion around the benefits of having a Town Hall meeting of officials outside the AGM.
 - John suggested that the AGM would be an appropriate venue to pay tribute to outstanding contributions made by community members or community initiatives, such as those working on Main St. Renewal, etc.

10. “Approve the dock” letter – John Dance
 - Proposed motion: that the proposed letter pertaining to the new Rideau Canal paddling docks be approved and sent to Catherine McKenna, M.P.
 - Moved: John Dance; 2nd: Dan Fugler; Carried.

11. Recommendations pertaining to the urban forest management plan – John Dance
 - Proposed motion: that the OOECA Board endorse the Urban Core Community Associations input to the draft Urban Forest Management Plan.
 - Moved: Ed Janes; 2nd: Mark Seebaran; Carried.

12. Circumnavigation of Rideau Island sesquicentennial plan – John Dance
 - Proposed motion: that the preliminary plan for the Circumnavigation of Rideau Island Sesquicentennial Project be approved with the proviso that John Dance report back on progress in three months, with monthly updates after.
 - Moved: Eddie Gillis; 2nd: Don Fugler; Carried.

13. New Business
 - Main St. Farmer’s Market – Jamie
 - Main St. Farmer’s Market Board met on December 12th. Looking for volunteers for the upcoming season. A meeting will be held in January to discuss financial aspects.

14. Adjournment - Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 9 January 2016
 - Motion to Adjourn – Moved: Don Fugler; 2nd: Jocelyn Kearney; Carried.

15. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 10 January 2017.

Appendix 1

Chair's report December 13 Board meeting

Main Street

- exciting news over the last several weeks as Main Street reopened in both directions on November 30
- the McIlraith Bridge restoration is also nearing completion with the bridge to be fully reopened this month
- see latest e-update from CAG, including a link to John's blog article and pictures <http://ottawaeastcag.ca/mainstreet>
- for more information also see the city's Newsletters 32-36 available on our OOECA web-site: <http://www.ottawaeast.ca/mainstreet> - note that there will not be any more newsletters over the winter
- one concern that has been expressed to the Councillor's office and the CA by some residents is about the potential for cut-through traffic as a result of the left turn arrows on Main at Bower (north bound)
- we have had some further clarification from the city that the no left turn during rush hour will still be in place, so the arrow signal will be off at that time
- I expect the Councillor or our Transportation chair, Ed Janes, may want to add some additional information on this issue at our Board meeting on Tuesday

AGM

- our meeting was well attended again this year; I have heard positive things about the structure of the meeting and the venue
- we will be asking for your feedback about this year's event at our December Board meeting
- in particular, we would appreciate getting feedback on whether we should be changing the format we have used the last several years, e.g., whether to include a separate Q&A specifically for our political representatives
- thank you to all volunteers who helped with the set-up and clean-up and a particular thank you to John for preparing the November 15 CAG e-update summary on the AGM <http://ottawaeastcag.ca/AGM> as well as getting the liquor license & buying the wine

Rideau Canal Crossing Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

- John has been actively representing us on this committee
- he distributed a number of documents related to this project to OOECA Board members on December 7, including the November 2 Meeting Report (prepared by MMM Group) and his own summary of some of the key points from OOEC's perspective
- note that John's summary also includes information on the meeting of November 21 when John & I met with city engineers to discuss possible ways to improve the "transparency" of the east side
- two additional meetings are planned for Dec 14 and at a date yet to be determined in January

Elgin / Hawthorne functional redesign

- on Oct 3, I attended the 2nd working group meeting for this project (on behalf of Ed)

