

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa
General Meeting of 10 December 2015, St Laurent Complex
Draft Minutes

Participants: Gary Sealey (Kanata Beaverbrook CA - Chair); Lynne Bankier (Champlain Park CA); Philip Bartlett (Carlington CA); Lija Bickis (Queensway Terrace N); Robert Brinker (Carlington CA); Robert Brocklebank (Glebe CA); Archie Campbell (Dalhousie CA); James Chen (Hub Ottawa); John Chenier (Lowertown CA); Alex Cullen (Belltown Neighbours' Association); Lorne Cutler (Hampton Iona); Henrieta Detcheva (Overbrook CA); Roland Dorsay (Champlain Park CA); Erwin Dreesen (Greenspace Alliance); Maureen Forsythe (COA/AFO); Eddie Gillis (Old Ottawa East CA); Paul Goodkey (Old Ottawa East CA); Jan Grabowiecki (Lowertown CA); Dave Grosvenor (Woodroffe North CA); John Hansen (Kanata); Angela Keller-Herzog (Glebe CA); Kul Kapoor (Katimavik-Hazeldean CA); Rawlson King (Overbrook CA); Alan Landsberg (Riverview Park CA); Maria Luisa Marti (Centretown Citizens CA & Friends of James & Bay); Pat McLachlan (Glens CA); Cora Murphy (Woodroffe North CA); Heather Pearl (Champlain Park CA); Sheila Perry (Overbrook CA); John Riordan (Britannia Village CA); Graeme Roderick (Tanglewood-Hillside CA); Chad Rollins (Action Sandy Hill); Gillian Salmond (Wellington Village CA); Heather Scott (Pineview CA); John Stevenson (Citizens for Safe Cycling); John Woodhouse (Lowertown CA); Karen Wright (CHNA)

Guests: Councillor Tobi Nussbaum (Ward 13, Rideau-Rockcliffe) and Michael Mizzi (General Manager, Planning & Growth Management, City of Ottawa)

1. Welcome

Gary Sealey welcomed all participants and guests and invited all participants to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved. The motion was moved by Alex Cullen.

3. Overbrook Community CA

Sheila Perry welcomed everyone and introduced the president of Overbrook CA, Mr. Rawlson King.

Mr. King welcomed all participants and presented a brief profile of his community and an overview of the issues facing the Overbrook CA. He noted that Overbrook was a high needs neighbourhood with a strong cooperative spirit and engaged residents.

4. Councillor Ward 13 (Rideau-Rockcliffe)

Councillor Nussbaum spoke briefly on the issue of planning and noted that the planning issues inside the National Capital Greenbelt were different from planning issues outside the National Capital Greenbelt. First, he spoke about a couple of problems outside the Greenbelt, specifically, the red barn heritage site in Stittsville and the fact that Hazeldean Road is only accessible to vehicles; he also noted that the character of development is not changing. Second, he spoke about have and have-not areas inside the Greenbelt and the need for

“functioning complete communities”, highlighting the under-developed, have-not character of McArthur Street. He also noted the need for “appropriate density” with respect to new developments and the importance of evidence-based planning.

5. Preparing for the Community Planning Forum

A. Sheila Perry introduced the idea of a community planning forum and then introduced Mr. Michael Mizzi, Acting General Manager of the Planning and Growth Management Department, City of Ottawa, who agreed to present further details on the City’s strategic plan and the link to planning and infrastructure.

Michael Mizzi shared the following documents: City of Ottawa 2015-2018 Strategic Plan; a report to the Planning Committee submitted on 29 June 2015 by the Acting Deputy City Manager, Planning and Infrastructure and the PGM Department Workload Projection 2015-2018. In reviewing the work plan he noted that the focus of planning has been on the effectiveness and efficiency of processing planning applications and there needs to be a stronger urban agenda focused on transit and livability issues. He also noted the pressing challenge to take pressure off of the urban boundary; make existing infrastructure more attractive; reduce car dependency and reduce the number of cars inside the Greenbelt. He also noted that in North American cities there is a slow population shift back downtown and that often there is much more debate about mid-rise development proposals compared to very large (300+ units) development proposals. He emphasized the difference between 21st century planning and focusing on the quick processing of development applications.

John Chenier asked about population growth projects inside and outside the Greenbelt, noting there were fewer children inside the Greenbelt than outside; Mr. Mizzi explained the life cycle approach to planning and how to provide incentives to achieve balanced demographics.

Erwin Dreesen asked why the City was working on development plans for huge tracts of urban expansion lands when there is no foreseeable need for these plans; Mr. Mizzi noted that it was still a good idea for City planners to remain part of the discussion regarding these urban expansion lands.

In response to another question, Mr. Mizzi confirmed that each of the City’s strategic initiatives had budget funds allocated for implementation.

Sheila thanked Mr. Mizzi for his presentation.

