

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa
General Meeting of 02 November 2015, Manotick Legion Hall
Draft Minutes**

Participants: Philip Bartlett (Carlington CA), Collin Beattie (Old Ottawa South CA), Tino Bevacqua (Richmond VA), Klaus Beltzner (Manotick VA), Bruce Brayman (Greely CA), Robert Brinker (Carlington CA), Bob Brocklebank (Glebe CA), Archie Campbell (Dalhousie CA), David Clark (City View CA), Lorne Cutler (Hampton-Iona CG), Sean Devine (Trend Arlington CA), Roland Dorsay (Champlain Park CA), Erwin Dreesen (Greenspace Alliance), Maureen Forsythe (Age-Friendly Ottawa/COA), Eddie Gillis (Old Ottawa East CA), Dave Grosvenor (Woodroffe North CA), Kul Kapoor (Katimavik-Hazeldean CA), Angela Keller-Herzog (Glebe CA), Giulio Maffini (Manotick Village CA), Maria Luisa Marta (Friends of James & Bay), Linda McDonald (Rockliffe Park RA), Pat McLachlan (Glens CA), Cora Murphy (Woodroffe North), James O'Grady (Trend Arlington CA), Heather Pearl (Champlain Park CA), Sheila Perry (Overbrook CA), Stephen Pope (Old Ottawa East CA), Iola Price (Greenspace Alliance), Graeme Roderick (Tanglewood-Hillsdale CA), Phil Sweetnam (Stittsville VA), Jim Strang (Old Ottawa East CA), Don Stewart (Westboro Beach CA), Gary Sealey (Kanata Beaverbrook CA), John Stevenson (Citizens for Safe Cycling), Heather Scott (Pineview CA), Greg Thurlow (Osgoode Village CA)

Guests: Councillor George Darouze (Ward 20 Osgoode), Councillor Scott Moffatt (Ward 21, Rideau-Goulbourn), Jane DiRaimo (Office of Councillor George Darouze)

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with one addition: Forestry Strategy for Urban Ottawa to be presented by Heather Pearl.

3. Minutes

The draft minutes for the General Meeting on 06 October were received/approved and the minutes of the Executive Meeting of 14 October were received. Moved by Sheila Perry and seconded by Jim Strang.

4. Introduction to Manotick

Klaus introduced Councillor George Darouze (Osgood Ward 20) and Scott Moffat (Rideau-Goulbourn Ward 21). Both Councillors thanked FCA for their contribution and the opportunity to work together. Gary then thanked the Councillors for their interest in and support for the FCA.

5. Transportation Issues

Klaus moved the following motion, which includes small amendments suggested by Graeme :

“That the Federation of Citizens Associations recommends the establishment of City of Ottawa Transportation Coordinator to help ensure efficient work –around (detours, advisories, coordination of and adjustment to construction schedules, etc) to ease Citizen access by road and reduce traffic jams and accompanying delays caused by transportation-related construction (roads, bridges, reconstruction, etc). The measure is directed toward maintaining life quality, ease of getting to work and services on time, and undertaking personal and family duties. Economic and social benefits far outweigh the costs of this new office.”

After some discussion it was agreed to make a reference to the interests of cyclists in being able to have better access to the city centre, too. It was also not clear whether or not a “transportation coordinator” might already be in place.

The motion was passed after some discussion (8 opposed, 1 abstention, 15 in favour).

6. Urban Forestry Strategy

The City of Ottawa is developing an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) www.ottawa.ca/urbanforest. Once the plan is complete, Ottawa will join the many cities in North America which have developed and implemented a comprehensive and strategic approach to protecting, maintaining, and enhancing their urban forests.

The first round of public consultations will be held on November 24. A Key Stakeholder Consultation will be held in the afternoon and a large, open house style Public Consultation will be held in the evening. Martha Copestake, City Forester, Planning, Policy Development and Urban Design asked the FCA to recommend community members from the Urban and Suburban areas in Ottawa, to represent the FCA on the Key Stakeholder's group. These community association Stakeholders will participate with other Key Stakeholders (such as Greenspace Alliance) to help inform the vision and direction for the UFMP. Heather Pearl volunteered to represent the FCA's Urban communities. A volunteer is needed to represent the Suburban communities.

The FCA membership suggested that the villages also should be represented, since they share many of the same forest management issues as the urban area. A question arose regarding representation from the rural area. Heather noted that rural forest management issues are considered to be distinct from urban ones, but said that she would contact Martha to ask about having both represented.