- the study area for this project is Elgin from Laurier south & all of Hawthorne Ave
- not surprisingly, the key issues raised at the meeting were on-street parking, bike lanes, and wider sidewalks
- the big challenge is that there is only an 18.2m wide corridor on Elgin & Hawthorne (vs 25m on Main St, according to the city) so it is impossible to meet all of the desires of businesses and the community
- biking: note that there are no plans for bike lanes on Elgin as it is viewed as a local route from a cycling perspective (vs O'Connor which is a spine route); there is a plan for a bike lane on the north side of Hawthorne (going west); Graham is viewed as the east bound cycle connection
- parking: on Elgin, current parking spaces of 122 spots are expected to decline to 70-90 spaces (no peak period restrictions but pay and display parking during the day); on Hawthorne, the current 28 spaces are planned to drop to 14 spots (all north side parking will be removed)
- sidewalks: the city indicated that a 3m sidewalk should be the minimum width for the downtown area (current parts of Elgin are less than this); the current plan is for sidewalks on Elgin to widen out to between 3.0 & 7.5m
- there was considerable discussion during the Q&A segment on such topics as the type of cross-walks planned (no decisions yet but raised or concrete as on Main St are being considered); the need for safe cycling links in the Pretoria bridge area; the need for measures to manage vehicle speed; & the impact on commercial businesses of the loss in parking spots on Elgin
- one of the biggest concerns for businesses is the construction impact, i.e., the potential for 24-36 months of construction was seen as really difficult for the businesses on the streets + the residents that live there
- Councillor Catherine McKenney committed to having a construction schedule discussion at the next workshop, planned for early January (although city staff noted the difficulty of doing this at the current stage of planning)
- this project is still in the early days of development; 2 detailed public consultation events are to be planned for 2018-19

Urban Forest Management Plan

- the Board will be asked at the December meeting to endorse the recommendations pertaining to the urban forest management plan (see John's Dec 7 e-mail)

Heritage Inventory Project

- on November 23 Laurie Smith (a heritage expert and member of our community) and I met with City staff (Ashley Kotarba & David Maloney) to discuss this city initiative (see below for the City's description of the project):

"The project will create an online map-based inventory of Ottawa's heritage structures available to all.

The project will be completed by:

- Analyzing architectural style, construction materials, and integrity of buildings in neighbourhoods throughout the City;
- Undertaking archival research, photo documentation, and oral history interviews;
- Consulting with community associations, councillors, historians and residents;

- Using GIS technology to locate and identify buildings of cultural heritage value in all communities of the City, and assessing their contribution to historic fabric of neighbourhood."

- next steps: a neighbourhood heritage statement will be completed by city staff, which will include a description of the neighbourhood, heritage values and heritage attributes (we have requested an opportunity for the OOECA Board to review the statement); there will then be a meeting with all owners of "contributing" property (i.e., houses that would form part of the register); and there will then be a meeting with the Community Association

Canal docks

- John collected feedback from the community on the paddling dock at Clegg in the Canal; respondents were unanimous in their support of a dock at this location

- the Board has been asked to review the letter drafted by John to our MP Catherine McKenna which both provides her with feedback from the community on people's experience with the dock this year and encourages the reinstallation (with possible slight modifications to allow for easier kayak access and cleaning) next year; the letter also encourages Parks Canada to consider some additional access spots for canoes and kayaks to allow more opportunities for canal use

Lansdowne Community Working Group

- On November 30, John attended the Lansdowne "Community Working Group" meeting on behalf of Jocelyn. Key points from the quarterly meeting held November 30 were:

- 2017 will be a very busy year at Lansdowne with twice the number of activity and events as in 2016 (e.g., "Ottawa Welcomes the World," Grey Cup, Davis Cup);

- the City's goal is "hoping Lansdowne will become everybody's Christmas destination," and it has the biggest Christmas tree in the city;

- weather permitting, the outdoor rink was to open December 2;

- the footbridge will make Lansdowne a cycling hub for the city;

- OSEG will follow-up on discussing the TD sign on the veil (in July OSEG's Graeme Ivory said the sign is compliant but "we are always open to discussing any matter").

