

OOECA Board Meeting - April 11th, 2023 at 7pm ET (Hybrid)

Attendees

- **Board:** Bob Gordon, Catherine Pacella, John Dance, Ron Rose, Don Fugler, Courtenay Beauregard, Jayson MacLean, Peter Tobin, Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay, Jamie Brougham, Kristine Houde, Georgia Blondon
- **Invited speakers:** Councillor Shawn Menard, Maddie Turenne (Capital Ward), Lee Jacobs (CAG)
- **Other attendees:** Doug Macaulay, Michal Samborski, Paul Goodkey, Heather Jarrett, John Jarrett, Monica Helm, Adriana Beaman, Karla, and Lori (Zoom - no last names provided)

1. Welcome

2. Approval of agenda

3. Approval of minutes

- [March 2023 minutes](#) approval deferred at the request of a Board member who has not had the opportunity to review draft.

4. Chair's Report – Bob Gordon

- No formal report for April.

5. Treasurer's Report – Don Fugler

- OOECA balance of \$21,547.26 is unchanged from March.
- Received stack of Bank balances from 1992 and will look more closely at those.
- Mentioned that OOECA has been grandfathered for comprehensive insurance up until this time.
 - City sent survey to associations for feedback.
 - Don replied to survey stating OOECA wishes to be grandfathered.
 - If we were required to pay for insurance, cost estimated at \$1,500 to \$2,000.
 - Comprehensive insurance recommended since our events tend to be spontaneous, not scheduled.

Q&A

- Comment - Bob: If liability insurance coverage requires OOECA to identify scheduled dates/events, we could consider modifying our approach.

6. Councillor's Report – Capital Ward – Councillor Shawn Menard

Lansdowne 2.0

- City consultation process begun on the Lansdowne 2.0 proposal.
- Initial survey focuses on residents' knowledge of Lansdowne but does not address the \$332 million proposal directly.
- City will be conducting further consultations in this regard and on other topics related to the proposal. Engage Ottawa
- Our office will also be holding consultations, with a public event planned for Wednesday May 10, along with a corresponding survey.

Lansdowne 2.0 priorities

1. Proper consultation with the community
2. Well used greenspace is respected for community and better fan experiences
3. A fulsome and new sustainable transportation plan to and through the park is put in place to address the site restrictions
4. Permanent affordable housing is created if public land is being leased or sold
5. The site has new housing which invites people into an urban village and complements the heritage Aberdeen Pavilion
6. Public proposals to enhance winter activities, community events, new seating and shade, and safely connect the canal, aren't shelved for 15-20 years.

Porta Potties

- Council approved motion from councillor's office in February to reallocate budget for 2 additional porta potty per ward throughout the city.
- 2 new locations in Capital Ward will be in Springhurst and Windsor Park, in addition to porta potty that has been in Brantwood Park in previous years.

New Crossing Guards

- City announced new locations for crossing guards in the city, with 3 in Capital Ward.
- One crossing guard will be assigned to the intersection of Riverdale and Avenue Road.

Lees Avenue Rail Bridge

- Last year, the Built Heritage Sub-Committee (BHSC) raised concerns about the demolition and re-construction of the old rail bridge behind the University of Ottawa campus on Lees Avenue that has been turned into an active transportation bridge.
- The sub-committee felt a proper analysis of the bridge's heritage value was warranted before any decision was made. Staff will be returning to the BHSC with a report on their heritage research and evaluation.

- Staff recommend that an Environmental Assessment also be conducted and then once both the heritage evaluation and the Environmental Assessment are completed, BHSC and council may decide on the future of the bridge.

Updates from committee today

- While the pedestrian and cycling bridge does have cultural heritage value, its significance has been negatively impacted by the bridge's current condition and past alterations to the structure.
- The Committee recommended issuing a Notice of Intention to Designate the bridge under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- They plan to go ahead with enviro assessment and be done by 2024

2023 Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event Schedule

- Every year, the City of Ottawa hosts drop-off events to ensure that resident's hazardous waste is safely collected, transported, and appropriately recycled or disposed of. This year, the city will be hosting nine single date drop-off events from April 23 through to October 22.
- The closest drop offs to Old Ottawa East will be at the RCGT Stadium at 300 Coventry Road on Sunday, April 23rd & Conroy Snow Dump at 3100 Conroy Road on Sunday July 9th.
- Other notable locations include Tunney's Pasture on Sunday September 10th, and the Rideau Carleton Racetrack on Saturday May 6th. The other locations are concentrated throughout the suburbs, in Barrhaven, Kanata, Stittsville & Orleans.

