

OOECA Board Meeting – June 12th, 2023

Hybrid meeting: In-person and online, details at OttawaEast.ca

Attendees

- **Board:** Bob Gordon, Catherine Pacella, Phyllis Odenbach-Sutton, Don Fugler, Kristine Houde, Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay, Tom Scott, Jayson Maclean, John Dance, Ron Rose, Peter Tobin, Georgia Blondon, Jamie Brougham
- **Invited speakers:** Ariela Summit (Capital Ward – Councillor’s Office), Lee Jacobs (CAG)
- **Other attendees:** Paul Goodkey, Monica Helm, Alain (?) Eddy, Bonnie Wepler

1. Welcome and land acknowledgement

2. Approval of agenda

- Motion to approve agenda moved by Ron Rose and seconded by Jamie Brougham.
- All in favour, none opposed or abstained. Motion passed.

3. Approval of minutes

- Secretary, Kristine Houde, has not finalized drafts or incorporated edits for previous
- Will transfer to Google Docs and distribute links for Board to apply their edits directly.
- Will circulate final drafts for Board approval by email/vote later in June.

4. Chair’s Report – Bob Gordon

Annual General Meeting in November – Actions for Board members

- 2-year terms for many Board members ending at November AGM.
- Action for group by mid-July - Email Bob Gordon:
 - Board members to declare their intent to continue in their role, apply for new roles, or step down. Volunteers requested for nominating committee.

Main Event

- Unable to move ahead with Main event in June. Lee to share details within CAG report.
- Thanks to Ron who offered to coordinate OOECA volunteers. More volunteers needed. Email Bob if interested.

5. Treasurer’s Report – Don Fugler

- Current balance is \$20,729.18 reflecting payment for CAFES membership at \$100, and 2 Adirondack chairs at \$420 installed along riverbank at Brantwood Park.

6. Councillor’s Report – Capital Ward – Ariela Summit for Councillor Menard

Council meeting agenda item – Garbage

- Currently, there is a 6-bag limit at each collection cycle.
- Proposal is 2-bag limit for curbside collection along with the option to buy additional tags which councillor supports.

- Compromise motion which mayor seems to support is for 3 bags with no tags.

Environmental committee meeting – June 20th

- Will be discussing Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP), a 20-year strategy for the city that was approved in 2017.
- Going into next 5-year period, focus on planting trees to meet 40% tree canopy cover target and focus on education and outreach.
- if interested, people can watch Environmental Committee meetings on YouTube.

Infrastructure Master Plan information session – Virtual session, June 13th

- Governs stormwater and drinking water, touches on climate adaptation.
- For OOE, real victory for climate resiliency to have hydro wires buried on Hawthorne.
- Sign up at Engage Ottawa to join meeting and for opportunity to share questions.

Bill 109, provincial bill to increase housing supply by streamlining development approvals

- Bill 109 will cut many environmental protections and community input opportunities.
- Requires that planning applications be dealt with within 60 days, with a 30-day timeline on Site Plan control applications, effectively eliminating the possibility for revisions as part of a planning application process.
- To address Bill 109 challenges, city has established a pre-application process that is more iterative and robust, attempting to replicate the role of the revision process. Detailed information will be shared in the upcoming newsletter.

Other updates – residents encouraged to send requests to Ariela, Councillor's office

- Ariela contacted regarding resurfacing basketball courts, a priority in 2019. City did life cycle assessment and classified them as fair condition, not to be replaced. Councillor's office will push for court replacement and painting lines using CILP funds.
- Public consultation on Billings Bridge roadway layout set for June 20th, 7-9 PM, with plans to implement a 3-lane model with bicycle lanes.
- Lansdowne 2.0 coffee chats run by the City every Wednesday in June, 12pm-1pm, for questions and feedback – Register for a session on Engage Ottawa.

Q&A

- Question: Question regarding the legal authority of the city in implementing the pre-consultation process and noting that pre-application stage relies largely on the developer's discretion, with no binding process to ensure meetings and outreach. Concerns about potential conflicts between the city and the province.
 - Answer: City is preparing to comply with Bill 109 by increasing planning fees and hiring more planners. Approach is still evolving, and there may not be strong legal mechanisms to enforce the pre-consultation process.
- Question: Clarification requested re: 30-day timeline
 - Answer: Site Plan control applications must be processed within 30 days, in addition to the 60-day requirement for all planning applications.

- Comment regarding non-disclosure agreements (NDA) in pre-application process.
 - Answer: NDA could be a tool that they use, as they do now, in the back and forth of planning revisions. Some OOECA committee members part of group that participates in pre-application process, but residents would not have this information. City's stance on disclosing information to the community remains unclear. Miles Krauter from the Councillor's office can provide more information on this file.