Regional's Greystone Village

- lots is happening at this site! Of particular note, John and I (on behalf of the Community Association) + Ian McRae and Rebecca Aird (on behalf of SLOE) met with Regional and their partners as well as the city on Friday, December 9 to review: the design concept for the area around the Deschatelets buildings, the 30m corridor along the river and the mixed-use building on Main St.

- Erin O'Connor of Regional subsequently provided the following update:

- Minor zoning amendment of Block 49 (North Village) – the City has received comments from all stakeholders and will take a position in the new year and prepare their report for Committee and Council.
- Regional has met and will continue to meet with residents who live along Springhurst and back onto Greystone to discuss the edge treatment and mitigation measures as development moves to this end of the property.

- The old laundry building (one and half story white building at the north end) was demolished over the past month. The gym, attached to the south end of the Deschâtelets is also planned for demolition which is anticipated to occur in early January.
- Phase 1 house construction has started with first occupancy planned in Summer 2017
- Soil contamination clean-up will begin in the southeast area, near the Deschâtelets in January and then move to Phase 2 (south of Springhurst) on the north side of the property in February. Phase 2 clean-up is anticipated to take approximately 3 months with road and sewer construction to follow.
- River Corridor – A subcommittee is being formed in the new year and will include a representative from the councillor’s office, City Forestry/Parks, SLOE, Regional/Consultants and RVCA Trust to discuss and resolve some of the trust’s hurdles in taking ownership of this land.
- Deschâtelets/Community Centre – Regional and its team met with the Councillor, members of the community association, CAG, CCOC/CAHDCO and City Staff to present a concept plan on how to meet the City’s requirements for a full size gym and other recreational needs within and around the Deschâtelets. There are some trade-offs to meet these requirements to be considered. We anticipate more news to come in the new year as these are considered by the various groups.
- Regional and its team have begun to advance plans for the mixed-use block off Main Street and adjacent to the Grand Allée. Concept plans were presented to the City, Councillor and the community representatives on Friday. These plans include commercial space on the ground floor with five storeys of rental apartments above. Space on the ground floor is reserved for a small grocer and a coffee shop with additional smaller shops flanking Main Street and the Grand Allée. A separate nine storey rental building further back at the corner of Deschâtelets Avenue and Oblate Avenue is also being considered but will require a zoning amendment. More information to come as plans solidify.

Domicile's The Corners On Main

- construction is moving along at the site with the concrete supports for the first floor well advanced
- I also wanted to mention that I received a heads up in early November about a planned social media campaign by Domicile, with an update recently on what has been happening to date
- they are working with a local company (Jack Pine) to draw attention to our area, including the transformed Main Street
- the first part of their campaign involved going out on Sparks Street and at Lansdowne to ask people to take a stab at pronouncing NOOE (new Old Ottawa East); they also passed out cards with info on The Corners on Main on one side with info on our Community Design Plan on the other
- Their social media (video) campaign will roll out towards the end of January. Domicile's goal is to make the video a light-hearted and funny way of informing the public about our neighbourhood's transformation.
- Anyone with questions or concerns is welcome to contact Ainslie Coghill at Domicile (I have her coordinates) as Domicile would welcome community input

R4 Zoning Review

- the OOECA planning committee met with Tim Moerman (the City planner responsible for this file) during our last planning meeting on November 22; some of the key concerns that were raised by the committee were: the need for better provision for garbage storage, the issue of excessive noise to neighbours as a result of air conditioning units, a continuing concern that city planners are not objecting to overbuilding on lots

- I received the following message from Tim recently:

"This is just a quick note to remind you that we would like your feedback on the *R4 Zoning Review Discussion Paper* by **December 16th**. The Discussion Paper can be found on the project website: Ottawa.ca/R4Zoning.

We have also updated the website with some of the responses we have received on the study to date."

- note that I checked with the City to see if they would consider holding a special meeting within our community; I received the following response from Tim:

"I don't really have any openings for more meetings this December; ... At this stage the best thing would be for people to send me some written comments. If anyone in the community is interested in discussing further, they can definitely give me a call or send me an email; I'll be happy to talk to them one-on-one."

