

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton  
Minutes for Board Meeting of February 8, 2010  
Glebe Community Centre, 175 Third Ave.**

**Participants:** Archie Campbell [Dalhousie CA - Chair]; Jay Baltz [Hintonburg CA]; Bob Brocklebank [Glebe CA]; Virginia Carver [Glebe CA]; Lorne Cutler [Hampton-Iona Community Group]; Rick Devereux [Centretown Citizens' CA]; Rebecca Dufton [Cumberland Village Assn]; Annie Hall [Copeland Park CA]; Michael Heenan [Glabar Park CA]; Linda Hoad [Hintonburg CA]; Clive Horne [Cumberland Village Assn]; Amy Kempster [Champlain Park CA & Friends of Greenspace Alliance]; Judy Makin [March Rural CA]; Shawn Menard [Centretown Citizens' CA]; Sheila Perry [Community Council of Overbrook]; Christian Pupp [Old Ottawa East CA]; Graeme Roderick [Tanglewood-Hillsdale CA]; David Sacks [New Edinburgh Community Alliance]; Don Stewart [Westboro Beach CA]; Marjorie Shaver-Jones [Copeland Park CA]; Sol Shuster [Greenbelt Coalition]; John Stevenson [Citizens for Safe Cycling]; Brian Tansley [West Manotick CA]; Agnes Warda [Glens CA]; Bruce Webster [Richmond Village Assn & Rural Council of Ottawa-Carleton]

**Introduction to Glebe:** Bob Brocklebank noted that the community centre in the Glebe is a former church which operated for many years with little change from its original state other than the removal of the pipe organ and specific church furniture. Then it was found that the building failed to conform to various modern safety requirements and it was proposed by the then city administration that the building be demolished. Similarly it was suggested that the old firehall in Ottawa South and the old town hall in Ottawa East (those community centres similarly in old buildings) be eliminated and that a big new community centre facility be built to replace them.

This proposal led to mass protests by residents who wanted to maintain the local facilities. The principal concern was that many children walk directly to the local centre for after-school programs, a type of access which would not be possible if a centralized facility were built. This may be an illustration of the problem with a "one-size-fits-all" approach. In communities in which walking is a predominant mode of travel, residents may be willing to forego comprehensive facilities to preserve access. He contrasted this approach with that of the Walter Baker Centre which presumes access primarily by car and which may be suitable in other communities.

### **1. Approval of agenda**

Two items were added to the draft agenda under 5 New Business: (e) Charity and not-for-profit law workshop, and (f) additional upcoming events.

### **2. Meeting Schedule for March to May 2010**

Don Stewart reported that arrangements have been made for a meeting on March 9 at the Dovercourt Recreation Centre. Dates of April 14 (Tanglewood-Hillsdale) and May 12 (New Edinburgh) have been announced. The June meeting would be the AGM at City Hall.

### **3. Approval of minutes of January 13, 2010**

Moved by Don Stewart, seconded by Graeme Roderick. CARRIED

**4. Business arising from the minutes**

a) Planning

Archie Campbell reported that he is working on the text of letters on the Court's ruling on Manotick and on the Richmond Village Design Plan issue.

Bob Brocklebank noted that he had been invited to an event called a Planning Summit to be held on Feb. 18. Jay Baltz commented that he was also involved, as a discussion leader, on the idea of tax rebates for heritage protection. Other topics to be discussed include height and density incentives in return for community benefits and development of employment lands. Only the heritage issue was seen as affecting rural parts of the city so the invitation list is concentrated on urban areas.

Bruce Webster commented that there is a parallel rural issue - the tax treatment of land designated as woodlots or wetlands. Linda Hoad said the Official Plan makes provision for conditional zoning. Don Stewart cautioned of the cumulative effect of such bonusing decisions. Agnes Warda said that such decisions are taken on an individual basis without any consideration of the total effect.

Brian Tansley commented that the new Official Plan is in application except for passages which are under appeal. Jay Baltz said that following adoption by Council the OP is seen as Council policy even if not formally in effect. Brian Tansley said this means that intensification cannot be used as justification for rezoning or Official Plan amendments. Jay Baltz commented that this is a separate matter from bonusing, it is in the Minister's amendment to the Official Plan.

Questions were raised about density targets and the example of the Richmond Road CDP which does not deal with density in the surrounding neighbourhoods was mentioned. Jay Baltz said targets have been established in the Official Plan. Linda Hoad noted that in the Wellington St. CDP there is a statement that density targets can be accommodated in the existing zoning. Lorne Cutler said there is an issue with the convent on Wellington – it is currently institutional and could be rezoned for greater density than the CDP describes. Jay Baltz said the OBHAC will seek interpretation of the legal situation.

b) Membership outreach

Members are encouraged to renew their membership for 2010.

c) Municipal election discussion

Bob Brocklebank reported that he is working on an updated community association contact list organized by ward to facilitate collaboration leading to the election.

Agnes Warda said her association prohibits support for anyone in the election. She proposed inviting candidates to the association AGM. Don Stewart suggested it was important that the public have a chance to ask questions of candidates. Bruce Webster recommended limiting time available for speeches and posing questions to candidates.

Jay Baltz said Hintonburg cannot endorse candidates but does not allow candidates at their AGM. There was some debate about getting candidates to participate in all candidates meetings. Lorne Cutler recommended establishing the event and then inviting candidates. Bob Brocklebank suggested working with secondary schools for assistance in securing venues and volunteers for all candidates meetings.