- Comment: Suggests encouraging developers to publicly consult with communities before submitting their applications, emphasizing need for this practice in the context of Bill 109, emphasizes the benefits of community involvement but also acknowledging developers have no obligation to do so.
 - Answer: Action item proposed by OOECA President that Planning committee delve deeper into the topic of non-disclosure agreements and provide an analysis at upcoming meeting.

- Comment: Concern raised about squirrels damaging trees, asks if the city has any plans to address the issue due to the impact on newly planted trees.
 - Answer: Not aware of any specific squirrel management plans and recommends raising the issue with city staff when reviewing wildlife management strategies. While the city replaces trees that die, addressing the squirrel issue may be challenging.

- Comment – Paul: Concerned about the lack of enforcement of tree protection bylaws during construction and provided examples of trees being damaged by construction activities when there is no tree protection; roots damaged by heavy trucks, soil level around tree dropped significantly, including mature oak tree near Flora bridge with numerous dead branches, possibly due to salt and stone deposits. Calls for improved bylaw enforcement.

- Question – Bob: Can OOECA contribute to councillor's office development of priorities to present to council? Would councillor consider Board Council meetings again?
 - Answer: Councillor meetings would be a good idea to resurrect.

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

Main Event

- Postponed to late Summer, likely September. Unable to secure insurance in time.
- Ongoing efforts to resolve the insurance situation with the city and expresses confidence in eventually finding a solution in time for activities like the summer camp, river canoeing, and other community programs.

Brantwood Park – New container housing 7 canoes

- Addition of a storage container behind field house, targeting community use, and supporting plans for expanded programming, including canoe rentals, evening/weekend staffing.

Summer programming and new staff

- 22 new staff members to manage summer camps, with over 80% of hires coming from the community.
- Camps are nearly sold out with a waiting list, an important development for the community; 250 registrations for the summer camps, indicating strong interest and demand for these programs.
- Addition of canoes and equipment for rentals, offering opportunities for residents to enjoy the river.
- Thursday barbecues starting June 29th at Brantwood Park.

Q&A

- Comments: Members of the community express their excitement and support for the various initiatives, such as the canoes and the summer camps.
- Question – Alexandra: What is the opening date of the waiting pool at Brantwood?
 - Answer: Pool will open on June 23rd.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Lansdowne - Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay - [Report](#)

- Provided update on the Lansdowne proposal and related community activities.
- Significant effort to advocate for transparency regarding all components of the Lansdowne proposal and to make this information available to the public and counselors.
- Consultation session hosted by Counselor Menard on May 10th was well-attended and allowed people to ask questions and seek clarification.
- Strong demand for visuals or a scale model of the proposed development, but these materials have not yet been provided by the city.
- A model of the development has been created by volunteers and shown at the Farmers' Market for residents to see and ask questions.
- Alexandra and Tom attended a traffic management meeting related to Lansdowne. The meeting aimed to discuss the current traffic situation and inform modeling for Lansdowne 2.0.
 - Group raised concerns about the outdated and limited data used for traffic projections and assumptions that no additional traffic would be generated due to the rebuilt event center.
 - Questions were also raised about need to move the Civic Center as part of the proposal.
- Community engagement and ongoing discussions happening among community representatives and stakeholders regarding the Lansdowne proposal.

- There is a push for more clarity on the assumptions used in the business case and financial strategy for Lansdowne 2.0.
- City project manager for Lansdowne 2.0 is starting a new series of coffee chats on Wednesdays at Noon. Details can be found on the Engage Ottawa website.
- Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting in August will discuss accessibility aspects related to the Lansdowne proposal.

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

Additional supporting documents:

- [2023-06-13-report-transportation-and-infrastructure.pdf](#)
- [2023_05_OOECA-Position_MTO-417-Rideau-Canal-Bridge-Replacement.pdf](#)
- [2023-05-05_draft-petition-to-MTO_rideau-canal-bridge-project-alternatives.pdf](#)
- [2023-05-10_Lansdowne-2-0_community-meeting-lessons-learned.pdf](#)
- [2023-05-24_LPP-2-0_transportation-workshop-meeting-minutes.pdf](#)

Lansdowne 2.0

- Major assumption going into the Lansdowne 2.0 planning that Queen Elizabeth Drive will be the main thoroughfare coming and going for major events. This is not in line with NCC vision for QED to become active transportation route.
 - Emphasized the need to address increased traffic and transportation challenges caused by new event centers and residential units
 - Noted the absence of long-term traffic forecasting and the lack of plans for a transportation node at Billings Bridge

Petition regarding road closures for reconstruction of the Rideau Canal Queensway bridge

