

Planning Committee Report – Ron Rose

Draft Official Plan.

Much of the time this past month was spent reviewing the draft Official Plan. We have focused on the implications of some of the mechanisms proposed in that draft for Old Ottawa East. It seems that many of the proposals will have a negative impact on our community. A list of questions about the draft Official Plan has been prepared for the Councillor to raise with staff, and the Councillor's office is attempting to organize a meeting with City staff and the OOE Planning Committee. In addition, we have requested that someone from the City planning dept participate in our regular meeting January 28th

Specific proposals impacting OOE include:

Secondary Plans. The existing Old Ottawa East Secondary Plan will be discarded and a new one has been proposed which does not include those parts of the community north of the 417 and east of Brunswick St. These orphaned areas will be included in a secondary plan that includes parts of downtown and the Golden Triangle.

Transects. Instead of planning by land use, as is done now, the draft OP proposes to plan by "Transects", similar to layers of an onion. Again, Old Ottawa East has been split into two transects; a Downtown Transect, which includes at least the part of OOE north of the 417, possibly more, and an Inner Urban Transect, which includes the rest of our community.

Special Districts. All properties facing the Rideau Canal will be included in a separate Special District for the Rideau Canal, subject to different planning requirements from the rest of the community.

One characteristic of all these changes is that there was absolutely no consultation or communication with the community on the part of the City

The Draft OP runs to approximately 260 pages, and new supporting documents keep appearing as well. Just trying to keep up with the documentation, and understanding how they impact our community, is a full time job. If any residents currently not members of the Planning Committee would like to **volunteer** to review different sections of the draft, their offer would be greatly appreciated and possibly rewarded. The full text of the draft OP can be found at https://engage.ottawa.ca/the-new-official-plan/news_feed/draft-new-official-plan

Ward Boundary Review. John Dance will be reporting separately on this issue.

Committee of Adjustment. 71 Chestnut St. This Wednesday, the Committee of Adjustment (CofA) will consider a number of requests for minor variances for a proposed residence at 71 Chestnut St. The developer hosted a Zoom consultation with interested members of the community last Thursday. Nearby residents expressed concerns about the closeness of the building to the lot line, and also raised concerns about safety at the corner of Springhurst and Brunswick. The Planning Committee will attend and will be speaking to these requested variances

Short Term Rentals. The City has circulated a proposed Zoning By-law amendment which would permit short-term rental of residential dwellings city-wide. The proposed zoning amendments will permit the short-term rental of residential units as an additional use in Residential zones. The Planning Committee will be reviewing these proposals at our meeting January 28th. I would appreciate hearing from any resident if they have experienced problems with residences being used as short-term rentals through online platforms.