B. Carolyn MacKenzie (Glebe CA) made a short presentation on “Building a Vision for Bank Street”, a community visioning project for the area north of Landsdowne. Their community engagement strategy included traditional means of engagement (eg newspaper articles) and newer methods using social media networks, engagement with developers, targeting people in popular locations, visual preference surveys and pop-up consultations spaces. 800+ surveys were completed. Presentation is found at <http://fca-fac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/GlbVision.pdf>

C. Heather Pearl (Champlain Park CA) made a short presentation on “Building a Better City”, focused on recent and ongoing planning-related activities. She discussed the importance of the budget process and made recommendations related to staffing; structural deficits; the

need for better enforcement, integration and communication of planning activities; the huge amount of intensification happening in her small community and issues regarding construction projects. Presentation is found at <http://fca-fac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ChPrk.pdf>

D. Sheila divided the participants into 3 groups and distributed the handout with the 3 discussion questions to be completed by individuals. She also noted that Jan Harder, Chair of the City's Planning Committee, was interested in this community initiative. ASK SHEILA

6. Minutes

The draft minutes for the General Meeting held on 02 November were approved.

7. Crime Statistics Report

Jan-Francois Grabowiecki of the Lowertown CA made a presentation on the challenges around crime statistics reporting in Ottawa and the need for hard data to be more open and accessible. He noted that Somerset Ward and Rideau-Vanier had the highest rates of crime in the City. Presentation is found at <http://fca-fac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/CrimLwrtn.pdf>
Jan made the following motion:

"that the FCA write to the mayor, members of the Ottawa Police Services Board, and chief of Police to ask that they help make publicly available comprehensive crime statistics at the neighbourhood-level."

The motion was approved with 1 opposed and no abstentions.

8. FCA Committee Reports

A. City-wide construction coordinator

Alex Cullen reported as follows:

"At the November 2 FCA meeting in Manotick, Klaus Beltzner had raised the issue of the co-ordination of construction projects within the City of Ottawa and impact on traffic. I met with Klaus subsequently to follow-up on this issue. The City does have a Capital Co-ordinating Committee with representatives of the major utilities (water, sewer, roads, gas, electricity) with circulation to OC Transpo and Emergency Services, that co-ordinates construction projects within the city. However, problems of traffic disruption still occurs."

Alex then tabled the following motion (to be discussed at the next meeting of the FCA):

"The FCA recommends to the City of Ottawa that, when the City is considering construction projects that will significantly disrupt major transportation corridors, a traffic mitigation plan be developed as part of the project development, and that such traffic mitigation plan (including vehicles, transit, cyclists and pedestrians) be subject to public consultation prior to implementation."

B. Communications

John Chenier reported as follows:

1) The website is up and functioning. The Bulletin Board provides a unique opportunity for groups to communicate with others all across the city.

2) We have started an "Issue Forum" where people can share views on various issues. Two issues have been introduced thus far, one on Jane Jensen's notions of the importance of public spaces and another one on traffic in communities. This latter one has a short questionnaire attached.

3) Documents from the meetings are regularly posted on the website.

C. Environment / Natural Places

Erwin Dreessen noted that Bill 73 had received Royal Assent on December 3. He reminded all that the changes to the Development Charges Act will bring us significantly closer to growth paying for growth. Among the changes brought about by Committee amendment, he highlighted a new sub-clause to section 2 of the Planning Act, which sets out what is "in the provincial interest." The new clause is : "(r) the promotion of built form that (i) is well-designed, (ii) encourages a sense of place, and (iii) provides for public spaces that are of high quality, safe, accessible, attractive and vibrant." For more information, please refer to the FCA Google posting of December 10 2015.

D. Other Updates

Angela Keller-Herzog briefed about her presentation to Diane Deans' Social and Protective Services Committee budget meeting on support for refugees coming to Ottawa.

Bob Brocklebank spoke about the City's public engagement strategy and a number of planning and budget-related issues. Specifically, he reported that he had appeared in a personal capacity at both Planning Committee and at Finance & Economic Development Committee. At Planning, he had mentioned FCA interest in the strategic initiative of improved public consultation in the Planning area, the significant revenues received from Building Code activity and the prospect of provincial legislation requiring establishment of a Planning Advisory Committee. At FEDCO he questioned the commercial property tax increase of 0.88% when documentation indicates it could be 1%, asked for clearer accountability in city operations for which service fees are collected and inquired about city policy in seeking additional revenue authority. He also noted that Sheila Perry had appeared at Planning on behalf of the FCA.

Lorne Cutler spoke on some practical priorities including a recent anonymous individual donation of \$3,000 to the FCA and how best to leverage this type of donation.

Alex mentioned that the City has dropped its old policy of making old schools available as public meeting spaces, which is controversial.

Gary also spoke about the need for an FCA strategy for the 2017 celebrations and the need for more accessible community centres. Angela suggested reaching out to Tourism Ottawa as part of preparing for Ottawa 2017.

9. Open Mike - deferred

10. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on 06 January at Tanglewood Park Community Centre.