Flood Warnings

- The city has issued several flood warnings. Most notably to OOE, the path along the Rideau River at Linda Thom Park on Riverside under the Bank St. Bridge is partially flooded and barricades have been erected.

Bus Shelter at Stop 7636 on Main

- City staff have let us know that they have a shelter in stock and are in the process of coordinating the installation.
- As of late last week, there was still some ice and snow on the pad that affected the installation. As soon as the pad has melted sufficiently and is clear for installation, they will be scheduling the work. Given the warm weather we had today, and should continue to have throughout this week, this work should be set to begin ASAP.

Q&A

- Q - John: Could I speak with Miles to get details about the Hawthorne development? The changes to the application are not clear on review. Would appreciate Miles' feedback.
 - A - Shawn: Yes, will have Miles follow up with you.
- Comment - Catherine: Lack of benches after Children's Garden until Riverdale. There are two bus stops, but no benches.

- A - Agree that this is an issue. Installing a shelter, would want to see bench installed. If Catherine can send a reminder email for Shawn to follow up, - Sharmaine/City Planning
- Comment - Bob: Want to follow up on a few pieces from Phyllis - Should we be reaching out to the key contacts to continue dialogue - benches, trash cans.
 - A - Asked key contacts to respond to OOECA. Waste receptacles, turn signals, and benches. If they have not replied, send email again
- Comment - Bob: Crossing guard - pushed for guard at Main and Evelyn given number of schools in the region and was told there would be no consideration because of the size of the road. Seems to make sense given behaviour of drivers, and high traffic area.
 - A - Worthwhile getting this request reassessed. We will need to put it on the list for reassessment, or for assessment if it hasn't been done before. Request that Bob send email for Shawn to add to assessment group under Transportation.
- Comment - Bob: CPR bridge - report shares a negative comment about the bridge. As wondering if councillor could speak to that. Reference: <https://ottawa.ca/en/news/committee-updated-cultural-significance-former-railway-bridge>
 - A - comment was that we neglected the bridge, let it deteriorate for so long, that some argue to tear down. Councillor Leeper was discussing today

7. CAG (Community Activities Group) Report – Lee Jacobs

- May 6 - children's garden seeding at 3pm with Agricola sharing seeds, BBQ at 4:30pm
- Purchased Constant Contact, email marketing tool, and happy to leverage contacts list to share OOECA messages.
- Proposal to have Old Town Hall kitchen updated - long overdue. Needs Board approval for a date.

Q&A

- Q - Courtenay: Are there plans to host a spring garage sale?
 - A – No plans to coordinate a garage sale, although would be open to provide space, set out tables for garage sale, i.e., at Main Event, if someone volunteers to organize activity.

8. Committee Reports (links to reports included where applicable)

8.1 Health and Safety – Courtenay Beauregard

- No report for April.

8.2 SLOE (Sustainable Living Ottawa East) – Jayson MacLean - [Report](#)

- Earth Day celebration at Lady Evelyn school - 10am-2pm – Saturday. There are several activities, community event hosted by Lady Evelyn and SLOE including
 - Electronic waste collection - Friday evening and Saturday
 - Bottle drive run by Bottle Works

- Eco-boutique - vendors will have articles for sale
- Arts and crafts for kids, clothing swap, Bee sustainable workshop - beeswax
- City is doing call-out on climate resiliency - working with CAFES – SLOE to get involved, with goal to partner on consultation, event in OOE.

Q&A

- Comment - Bob: Lady Evelyn alternative school wants to foster community engagement, not only focused on supporting extra-curricular activities.

8.3 Membership – Suzanne Johnston

- No report submitted for April.

8.4 Communications – Bob Gordon

- Applied for non-profit with Tech Soup Canada to receive access to software like G-Suite for collaboration, and other tools that can help with OOECA and Board management.
- Met with Lee/CAG to share and promote each other’s calendars of events.

Q&A

- Comment - Kristine: Would like to see us explore a survey/engagement tool.
 - A - Bob: Yes, agree. Will be exploring the free tools first, to see what’s available.
- Comment - Alexandra: Would like to promote upcoming OOECA meetings to Facebook group. Would be helpful to get Zoom link in advance.
 - A - Bob: Zoom meeting details are the same for all remaining 2023 OOECA meetings.