- Ongoing effort to develop a petition and garner broad support from neighboring Community Associations (CAs) to address the Ontario Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) plan to close Colonel By Drive and Queen Elizabeth Drive for 90 weeks, a closure that has not been adequately discussed with the Community Association and Council.
- Details revealed in November 2022, and significant changes made to preferred alternative.
- Objective is to gain support from various communities that rely on these routes for recreational and commuting purposes.
- Communication initiated with the National Capital Commission (NCC), the Rideau Canal Queensway Master Plan (RMP), and the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) to gauge government support for the petition.
- Joel Harden supports initiative to gather signatures for the petition, and plan involves presenting the petition to the province of Ontario, urging them to reconsider the proposed alternatives, and revert to previous preferred alternative that doesn't close Colonel By Drive or Queen Elizabeth Drive.

Greenfield Main Hawthorne Project and related issues

- Project currently underway, causing disruptions in the neighborhood, expected to continue for the next three years, progressing from the lower end of Greenfield upwards.

- Involves replacing water mains dating back to 1898 and 1910 that have experienced recent failures.
- Sewers in the area are being separated, as the domestic sewer and storm sewers are currently combined.
- Temporary closure of Highway 417 on-ramp for two nights to facilitate sewer pipe work.
- Residents are encouraged to visit the city's website for updates and information about the project, and notices are being distributed to residents with information about upcoming interruptions and project dates. City senior project manager also available for discussions with residents.
- Concerns about the intersection at McGillivray and McNaughton have been raised with the city, as it becomes potentially dangerous due to cut-through traffic.
- Efforts are being made to discourage cut-through traffic during construction, especially on Colonel By Drive near Immaculata.

Q&A

- Question – resident: Do the MTO or city maps show active transportation routes, or a segregated bypass, or are they directing pedestrians and bikes onto streets?
 - Answer: Short answer is probably not. MTO wants to divert active transportation pedestrians and cyclists onto that stretch between Hawthorne and Harvey, and then use Harvey to get back over Colonel By drive. However, Greenfield and Hawthorne is already a conflict zone for cyclists, and worse this week when they tear up the sidewalk.

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

- On recent walk-around with Bob, noted that people are using Grande Allee as parking lot, along the grass strip between the sidewalk and retail. There are also fallen tree limbs and garbage causing safety issues.
- Other area of concern is intersection and corner across from Spencer construction with cars and trucks double parked. Vehicles wrapping around the corner are forcing pedestrians and bikes to walk in the middle of the street. Regional blaming St-Paul students, despite some of the vehicles clearly being personal vehicles of workers.
- Some vehicles, including Mercedes van with Washington plates appear to be parked along road long-term. Many residents have called City (Bylaw 311) to request that issue be addressed, i.e., No Parking signs be installed, but no action taken to date.
- For sale sign on vacant lot across from Corners on Main – may indicate future development.

Q&A

- Comment – Bob: Grande Allée is being neglected and it's unclear who has ownership of this area currently – Regional or city? Has asked Ariela to investigate this on our behalf as we get no adequate response or action from Regional/Evan and contractors. Also waiting for re-installation of garbage cans along Main, request started by Phyllis but not yet actioned by the city.

- Comment – John: In recent conversation with Evan, Evan said that city owns that area now. And agree with previous comments about trees in our neighbourhood that need to be protected, notably mature trees at west end of Grande allée.

8.4 Planning (OOEPC) - John Dance - [Report](#)

Meeting with city planning staff

- During a recent meeting with planning staff, various planning issues concerning the community were discussed. Some responses were positive, while others were not.
- Committee emphasized that we will need to pay careful attention to the new zoning bylaw exercise currently underway. While group was told that the new zoning will be will reflect neighborhood overlay and be respectful of the secondary plans we really are going to have to be rigorous in our review of applications.
- One positive outcome from the meeting with staff is the confirmation of a 4-story limit on Main Street, south of Clegg Street, rather than the higher 6 to 9-story options.
- Concerns were also raised regarding density targets in the secondary plan, which were clarified to be targets rather than limits, leaving room for targets to be exceeded without repercussions to meet higher density targets set by the city for OOE and other neighbourhoods.

