

Chair's report September 10, 2019

Main Event - June 15

- A somewhat wet day this year but a great chance to meet new neighbours and renew acquaintances over a hot dog or hamburger
- This is one of our biggest fund raisers, and even with the wet weather we were able to raise approximately \$700; thank you everyone

Flora Footbridge

- The bridge opened earlier than forecast & under budget on June 28
- On July 20 (the hottest day of the summer I believe), the three local community associations (Old Ottawa East, the Glebe and Old Ottawa South) hosted an unofficial opening ceremony in the middle of the bridge with local children cutting a lovely green ribbon, followed by cake on the OOE side and lemonade on the Glebe side

LRT opening & OOE impacts

- Hopefully when the LRT is open & the number of replacement buses is reduced, we will get our Queensway on ramp back on Lees; we are trying to get an update on timing BUT hopefully the over 6 year wait will soon be over
- John has also alerted me to the opening of the new pathway on the east side of the transit bridge over the Rideau River, which allows for much greater connectivity

Greystone Village:

Multi-use pathway (MUP)

- The link with Springhurst Park was completed over the summer; it is now possible to use a paved path for biking all the way to Clegg
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Block 2B - 10 des Oblats

- On June 27 the request by Regional for a zoning bylaw amendment and an Official Plan Amendment to allow for an increase in height to nine storeys was heard at the city's planning committee meeting (loss from CA perspective by vote of 8-1) & then again on July 10 at full city council (another loss from CA perspective by 14-9)
- 2 appeals (zoning and official plan) were initiated by the CA on August 6 (using \$600 of CA funds)
- A Special General Meeting (SGM) of the CA was held on August 27 to seek approval from membership of up to \$5000 in funding from CA funds to support the appeals; the

SGM also marked the launch of our broader fund raising campaign - initial goal is for 100 people to each contribute \$100 (at the time of writing this report, we have raised over \$4000)

- The appeals are currently being considered by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) as to whether they are valid
- If the appeals are accepted, we believe we will proceed as per the pre-September 3 rules (the provincial government has recently proposed changes to the LPAT process, but our understanding is that the new rules would not apply to our appeals)

Block 2A - 10 des Oblats (Main Street building)

- the Greystone Village sales centre will soon be demolished; they have moved their centre to the former The Corners on Main presentation centre
- Regional has provided the following information: "On Thursday, September 5th, our contractors RECL will be fencing off the site. The expected date for the demolition is Monday, September 16th (pending no delays in disconnects or permitting), and we have been told it should take 2-3 days to complete."

Immaculata field LPAT hearing

- On July 2, the appeal by the Ottawa Catholic School Board was heard by LPAT; at that time the city defended its decision to limit lighting to 9:00pm on weekdays (Sunday - Thursday) and until 10:00pm on weekends
- On August 22, we received an email from the city indicating: "The condition limiting the operation of the lights has been struck. The Tribunal was not satisfied that the City had jurisdiction to impose the condition and further was not satisfied that this field should be treated as different than other fields across the City."
- Neighbours of the field who are struggling with the noise of whistles and shouting until 11:00pm on an almost daily basis are understandably upset

Brantwood Park tennis courts

- The work at Brantwood is finally complete!
- While we are very happy that the Councillor's office facilitated the repair work, we were very disappointed with the lengthy process which meant that the court was almost unplayable for much of the summer
- There must be better ways to coordinate the various steps in the process

Cash-in-lieu (CiL) of parkland

- I propose we have a discussion at the September board meeting on this topic; there are considerable funds in this account for Capital Ward & the Councillor's office is considering how best to allocate funds to the different communities (indeed the June Ward council meeting was focused on this topic)
- Their current thinking is to prioritize potential projects on the basis of need

- We received the following request today (Thursday, September 4) from the Councillor's office:

"We want your input on potential CiL projects for this term of Council. CIL funding can cover the purchase of new parkland and improvements to existing amenities. Please send a brief description of your proposed project with an approximate budget and explanation of the need it serves by September 25th. The description of need could consider things like age related programming, incoming development, or changes to green space.

We will review all submissions, taking into account the number of recreational sites/person, average distance to a park, and percentage of low income people in each area. Our focus will be on overall equity between residents."

Trees

- An issue for many of us is the loss in tree canopy in our neighbourhoods. We are regularly seeing trees cut as excavations for new houses are undertaken, and often, even if the trees on the sites or on the neighbouring sites are retained, there is such a loss to the critical root ball, that the end result is still the loss of a tree.
- I am providing a bit more information below about the state of the trees on Main as well as some issues with the trees planted, or those that died before they could be planted, near the Flora Bridge (note that Alexandra provided more info on the Flora trees in her SLOE report)

Main Street Renewal

- In late June, we received the following message from Josée Valée, the project manager for the original project, via the councillor's office:

"We have completed our review of the condition of the trees along Main Street. For the trees north of Clegg, the warranty period is over and the Forestry Department is taking over the maintenance. There are a few trees that are in poor health. Forestry will add those to their list but since those are planted in Silva cells, it is more complicated and more work to replace them. Considering their workload, these trees may only get replaced in 2020.

South of Clegg, there are six dead trees. One of the trees will be removed and not replaced (this tree is very close to a driveway and has caused the homeowner some grief and concerns). The other five dead trees will be replaced by the Contractor shortly.

Further to the replacement of these five dead trees south of Clegg, the Contractor will have met his warranty obligations and the Forestry Department will take over the maintenance."

Flora Footbridge

- Tree plantings: some died waiting to be planted
- Also issue of maintenance post planting

New commercial on Main Street

- River Dental had its grand opening in August; it is the first store to open in the Corners on Main
- We will soon have a grocery store as well; NU Groceries is scheduled to open their second Ottawa store in the fall

Meeting with Ottawa Public Health re Archville soil sampling/ contamination

- If there is sufficient interest, a meeting of residents in the area will be scheduled by the Councillor's office

All candidates debate for federal election

- Hold the date: Wednesday, September 25 at the Glebe Community Centre from 7:00-9:00pm
- Confirmations have been received from the 4 parties (& their 4 female candidates) that have been invited to participate - the Liberals, Conservatives, NDP & Green; note that we are following the practice that has been identified for the televised political debate