

OOECA Board Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2024

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

Attendees

Board: Bob Gordon, Catherine Pacella, Phyllis Odenbach Sutton, Peter Tobin, Jayson Maclean, Don Fugler, John Dance, Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay, Tom Scott, Kristine Houde, Gregg Whetton

Invited speakers: Lee Jacobs (CAG)

Other attendees: Doug Macaulay, Peter Beaman, Ron Rose, Bonnie XXXXX, Heather Jarrett, Wendy McRae, Michal Samborski, Jamie Brougham

1. Welcome & land acknowledgement - Bob Gordon

2. Approval of agenda

- Motion to approve the January 2024 meeting moved by Don Fugler and seconded by John Dance.
- All Board members in favour, motion passed.

3. Approval of minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes for the [October 2023](#) meeting moved by John Dance and seconded by Peter Tobin.
- All Board members in favour, motion passed.

4. Chair's Report – Bob Gordon

- No formal report
- Discussions recently held to facilitate a reciprocal arrangement between OOECA and Alta Vista Community Association to attend each other's meetings to provide an overview of each respective organization and how they operate.

5. Treasurer's Report – Don Fugler ([report](#))

- Current balance of \$20,426.00
- Several transactions in the past month: \$40 towards membership for the Federation of Citizen's Associations of Ottawa, \$500 towards the Rideau Winter Trail and \$500 towards the Glebe Community Association to support their appeal of the Lansdowne 2.0 proposal.

6. Councillor's Report – Shawn Menard and Ariela Kay Summit (absent)

- No formal report.

- The Councillor's office will follow up on a timeframe for when the red light camera will be installed at Evelyn and Main, as well as snow removal plans for the community, including monitoring snow removal operations in the Greystone area.

Q (Tom Scott): Reminded of interest to seek councillor's support to make a case with city staff to include ongoing snow clearance of stairs at both Flora Footbridge and Corktown Footbridge as part of the City's roadway and pathway maintenance standards.

7. CAG Report – Lee Jacob

- For the first time, a holiday camp was organized in December 2023, which was very successful.
- Community interest continues surrounding the opening of the ice rink at Brantwood Park, with expectations for the rink to open the weekend of January 13.
- Rentals in the Old Town Hall continue to be popular. Rates are said to be more affordable than other similar places, hence the high demand in rental requests. For comparison, 24 rentals were scheduled last fiscal year (September 2022 to August 2023), while 29 rentals have been scheduled for first three months of the current fiscal year.
- Currently organizing several events, including Friday night events at ice rink with food (e.g., hot dogs), drinks (e.g., hot chocolate) and music, a Valentine's Day skate and a winter party.
- Working with Chair of OOECA to develop an Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate a joint organization of the Main Event.
- Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE) has requested that they extend their rental agreement of the Old Town Hall from September 2024 to June 2025 for the 2024-25 school year. This proposal needs to be reviewed/approved by CAG's Board of Directors.
- Gym opening hours will be extended at Lady Evelyn Alternative School, including offering new time slots for pickleball and basketball.

Q (Peter Beaman) How many students does the Old Town Hall accommodate?

A: CECCE has rented the full building. The room upstairs accommodates 25 students 100% of the time, while the downstairs room is used as a gymnasium for activities approximately 60% of the time.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 The Corners on Main and Greystone Village – Peter Tobin

- [TCOM-GV report](#) was circulated.
- The opening of J:Fuse restaurant, which was scheduled to open for January 3rd, will be delayed by one to two weeks.

8.2 Federation of Citizen's Associations of Ottawa (FCA) – Ron Rose

- [FCA report](#) was circulated.
- It was highlighted that the FCA board passed a resolution on transportation that the FCA recommends to the City that a scope be provided to accommodate an enhancement of the City's winter maintenance quality standards as per Council's direction in 2019.

Q (Tom Scott) Highlighted that – 3 to 4 years ago – the OOECA recommended that the winter maintenance quality standards for active transportation be updated to improve city capacity to manage better access, including those for vulnerable parts of the population. It was recommended that the FCA complete a scan to determine other organizations that may have had similar concerns expressed at the time when the Transportation Master Plan was being developed.

A: Confirmed it will be raised at the FCA board meeting next week.

8.3 Planning - Vacant

- No report.
- The Planning Committee did not meet in January 2024; a February 2024 meeting will be organized.

8.4 Lansdowne – Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay

- [Lansdowne report](#) was circulated.
- The Glebe Community Association has filed an appeal of the Lansdowne 2.0 proposal related to both the rezoning and the official planned amendments that are being considered. It is expected to be accepted for appeal.
- At the last meeting, OOECA passed a motion that, if we were asked by the Glebe Community Association to support the appeal process, we would provide up to \$500. The Treasurer's Report has confirmed this support.

8.5 Membership – Jayson MacLean

- No report.

8.6 Sustainable Living Ottawa East (SLOE) – Michal Samborski

- No report.

Q (Bob Gordon) Are you maintaining the same monthly meetings for SLOE?

A: To be determined. Information will be posted on website once confirmed.

Q (Tom Scott) Have you been involved in some of the heritage tree designations for Old Ottawa East? Of note, looking for an update on the two Ash trees located at the corner of Concord Street North and Havelock Street.

A: No information available at this time.

Q (Tom Scott) Shared information on a previous community campaign called *Count the Stumps* that could be used for future work in this space.