Updates on 15 des Oblats, 18 Hawthorne, 180 Main

- A significant discussion revolved around 15 des Oblats application with OOECA and individual residents having shared their concerns with the city and requesting to present at an upcoming meeting. Main objections from planning committee are the high number of units for this development space, zero parking spaces assigned while 36 parking spots are required to be part of the proposal as a percentage of the number of units proposed, and concerns regarding placement of the 5th floor addition.
- 18 Hawthorne developer has listened to Planning committee concerns, has addressed a few concerns, but none of the fundamental concerns shared in writing. 2 residents have retained a lawyer, Kristie Ross, for an appeal to get changes to the proposal, including a 2-meter front-lot setback, setback on rear of building, and parking garage be pulled back from lot line to allow trees to be planted.
 - Recommending a motion to contribute to lawyer fees for the appeal which could help avoid setting a precedence for future similar developments. Committee may also come back to Board later to express their interest to file our own appeal.
 - Prior to reading in the motion, some people expressed support for the motion, and others asked for clarification regarding number of parking spaces for this development, to which John replied 57 spots which is 34% more than what development requires.
- All rezoning requests for application from Sula Wok owners at 180 Main street were approved, including reduced rear yard. While the committee is opposed to this decision, consensus was not to pursue further action at this time.
- Committee wants to share their dissatisfaction with the city pushing ahead with new infill guidelines while zoning bylaws are not yet approved.

Planning committee resignations and vacancies

- John announced he will resign as committee chair, and Paul Goodkey also resigning from committee. New members are needed to take the lead on these important files.

Q&A

- Question: Can lawyer also address some concerns OOECA has for 18 Hawthorne, including right of way?
 - Answer: Lawyer has all our communications and responses on this proposal. Addressing the 2-meter setback should also address the right-of-way issue.

Motion

- Motion read, "That up to \$500 be authorized to assist 2 residents with their payment of lawyer Kristi Ross for her efforts related to the 18 Hawthorne application."
- Motion moved by John Dance, seconded by Ron Rose.
- All board members in favour, none opposed, none abstained. Motion passed.

8.5 SLOE - Jayson MacLean - [Report](#)

- CAFES hosted meeting with city's climate unit that went well, with lots of feedback shared by the community. See report for meeting summary and comments
- One theme that came out of the discussions revolved around the community's role in supporting residents during times of crisis and emergencies, such as power outages, floods, and other natural disasters.
- The idea of developing an emergency preparedness plan for the community association was brought up, but there were concerns about the feasibility and liability associated with such a plan.
- Members emphasized that the city already has emergency planning in place, and the community association's role could be more focused on communication, education, and facilitating awareness of existing resources and plans.
- Suggestions included using the community center as a cooling center during extreme heat, utilizing the river as a resource for cooling, and awaiting the city's strategy on emergency preparedness to determine the community association's role.
- SLOE chair wanted to raise this topic for future discussion, and attendees expressed support for starting the discussion on community emergency preparedness.
- Trees and Trust initiative: 50 trees distributed in OOE. Would like to see bigger investment. Will approach Board if needed in September to request support, funding.

8.6 FCA - Ron Rose

Community insurance partnership program

- Heard from Lee of impact of the city not getting its act together in time to ensure CAs and activities groups have adequate insurance in time for their activities and events.
- CAs heard that they need to agree to \$1,000 deductible. Have applied for grants to the city to host these events, but the condition of the grant is to have insurance, yet the city is not in position yet to give them insurance. Has forced CAs to cancel events.

Low-rise infill design guidelines

- In rare show of unity, 3 organizations - FCA, Walkable Ottawa, and Greater Ottawa Alliance - have come together to strongly request that city defer introducing these new guidelines until the release of the draft of the new, comprehensive zoning bylaw.
- What the city is proposing to do is very similar to a community association drafting its bylaws before it drafts its constitution and several organizations have, through this letter, urgently requested that the city delay introducing or developing its guidelines.

Q&A

- Question - Alexandra: Do organizations have to run all their events by the city and confirm that we are following their guidelines as a condition of insurance?
 - Answer - Lee: I receive funding and do need to report general details about my activities. Same is also likely requirement for others if group is asking for funding.

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

- Parks and greenspace committee has drafted list of priorities, including repainting Brantwood basketball court, although preference is for resurfacing.
- Also approached the city to request an online reservation system for basketball and tennis courts, baseball diamonds, and hockey rinks.

8.8 Health and Safety - Courtenay Beauregard

- Courtenay not in attendance at June meeting, but Bob spoke with community safety officer, who will be available to attend meetings and give updates towards the end of August, early September.

8.9 Membership - Suzanne Johnston

- Suzanne not in attendance but is looking for someone to take the lead on the membership drive as this is her 3rd and final allowed term (bylaws state 3 term max.). Also looking for volunteers for membership drive.
- Please contact Suzanne or Bob if you're interested in taking on lead or volunteer role.

9. New Business

- CAFES membership – requires 2 members. Bob recommends SLOE and Parks and Greenspace committee members.

10. Adjournment

- No board meetings in July or August.
- Next meeting on September 12th at 7pm ET (Hybrid - In person and Online)