



Meeting of the Old Ottawa East Community Association Board

Tuesday, January 14 2014 at 7:15 p.m.

Old Town Hall, 61 Main Street

MINUTES

Attendees

Board Members

John Dance, President
Caroline Hyslop, Secretary
Jim Strang, FCA
Jill Wherrett, Member at Large
Bill Baldwin, Lees Ave Rep.
Suzanne Johnston, Membership Rep.
Ron Rose, transportation
Stephen Pope, Planning
Catherine Pacella, Communications
Ian McRae, SLOE Rep

Others present

Wendy McRae
Jan D'Arcy
Christian Pupp
Karolina Craig
Heather Jarrett
Bonnie Wheppler
Katherine Snow
Joanna Linsangan
David Chernushenko
Kathy Krywicki
Vittorio Colaiacovo
Roberto Colaiacovo

1. **Call to Order** – John Dance at 7:15 pm.
Brief introductions by those present.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
Moved - Caroline Hyslop ; 2nd – Jill Wherrett
Addition to the agenda: Ron will move a motion re: delivery of *Mainstreeter* in Lees Ave apartments – to be added to New Business.
Motion to approve the agenda as amended: carried
3. **Approval of December 10, 2013 Minutes**
Moved - Jim Strang; 2nd - Ron Rose
Carried.

4. Chair's Report – John Dance

- A cash-in-lieu of parkland update is being developed in the councillor's office; we will await the outcome.
- Walton-Monarch has withdrawn its conditional offer on the Oblates land, and we are now awaiting further news on offers from other developers.
- TOD- Lees LRT Station: Last week, several of us met with city officials, and it appears that this point that the City is open to certain parts of the green space next to the Lees apartments being designated park land.
- Councillor's Cup: a shinny hockey match between different community association teams is to be held on January 25 at 10AM at Brantwood Park.
- Additional notes can be found in the written report distributed by email prior to tonight's meeting.

5. Councillor's Report – David Chernushenko

Councillor Chernushenko reported that as we head into an election year for municipal elections, it is his intention to keep the focus on initiatives that are already rolling; he hopes to see initiatives completed where possible, or well under way. Old Ottawa East is really at the epicenter of change in the City, and it is a challenge to stay on top of all the changes – including for example LRT, Main Street renewal, pedestrian bridge plans etc.

Note that Michael Qaqish has resigned as the councillor's assistant, and Joanna Linsangan has started work as the assistant.

Issues that the councillor's office continues to work on include: keeping track of cash-in-lieu of parkland proposals, rights of way on Lees and Main, new developments on Main Street, potential designation of park land in the space immediately adjacent to Sprinhurst Park.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Planning - Stephen Pope

There has been a lot of activity around 141 main, and site plan comments went in. Issues included coordination with complete street, comments about parking, and minor variance applications.

There are discussions at the Committee of Adjustment regarding a development at 663 Echo – but the planning committee in the end did not submit comments on that proposal because of general support from the neighbours.

Also in the end the committee decided not to submit comments on the proposal at Concord St. North.

With respect to the proposal at the Portuguese church: we met with Uniform, exchanged some emails, they were interested in what we thought was an appropriate height. We were clear that we are in favour of a maximum of 6 storeys. Uniform was invited to present at tonight's meeting, but that presentation has been postponed.

6.2 Sustainable Living Ottawa East – Ian McRae

Ian McRae has agreed to be SLOE rep

Motion: that Ian McRae be recognized as SLOE rep: Moved - John Dance. 2nd – Caroline Hyslop. Carried.

Topics include forum on deep green project at Carleton University, renewal of SLOE website, environmental leaders grant work on shoreline restoration, and the Children's Garden which will be run by volunteers next year rather than a grant funded staff person. SLOE still hopes to influence the design plan for natural pathways on the Rideau river western pathway

6.3 Transportation - Ron Rose

- Lees avenue repaving will occur starting in April.
- Highway 417 widening is underway; the major impact is that the pathways under the Hurdman Bridge are being closed on and off during widening. The community is now being notified usually in advance of these closures.
- Lees avenue will be closed for approximately six weeks this summer; we have no word yet on how the 16 bus will be rerouted.
- The new bridge that will be put in over the Queensway will have bike paths; at this point, there is no firm commitment that the sidewalks will be flattened (there is some concerns that the sidewalks are currently slanted sideways).

6.4 City Centre Coalition

nothing to report

6.5 Federation of Citizens' Associations - Jim Strang

nothing to report

6.6 Communications - Catherine Pacella

As always, individuals are invited to please send any updates or changes for the website. In the Planning section of the website, there will be a separate section for the Main Street complete street. We also have a Twitter account,

and updates are tweeted. There is a good amount of documentation on planning matters on the website, so those interested in planning are invited to see the material online.