8.7 Parks and Greenspace – John Dance and Jamie Brougham

8.7.1 18 Proposed Draft Letter Grande Allee Park – John Dance

- [Proposed draft letter](#) to the Councillor circulated as a response to a number of issues that have been raised at the Grande Allee, including a commitment to plant more trees and to maintain the width limits of the Grande Allee.

Q (Jayson MacLean) Could you say a bit more about what the plan is for Greystone and where the court is encroaching on the Grande Allee?

A: Greystone is currently proposing three new cluster of buildings at the end of the Grand Allee (off Deschâtelets Avenue), which now encroaches on space the was previously established in the 2015 plan. The purpose of the letter is to inform the city that the OOECA does not agree with this revised change.

Q (Jayson MacLean) Will the letter be enough or will any other actions need to be taken to ensure the new plans do not proceed.

A: At this stage, we want to ensure the City and Council understands that OOECA does not want this revised plan implemented and will take further action if necessary.

Q (Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay) Supports the letter and the initiative and questioned if a drawing should be included with the letter of where OOECA would prefer to see the trees planted in addition to the written description.

A: Good idea.

Q (Jamie Brougham) Raised concerns about the height of the buildings, with some of the trees being block from the sun if the buildings are too tall.

A: Confirmed the buildings will be 3.5 stories tall.

Q (Kristine Houde) Any concerns that the plans may further change from what was established and agreed upon in 2015.

A: The full presentation on the revised plans will be shared with the Board.

8.7.2 Update on Hurdman Park Proposal – Jamie Brougham

- A letter has been developed to send to other community associations (e.g., Old Ottawa South, Alta Vista, Faircrest Heights, Riverview Park, Eastway Gardens, Overbrook, Glebe) to seek support for the Hurdman Park Proposal.
- The environmental and social benefits of the proposal were outlined, as well as pictures and diagrams of the area were shared with the Board.

Q (Tom Dance) Raised it would be beneficial to include the pictures of the area being spoken of, so others understand the proposed space being discussed.

Q (Kristine Houde) Raised that the report and pictures shared should be added to the package with a brief summary and uploaded to OOECA site.

- Motion put forward to support proceeding with the Hurdman Park Proposal, once Jamie Brougham ascertains what the plans are for the National Capital Region urban park. Other community associations will be contacted to inform them of the plan, with a formal proposal to follow.
- Moved by Don Fugler and seconded by John Dance. All in favour.

8.8 Transportation and Infrastructure – Tom Scott

- [Transportation and infrastructure report](#) and 2 other documents, [Draft letter to MPP Harden](#) and [Email to Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria](#) circulated to Board.

8.8.1 December 2023 GMH Project Update

- The project is now at the season-end of Phase 2 (2023) and is proceeding well. The work capacity has reduced for the winter months. Slight deviations from the original plan have been noted, including delays in the planned burial of overhead wires along Hawthorne due to the hydro worker strike. It has been committed that this work will proceed this summer.

- Further updates and the schedule for the various phases of the project over the next three years can be found on the City's [GMH Project website](#).
 - o Read December 2023 GMH project update in [English](#) or [French](#).

8.8.2 December 2023 GMH Project Update

- Continue to work with the Councillor's office on neighbours' concerns about the intersection at McGillivray and McNaughton having become problematic for cross-cutting traffic.

8.8.3 Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) Downtown Bridges

- Received a written response from the new MTO Minister about the Rideau Canal bridge replacement project, which is a similar response from the previous MTO Minister in November 2022.
- Working with our MPP's office (Joel Harden) to have MTO stop the environmental assessment process, reconsider its construction options before the TESR is published, and find an alternative that does not require both Colonel By Drive and Queen Elizabeth Driveway to be closed for ninety weeks. There is a draft letter related to this request to Joel Harden.
- Motion put forward to send the letter to our member of provincial parliament – Joel Harden – to send on the community's behalf to the Minister of Transport Ontario.
- Moved by Don Fugler and seconded by Tom Scott. All in favour.

8.8.4 Cleaning the Capital

- Raised continued concerns about stolen property, drug use and fire hazards on MTO and city property adjacent to the Queensway and the LRT rights-of-way.
- The Committee is seeking support to draft a letter to the councillor's office to request the City and MTO to collectively take action to clean up this site.
- It was recommended that this initiative be coordinated through the Health and Safety Officer, Georgia Blondon.

8.9 Communications - Bob Gordon and Kristine Houde

- No formal report.

8.9.1 Proposal – OOECA Logo Design Contest

- [Proposal - OOECA logo design contest](#) circulated. The proposal is to redesign and update the logo of the community association. It includes

references to previous OOECA discussions on the topic, as well as examples of logos from other community associations.

- The proposal recommends to administer a competition that invites all residents to submit designs based on specific criteria. A monetary award is also proposed for the winner and honourable mentions.
- This would be a good opportunity to engage the community and build awareness of the OOECA work we do as volunteers.
- Over the next few months, a project plan will be developed that will include basic timelines. The Board's validation will be sought then.

Q (Bob Gordon) Raised his preference for the competition to be opened for several months and to be announced at the Main Street event. Also indicated that the winning logo must look professional.

8.10 Health and Safety – Georgia Blondon (absent)

- No report.

9 New Business

- A Francophone community member raised, given the increase of Francophone residents in the community, it may serve the community association well to have a Francophone community representative.
- A proposal will be circulated with the Board to move forward with his idea.

10 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn moved by Ron Rose.