Urban Beat Coffee & Teahouse grand opening

- although not in our neighbourhood, I wanted to alert OOE residents of the opening of a new spot to buy wonderful coffee, tea & treats if you are in the area of the main Sandy Hill Community Health Centre (221 Nelson)

- I attended the official opening ceremony on November 25 and it struck me as a lovely way to make use of a big corner in their building

Ward levies

- the use of special levies for ward projects has come up in the context of the have wards vs the have not wards. I sent a link to Board members & the Councillor's office of an Ottawa Sun article on Oct 21. In response I received the following info from Ian G in the Councillor's office: (on Oct 27)

"David's position on this issue is that he intends to consider a local improvement charge (levy) as just one of many funding options for an OOE community centre. For example, in combination with all sorts of other avenues first: Development Charges, Cash in Lieu of Parkland, budgeted money (he's been lobbying for a budget line on this since about 2013, but with no confirmed project none has been budgeted for 2017) and the sale of the Old Town Hall (although those funds move to a central pot and then credited back to appropriate projects, like a community centre)."

SLOE Report to OOECA

December 13, 2016

- The two key SLOE activities of the last month have been participation in the review of Regional’s proposals for the 30m shoreline “open space” along the river and the review of the city’s draft Urban Forest Management Plan.
- Key commitments relevant to the shoreline from the “low impact development” (LID - stormwater management) work on the 30m are, as noted by Rebecca Aird:
 - Reforestation/naturalization –Still proposed within the 30m setback.
 - Filter Strips – 30m setback is still proposed to be vegetated with long native grasses.
 - Best practice methods to plant larger trees, regardless of existing soil conditions and by providing greater continuous soil depth to improve their long term health – proposed throughout the entire development.
 - Riverstone plunge pools will be placed at the outfalls to further aid in energy dissipation.
- Other features sought include: a soft walking path through the 30m strip, naturalization, riparian habitat, and limited but good viewing points and access for paddling and "feeling" the water.
- The question of the City pursuing ownership of the 30m strip remains outstanding (not a subject for the Friday meeting).
- In terms of the urban forest management, SLOE seeks the OOECA Board’s endorsement of the “Urban Core Community Associations” input to the Phase 2 Consultations on the draft plan the City had prepared. This report (OECA_SLOE_Forest_16342.pdf) was provided to Board members a week ago. Responses from board members were positive.
- This input has been discussed with Councillor Chernushenko.
- Considerable credit is due to the Glebe’s Angela Keller-Herzog who has led the “urban core” group.
- SLOE continues to seek a new chair to replace Rebecca Aird and also needs a new OOECA Board rep (John Dance is temporarily representing SLOE at Board meetings).

Appendix 3: Transportation Report, Ed Janes

- 1) There is community concern regarding left turn signals south of Clegg and north of Riverdale. Currently, a wait and see approach will be used to determine if the signals encourage traffic to enter the neighbourhood instead of funnelling down Main or Clegg.
- 2) the Landsdowne transportation committee has one remaining meeting (to be held in February). Major issues have been resolved and any remaining concerns will be handled via steady state processes.
- 3) Elgin/Hawthorne redesign will be handled as part of the Chair's report since Phyllis was in attendance at the last meeting. There is concern with the lack of desire by the City to include bike lanes along Hawthorne.

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa

Report to:

OOECA General Meeting

December 13, 2016

The December meeting of the FCA was held on December 8, 2016 at the Overbrook Community Centre. Approximately 40 representatives were present including Eddie Gillis from the OOECA.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

As is often the case, the meeting was designed to focus on an area of particular interest to community associations. This month, the focus was on community safety. A panel was convened to address various aspects of the issue, including the following subject matter experts:

Nancy Worsford, Executive Director, Crime Prevention Ottawa
Thierry Harris, FCA Communications
Jan Grabowiecki FCA Crime Statistics project team
Deputy Chief Jill Skinner, Ottawa Police Services
A/Superintendent Mark Ford, Ottawa Police Services

Thierry Harris provided preliminary results on a survey on crime in our communities which can be found [here](#). In brief, more than 60% of respondents feel that crime in the city has worsened over the last year and almost 50% feel less safe than they did a year ago. While a third of respondents feel that their concerns about crime are being heard, more than one-quarter indicate they do not have time or do not know how to raise concerns. Almost 40% of respondents do not know what their communities are doing about crime, while about 45% feel that talking to our neighbours about the issue is the most important thing they can do.