6.7 Community Safety

Nothing to report.

6.8 Membership – Suzanne Johnston

Suzanne is compiling a spreadsheet of members and prioritizing areas that need to be canvassed. We now have 656 member households. She is drafting up a notice for the website about what being a member constitutes and how to join.

7. Community Activities Group

This Sunday January 19 is the winter party at Brantwood Park. The Valentine Skate will be Feb. 14

8. Safe cycling, particularly Pretoria Bridge to Hurdman / Old Railway Bridge, and bike lanes at north end of Main Street – Ron Rose

As mentioned in the transportation report, there was a lot of discussion at a recent planning meeting where proposals for bike paths along Lees Avenue were not particularly well-received. There is a need to look at what is happening with respect to bike paths in our community, not just along Lees but throughout the community. Bike paths north of Hawthorne on Main Street are still under consideration but some condo owners do not want any “encroachment” on what they see as their land. There is ongoing discussion as to whether the city should be reclaiming that space for bike paths. Paul Goodkey did an analysis of that space and says that it appears that there is enough space for there to be bike paths along Main all the way to the canal. There are, of course, issues regarding the need for a safe crossing for cyclists over Colonel By to the canal bike path. We would like to pursue this a little more and it is worth pursuing. Similarly, on the issue of bike paths east-west along Lees, this is also still worth pursuing and considering. The Board concurred that these issues should be pursued with the City.

9. Discussion of priorities and goal-setting for 2014 – John Dance

We would like to establish a reasonable list of what we want to accomplish this year. Proposed goals include:

- Incorporation of the Association
- Director’s insurance for the Association

- Converting portions of the AVTC lands to parkland
- Acceleration of footbridge construction
- Greater community participation by residents of the Lees Ave. apartments
- Main Street renewal planning
- Community preparation for Oblates development
- Responding to other development
- Addressing inadequate services
- Influencing Rideau River Western Parkway/nature trail design and construction
- Leveraging assets for more community engagement and increased community sustainability
- Fully integrating the east end of Lees Ave in the community of Old Ottawa east
- More parties and celebrations.

Discussion:

There is some perception that the focus of the “island” at the east end of Lees will be more and more shifting to Sandy Hill and downtown. Certainly Ottawa U is looking at the new development with an eye to residences, office etc. this will bring the focus even more to Sandy Hill.

In addition, there will soon be a large number of new residents in the various developments in the community, particularly Oblate lands.

Some residents recommend we advocate for a community centre in the Springhurst Park space.

There is certainly a feeling that we do not have enough services for the booming population –services such as community centre, grocery stores etc. It seems like this should be top of the list of priorities.

Some suggested it might be a good idea to have a joint meeting with Sandy Hill community association – particularly with an eye to the integration of the residents of the Lees Avenue apartments. The consensus was that OOECA would work with CAG and SHCHC to convene this Spring a meeting / charrette to explore means and priorities for engaging residents of the Lees avenue apartment buildings in OOE community activity

10. New Business

Ron Rose commented on the issue of providing access to the *Mainstreeter* to the residents of the Lees Ave apartments. There is a problem getting the *Mainstreeter* into the individual mailboxes of the Lees Ave apartments, and there is a cost to mailing the *Mainstreeter* via Canada post. These costs total more than \$3000 per year to send six issues of the *Mainstreeter* to the residents of the apartments. It is proposed that the OECA partner with other organizations to pay the cost of sending the *Mainstreeter* by Canada post to the Lees Ave apartments, so that each of the six organizations would pay one sixth of the overall annual cost.

Motion: That the OECA agree to sponsor the postal costs of delivering, via Canada Post, one issue of the *Mainstreeter* per year to the Lees Avenue apartments, in the amount of \$550.

Moved: Ron Rose; 2nd Stephen Pope.

Debate ensued thereon. It was clarified that the intention of the motion was to offer one-time funding of \$550 and that this was not necessarily intended to be an ongoing annual commitment.

Amendment proposed: That the OECA agree to sponsor the postal costs of delivering, via Canada Post, one issue of the *Mainstreeter* in the year 2014 to the Lees Avenue apartments, in the amount of \$550.

Carried as amended.

New item Kathy Krywicki:

A new book, *Exploring the Built Heritage of Old Ottawa South* has been published by the Ottawa South History Project. One complimentary copy is presented to the OECA. Anyone interested in purchasing copies, please see the Old Ottawa south website where one can find information about purchasing a copy.

11. Date of Next Meeting – February 11, 2014

Adjournment moved - Jim Strang; 2nd: Ron Rose. Carried.