

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa
Executive Meeting – July 8, 2015 – Draft Minutes
Tanglewood Park Community Centre
“Gathering Theme – Respect for all, FCA’s networking, Growth of CAs”

Participants: Sheila Perry (chair), Klaus Beltzner, Bob Brocklebank, Archie Campbell, John Chenier, Lorne Cutler, Maria Louisa Marti, Graeme Roderick (by skype), and Agnes Warda
Regrets: Alex Cullen, Maureen Forsythe, Kul Kapoor, Gary Sealey and Phil Sweetnam

1. Approval of amended agenda: CARRIED

2. Approval of Amended Executive Minutes of June 7: CARRIED

3. Business Arising:

3.1 Location of general meetings: Archie confirmed the information reported at the last meeting which dates and locales up to February. He hopes to schedule meetings in the Bell community, Glebe, and Rockcliffe from February to April.

Locations will be posted on our new website.

3.2 Infill follow-up: It was recalled that on May 26 the Infill 2 Bylaw was considered by the City Planning Committee. No side was FULLY satisfied; for instance residents and community associations want unambiguous rules, while the developers want flexibility. The report on the bylaw that went to City Council on June 24 had some ‘tweaking’ of provisions done by staff to reflect concerns. It was passed, but there likely will be some appeals.

4. Reflections on June 27 Planning Session in Kanata.

While the summary of the Planning Session has been placed in circulation on July 7 with this meeting’s agenda, those present each highlighted one or two matters that they considered significant.

Strengthening communities was an emerging theme.

ACTION: More than one session per year

Not to be lost to our attention is the importance of CDP, and the redrawing of ward boundaries.

5. Survey of Members and Other CAs: Profile -

The Survey was conducted in June, with 57 Associations replying. Highest common matters of interest were: Fostering a Sense of Community; Organizing social events; Bringing local concerns to City Councillors and staff; and Planning and Zoning.

Unless there is a local issue that impacts a neighbourhood, there are a limited number of volunteers who keep vital the activity of the community association, or can be drawn upon to take action. It was found that the interests of community associations vary widely. Sustaining those interests seems somewhat contingent on resources available. But there is only a weak correlation between membership size and any of the factors underpinning the questions asked.

It may be helpful for FCA to recognize that while member associations have certain similar interests, many interests are diverse. FCA can be a forum for participating associations to see how other CAs do things in a like manner or differently, or rephrased:- what can be learned from one another.

ACTION: Place Survey Results In Circulation to Executive

Consider again at the August Meeting

Present to September General Meeting

6. FCA Priorities:

Mindful of the City's priorities: 2015-2018 (transportation/mobility, healthy & caring communities, sustainable environment etc.) that went to Council July 8; FCA will continue to articulate, refine and rank our own priorities. It was affirmed that FCA needs to achieve ongoing visibility and credibility with its members, other community associations, city councillors and staff as well as the builders and developers. In particular to:

- Inspire, engage, and support members and potential members
- Grow our membership and their sense of belonging,
- Grow influence with City Hall

7. Committee Reports and Updates

While FCA needs internally focused committees, it is agreed to align committees to the work of the City (i.e. to priorities and related committees).

7.1 Communication:

In June, and in July John and Bob were again thanked for their bringing on stream the new website. We need 3 or 4 persons who can contribute to keeping the site current. "Not difficult to learn" said John. It would be useful to spend a part of an upcoming meeting going through the features of the website, being mindful of what might need to be changed.

ACTION: Members to visit site

Walk through site at Exec Meeting and Report at September Meeting

John also reported that he was not able to arrange for the book "Ottawa: Then and Now" to be sold as planned July 1. If executive members have upcoming events, perhaps it could be sold there.

ACTION: Members of the Executive

7.2 Planning and Zoning

OMB Appeal of the new Zoning bylaw: FCA wishes to be a participant in such an appeal.

Our nominee Steve Pope to the provincial working group on the Minor Variances within the Planning Act [Bill 73] keeps us informed.

Bill 73, which has more effective citizens' participation in the planning process as a goal, proposes 23 changes to the Planning Act that relate to the Official Plan; Zoning; Parks; Ways A Municipality Does Business; and How Disputes are handled. For instance the Provincial Policy (PPS) and Official Plan (OP) review would be done every 10 years not 5 years. City staff has prepared a response to the Bill. Sheila reported that our Planning and Zoning Network will look at the City's response to this Bill. Our membership need to be alerted to the changes and our city's reaction to them.

While Bill 73 is a result of consultations between October 2013 & January 2014, the FCA believes further hearings on the Bill ought to occur in Ottawa, and/or FCA should hold discussions with MPPs.

ACTION: Letter to Ottawa Centre MPP Yasir Naqvi, Government House Leader

Update at August meeting .

7.3 Transportation

While the panel at the AGM set the stage for building a network similar to that done with Planning and Zoning, and we know those who have shown an interest, we need to move to the outreach phase of building such a network. We also know to a number of knowledgeable persons who could be a resource to that network.

ACTION: Outreach

8. FCA organization matters:

8.1 Themes for General Meetings

Community Development Funds

8.2 Monitoring City Committees: There are three/four committees that could be monitored. TABLED

8.3 FCA Social: Given the importance of providing networking/celebrating opportunities for our members and perspective members, a dinner or a barbeque ought to be built into our annual schedule. Sheila had in mind a local golf course as a possible venue. Others will check rental cost.

ACTION: Further discuss at upcoming meeting

8.4 Running list of Meetings Dates:

September 09 Jules Morin Park Field House, 400 Clarence Street

October 06 Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington

November 02 Legion Hall 5050 Ann Street, Manotick

December 10 Overbrook Community Centre, 33 Quill Street

January 06 Tanglewood Park Centre, 30 Woodfield Dr.

Archie is willing to focus on meetings dates/location until May 2016

“...change should be one of our administrative goals for the year.”

Other business

9.1 ACTION: Planning & Zoning

i) Stormwater: While the City is considering a water rate allocation for the management of storm water, rural residents do not need the same infrastructure to manage it as do urban areas. Should they shoulder the burden?

ACTION: Klaus and Agnes to report at next meeting with recommendations for a potential letter or discussion at a future General Meeting

ii) Cash-in-lieu if parkland: In Bill 73 the ratio of household units to parkland land set aside increases from 300 units to 500 units, meaning less parkland or cash-in-lieu. It calls for greater transparency in accounting for development charges accounts, for Section 37 (community benefits) and for payments of cash-in-lieu of parkland. At our city level, Agnes spoke of scope of uses of the cash in lie funds. While the definition is being expanded, as was seen with the 10% allocation for employment of Park planning staff, there seems also a willingness to blur the ‘cash’s’ use for Park Life Cycle replacement. .

ACTION: Clarify what is being proposed at August meeting

Item for the September General Meeting

10. Adjournment: On a motion from Archie CARRIED

Dates of the next Executive meetings: August 12

Date of the General Meeting: Sept 09 (Jules Morin Park Fieldhouse)

Graeme Roderick, Recorder