Mr. Harris noted that while the survey is not comprehensive enough to be statistically valid, the goal of the survey is to assist community associations in their interactions with police by sharing information so as to be more effective in promoting safety.

Jan Grabowiecki, along with some associates from the Lowertown Community Association spoke on the work they have been doing in conjunction with the FCA crime statistics project. The group has been pursuing open crime data in an effort to have detailed information on crime at the neighbourhood level. Until now, crime data in the city has been provided at a much higher level, making it difficult for communities to use such data to increase safety at the neighbourhood level.

Detailed neighbourhood crime data will be released in January by the [Ottawa Neighbourhood Study](#).

Jill Skinner, the Deputy Chief of the Ottawa Police Service, made a presentation on the efforts being made by the Ottawa Police Service to streamline its operations while balancing the needs of the community with the reactive role that all police forces must play. Deputy Chief Skinner noted that the priority issues for the police service continue to be guns and gangs, violence against women and traffic safety. These issues are also at the top of the list of concerns expressed by communities. She also noted that human trafficking and cyber crime/identity theft are on the rise in Ottawa and a growing area of concern for the police. A new Police Service Initiative, in addition to breaking down organizational silos within the police force structure, will be tracking pro-active crime prevention measures in communities across the city.

Following the panel presentations, community association members joined group discussions to address questions of what communities have been doing to address crime in neighbourhoods and how communities can collaborate to prevent crime. Many reported automobile break-ins, noting that these are often crimes of opportunity, occurring when vehicles are left unlocked overnight. Drug addiction and boredom were identified as some of the underlying causes of these crimes.

FCA members felt that in some cases, police response to non-urgent issues can be lacking. It was noted that regular check-ins between police and community associations could be useful in addressing this problem.

It was emphasized that social cohesion, community engagement, the promotion of community events, and walkable, pedestrian-centric neighbourhoods are a far greater crime deterrent than patrol cars on the streets.

Finally, it was noted that the FCA is organizing an informal Policing and Community Safety Network open to any community member willing to share knowledge and experiences.

OMB REVIEW

A brief discussion was held on the [FCA response to the OMB Review](#), which was prepared by members of the FCA Executive since the last meeting. A majority of the community association representatives present voted to support the formal submission of the response.

The next meeting of the Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa will be held on January 18, 2017 at the Tanglewood Community Centre. As always, community associations are entitled to send two representatives and any other observers that may wish to attend.

Eddie Gillis, OECA representative to the FCA

Appendix 5: Community Safety Report, Mark Seebaran

Property theft and break-ins continue to be a problem in our neighbourhood. You can report all suspicious incidents (and most property crime) to police online at:

<https://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp>

Some residents are also using the Community Noticeboard of the CAG Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/ottawaeastcag/685881081578044/?notif_t=group_activity¬if_id=1481119025686593

to let their neighbours know of thefts in the area or to ask them to keep a lookout for stolen items.

At its December meeting, the Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) considered responses to a survey of Ottawa residents on community safety. Eddie Gillis attended on behalf of OOECA. More than 60% of respondents to the survey felt that crime in the city has worsened over the last year and almost 50% felt less safe than they did a year ago. Ottawa Police reported that they will be tracking pro-active crime prevention measures in communities across the city. Additionally, the FCA is organizing an informal Policing and Community Safety Network, which is open to any community member willing to share knowledge and experiences.