8.5 The Corners on Main/Greystone Village – Peter Tobin - [Report](#)

- Met with Marc Demers for Oblats, CECCE principal, and plans to
- River Terraces 1 and 2 boards are interested in connecting with OOECA boards, supporting community objectives. Peter to meet with them

8.6 Parks and Greenspace – Jamie Brougham - [Report](#)

- Final draft [Terms of Reference](#) (ToR) presented to Board for approval.
- Committee added bullet to address comment from last meeting that terms should indicate we strive to be accessible, inclusive, and equitable. ToR may still need some wording to capture active use of greenspaces.
- P&G committee encouraged to continue discussions at their next meeting to address comment re: active use of park and green spaces and present updates to ToR as needed.
- Motion presented, “That OOECA approve the Parks and Green space terms of reference as presented” moved by Georgia Blondon and seconded by Ron Rose.
 - All in favour, none opposed, none abstained. Motion carried.

- Second motion brought forward to purchase 2 to 4 Adirondack chairs from Costco to install in Brantwood Park facing river.
- Those in support this proposal, citing this solution can begin to help address lack of seating, creates a social zone in the park, support people with mobility issues who walk along the river, and all for a low cost.
- Others cite liability and safety risks, impracticality of securing chairs against those who may want to steal them, and cost that could be applied towards other OOECA activities.
- Motion presented, "That OOECA purchase 2 Adirondack chairs, at a total cost not to exceed \$500, to be installed in Brantwood park along the riverbank.
 - 7 Board members in favour, 2 against (Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay, Kristine Houde), 2 abstained (Catherine Pacella, John Dance).
 - Motion carried. Jamie Brougham to action next steps to purchase chairs and install.

8.7 FCA (Federation of Citizens' Associations) – Ron Rose

- No report for April.
- Will meet with treasurer to explore larger contribution to FCA, over and above membership fee.

8.8 Planning – John Dance – [Report](#)

- Hawthorne and des Oblats changes are hard to spot
- Planning committee meeting scheduled with city planning staff to review provincial changes.

Q&A

- Comment - Jamie: City planning and Developers are an attack on our culture.
- Comment from resident in response to Jamie and previous remarks: Could not disagree more. Your culture is being attacked? If you're concerned about home prices being too high, there's a simple solution; Support more development, more units will help bring prices down. Regarding 6-story buildings, we should be supporting them. We're in a housing shortage emergency. anything we can do to support more housing, the better.
 - A – John: Need to understand that the plans are going to generate a lot more density. Response time given to community and residents has been cut in half. City staff is besieged by applications and need time to gather community input.
- Q - Alexandra: Are we seeing this plan for overlay in all municipalities?
 - A – John: Overlay supports provincial goal to have more density in neighbourhoods. OOE secondary plan supports 6 stories along Main street. Overlay would allow this to extend way beyond the street front, up to 150 meters back. Former mayor talks about how we need certainty when developing the secondary plan, but certainty has gone out the window.

8.9 Transportation and Infrastructure – Tom Scott - [Report](#)

- Tom was not available to deliver verbal report but did submit written report.

Q&A

- Q - Are there any actions for the community/OOECA on Engage Ottawa?
 - A - John: Tom is planning to submit a reply.
 - A - Bob: mentioned positive feedback at active transportation meeting for connectivity.
- Comment - Don: Agree they are advocates and have same ideals. The only question is regarding implementation speed. Active transportation was going to give more information.
- Comment - Kristine: Saw thread on OOE Grapevine regarding recent bike-car accident. Wonder if there is a role for OOECA.
 - Comment - John: Took note of the thread and shared with Tom for follow-up.
- Comment - Don: mentioned other intersection that is a dangerous intersection.
 - Comment - Catherine recommends sub-committee focused on bike/active transportation infrastructure
- Comment - Bob: Meeting with active transportation group for TMP. Group seemed to be receptive to OOECA feedback, and an ally for OOECA.

8.10 Lansdowne – Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay - [Report](#)

- Encourage group to read report - very expensive project being approved by the city.
- Financial statements have not been prepared for the last two years - Makes it difficult
- Seating and shade plan at Aberdeen square - Online engagement until April 29
<https://engage.ottawa.ca/lansdowne-aberdeen-square-public-realm-improvements>

9. New Business

- Forecourt Park - Jamie is looking to get members, community together to gather feedback and Ron replied that he would be happy to collaborate on this.
- Lee agrees something should be done but is conscious that we can come up with great ideas if they are not within budget. Sense that city is non-committal regarding budget.
- Alexandra mentioned that step 1 would be to get the initial files from consultations on Forecourt park. Kristine would also like to see more fulsome feedback from city following April consultations.
 - Action item: Jamie recommended to form sub-committee to prepare recommendations to city for Forecourt park plans.

10. Adjournment

- Next meeting is on May 9th, 2023 at 7pm ET (Hybrid - Details at OttawaEast.ca)