7. City Budget

The related background and documents were included in the agenda for this meeting.

Sheila noted that no City staff were available to discuss the City budget at the meeting. She confirmed that the 3 key issues for FCA were transportation, social and protective services and environmental issues.

Lorne Cutler therefore presented an overview of the City Budget called “Building Ottawa’s Budget”. The total operation budget for 2015 is \$3.1 billion, with 47% covered by property taxes. Consultations with individual City Councillors have already been held. Budget consultations with the various standing committees are scheduled during November 2015.

8. Breakout Groups on City Budget

Participants were divided into 3 groups and tasked with discussing the following questions: What is working? What is not working? What do you recommend? Each group tackled each of the 3 FCA priority areas: transportation, social and protective services and environmental issues.

Each of the 3 groups reported back to the plenary as follows:

Group 1: Bob Brocklebank reported that the group had discussed rising OC Transpo fares, the pros and cons of existing Park n Rides, and the challenge of receiving 25,000 refugees in Canada before the end of the year.

Group 2: Erwin reported that the group discussed issues related to cut-through traffic, school consolidation in Kanata, the need for “complete” communities, the loss of the green canopy in Ottawa and the use of water trucks.

Group 3: Heather and Klaus reported that the group discussed issues related to the tree inventory, the Ontario government Invasive Species Act, the scattering of social housing in the city and the loss of affordable housing with the loss of apartments and rooms for rent in older buildings.

9. Issues Arising from the Minutes

Bob Brocklebank reminded participants that the City of Ottawa has 64 strategic initiatives as part of the City's Strategic Plan 2015-2018 and that community associations are encouraged to follow up with their own members how some of these initiatives may be supported or informed by community associations. Maureen confirmed that Age-Friendly Ottawa would be following up, where appropriate, on issues related to older adults and seniors.

Angela Keller-Herzog proposed the following motion:

“Be it resolved that an FCA delegation shall (a) visit Councillor Diane Deans to discuss how the City of Ottawa might make strengthened efforts to welcome and settle refugees in the context of Ottawa's Municipal Immigration Strategy;
(b) that this FCA delegation shall present to the Community & Protective Services Committee discussion of Budget 2016 urging that both financial resources of the City of Ottawa be dedicated to refugee welcome and settlement during this crisis.”

During discussion which was supportive of the motion from a variety of perspectives, it was proposed that FCA should be urging the City to dedicate effort to refugee settlement planning immediately, not only out of budget 2016 and that the office of the Mayor should be approached as well given his leadership on the issue. This was accepted as a friendly amendment. The motion passed with one vote opposing. The Chair asked Keller-Herzog to take lead in forming a delegation and following up on the motion.

10. FCA Committee Reports

10.A. Regional Voices & Issues.

Phil Sweetnam briefly presented some concerns related to the City budget (and the modest 2% increase in taxes) and separation of storm water and sewage. A note on these issues will be ATTACHED to these minutes.

Greg Thurlow spoke about the urban / rural divide and the value of rural CA's being represented at FCA meetings. He also raised the issue of how openly members may speak when representatives from the City are present at meetings.

10.B. Communications

Bob Brocklebank encouraged all members to subscribe to the FCA mailing list by clicking the icon on the left hand side of the FCA website.

10.C. Planning & Zoning

Sheila Perry spoke about Bill 73, Smart Growth for our Communities Act, 2015 which will reform the Planning Act and the Development Charges Act. She noted that Yasir Naqvi, Ontario MPP, supports communities on a number of issues. Concerns include the lack of a clear process or direction for community design plans; the fact that heritage and environment issues are not integrated into land use planning and the need for community-building infrastructure such as community meeting spaces. Stephen Pope spoke about the Committee of Adjustment (appointed by City Council) and issues related minor variance applications and the role of the Ontario Municipal Board. Sheila noted that she, Stephen and Gary needed to meet with Yasir Naqvi. Erwin Dreessen stressed that community groups should support the changes to the Development Charges Act as they will bring us closer to growth paying for growth, and he referred members to the related memo on the website of Green Space Alliance (at <http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/Bill73>). There was a motion to proceed on two different fronts. The motion was approved.

The next meeting will be held on 10 December at Overbrook Community Centre.

11. Open Mike

The meeting was adjourned.