Shawn Menard asked about ways community associations could influence media coverage in the election. This led to discussion about highlighting issues for the election. Amy Kempster asked if it would be possible to develop information about Councillors' voting records on planning issues. Brian Tansley wondered if a role for the FCA could be to provide information to others about which candidates are adopting which positions.

Bob Brocklebank commented that two groups Fair Choice 2010 and Our Ottawa are both encouraging people to come forward as candidates. He asked if the FCA and its members could work on questions to pose to candidates.

Rick Devereux said Councillors have taken positions; there should be a way to relate those positions to candidates running in the election. Brian Tansley said there is a record of the positions of sitting Councillors but there is no easy way to compile it.

Don Stewart said there are both city-wide and ward-specific questions that should be posed. Bruce Webster suggested the FCA develop five questions to be raised across the city and also put together guidelines for organizing all-candidates meetings at the ward level.

Brian Tansley wondered if there is a role in attending meetings and reporting back on issues that arise. Archie Campbell said FCA might wish to identify those issues considered significant for the election.

Don Stewart, Christian Pupp, Rick Devereux and Brian Tansley offered to work on questions for the election.

d) Tree by-law for rural areas

Judy Makin said that this was at one time on the city's agenda and then was taken off. In March Rural there is a general negative feeling about a tree by-law in rural areas. Amy Kempster said the original discussion was about application in Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Judy Makin commented that the perception was that the application would be wider.

Bruce Webster said the proposed by-law was seen as applying to woodlots. There was a map showing wide application in the Carp Ridge. He described the discussion as a communication failure. This led to some comment about the tree cutting proposed for the Terry Fox extension which seems to be pushed by the city.

e) Greenbelt and NCC vision

Sol Shuster said that NCC had held a series of open houses on the Greenbelt. Short notice was given for the events and attendance was low. At the open houses there was support for maintenance of the natural environment.

In the autumn the NCC will be looking at land designation in the Greenbelt. There is an argument that parcels of the Greenbelt be developed for residential use and for federal departments.

There is an NCC advisory committee on the Greenbelt and the Coalition has seats on the committee. Agnes Warda represents the FCA interests in the Coalition.

The Coalition wants to encourage public involvement in the next stage of the examination of the Greenbelt. Involvement of community association is also desired. One idea is to organize walking, biking, and bus tours of the Greenbelt.

One idea is fingers from the Greenbelt penetrating into the urban areas of the city. Michael Heenan asked about the historical basis of the Greenbelt. Sol Shuster said the Greber report was the basis but this was prior to the concept of biodiversity being understood so this was not a motivation in the original establishment of the Greenbelt. Agnes Warda commented that some people at the meetings wanted no agriculture in the Greenbelt.

f) FCA website

Bob Brocklebank noted that Graeme Roderick has pointed out some out-of-date information on the site. They will work to update the material.

g) CAFES

A meeting is planned in May. There was some discussion about the possible relationship between this grouping of environmental committees of community associations and the FCA.

**5. New business**

a) Neighbourhood planning initiative

Bob Brocklebank noted that studies had been conducted in Hintonburg and Vars. A report is to be delivered to Council committee on Feb. 9 and the executive summaries of the reports were circulated. Linda Hoad underscored the importance of the reports which are to be an overarching plan for the communities involved. There were questions about the city's commitment to taking action as a result of the studies. Jay Baltz noted that there was limited funding behind the project. Lorne Cutler asked if the plans had identified cost savings resulting from a more coherent planning approach by the City. It was agreed that there would be interest in securing a speaker about neighbourhood planning for a subsequent FCA meeting.

b) Lansdowne Partnership transportation study

Bob Brocklebank reported that Delcan, the consulting firm that was proposed by staff to conduct the study had withdrawn. Concerns had been expressed that Delcan had done the initial study for

Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group and had participated in the drafting of the terms of reference for the follow-up study. John Stevenson commented that there seemed to be limited attention to bicycle parking in plans for Lansdowne.

c) FCM Sustainable Cities conference

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities is holding a three-day conference in Ottawa Feb 10 through 12. The programme was circulated. An approach has been made to inquire if community representatives could monitor some of the speeches, but no response has been received.

d) Strategic lawsuits letter sign-on

Archie Campbell said that a letter to the Premier is being prepared which will ask for legislation to eliminate strategic lawsuits against public participation. The letter is from the group Environmental Defence and members of FUN (Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario) are encouraged to express their support. It was agreed that Agnes Warda would sign a supporting letter for the FCA because Archie Campbell would be signing for FUN.

Bruce Webster said that such a lawsuit was used in Ottawa against a resident of Munster.

e) Charity and Non-profit legal seminar

Information was circulated on the seminar to be held Feb 18. It was moved by Graeme Roderick, seconded by Brian Tansley that FCA send a delegate to the workshop and pay the registration fee of \$25. CARRIED

It was agreed that Lorne Cutler would attend with Graeme Roderick as backup.

f) Other upcoming events.

Bob Brocklebank noted that a motion had been adopted by Council to hold a Financial Sustainability Summit in 2010 to gather input from the public on review of the Long Range Financial Plan and future budget process. Lorne Cutler said the Ottawa Taxpayers Advocacy Group has promoted the idea of the summit.

**Adjournment**