

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa
Annual General Meeting – 4 June 2015
Col. By Room, City Hall
Draft Minutes

Participants:

Charity Bartlett [Carlington CA], Judy Bernstein [Centretown Citizens CA], Scott Blurton [Glebe Annex CA], Robert Brinker [Carlington CA], Bob Brocklebank [Glebe CA], Archie Campbell [Dalhousie CA], John Chenier [Lowertown CA], Carolyne Clackdoyle [McKellar Park CA], Alex Cullen [Belltown NA], Lorne Cutler [Hampton-Iona CG], Anna Cuylits [Old Ottawa South CA], Andree D'Agostino [Queensway Terrace South Ridgeview CA], Erwin Dreessen [Greenspace Alliance], Peter Eady [Civic Hospital NA], Maureen Forsythe [Age Friendly Ottawa], David Jeanes [Manotick Village CA], Angela Keller-Herzog [Glebe CA], Linda McDonald [Rockcliffe Park RA], Pat O'Brien [Hintonburg CA], Sheila Perry [Overbrook CA], Sybil Powell [McKellar Park CA], Graeme Roderick [Tanglewood-Hillsdale CA], Gillian Salmond [Wellington Village CA], Marjorie Shaver-Jones [Copeland Park CA], Kim Sheldrick [Vernon CA], Ann Stairs [Riverview Park CA], Gary Sealey [Kanata Beaverbrook CA], John Stevenson [Citizens for Safe Cycling], Don Stewart [Westboro Beach CA], Jim Strang [Old Ottawa East CA], Leslie Taylor [McKellar Park CA], Neil Thomson [Kanata Beaverbrook CA], Agnes Warda [Glens CA], Karen Wright [Civic Hospital NA]

Guests:

Jocelyne Begin [OC Transpo], Vivi Chi [Manager, Transportation Planning, City of Ottawa], Evelyn Danilko [Stage 2 Project Office, City of Ottawa], Keith Egli [Councillor, Ward 9], Jeff Leiper [Councillor, Ward 15], John Manconi [General Manager, Transit Services, City of Ottawa], Sara Ryan [Office of Councillor Egli, City of Ottawa]

The meeting was called to order and participants were called upon to introduce themselves.

2. Under the title "Transportation in TRANSITION" a panel of three speakers was invited to give presentations.

3. First speaker was Councillor Keith Egli, Chair of the Transportation Committee. He noted that traffic calming had been a leading issue in the previous municipal election. This was linked with speeding, congestion, cut-through traffic and merging traffic issues at intersections. He had sought funds for allocation to each ward and in the strategic initiatives package of measures \$40-45 thousand is proposed for each ward. This funding can be used for speed boards, signage, traffic bollards or a traffic calming open house.

Another development has been the broad support for the O'Connor bikeway. This contrasts with the contentious atmosphere at the time the Laurier bikeway project was launched. Support for a balanced approach to transportation investment means an end to the so-called "car wars". An example of balance is the development of complete streets, a concept which needs to vary with the circumstances in each part of the city. Building connections among communities such as finishing sidewalks or connecting bikepaths is another example. We must look at everyone's needs for mobility.

4. Second speaker was John Manconi, General Manager of Transit Services. He emphasized the significance of OC Transpo as the city's ninth largest employer, carrying 100 million passengers per year. When completed, the Confederation Line LRT is expected to be the highest ridership light rail line in North America. He outlined safety and security policies of OC Transpo and mentioned the positive

features of urban transit for society. Transit in Ottawa is to go through meaningful transformation with the Confederation Line offering service at intervals of less than 3½ minutes in the morning rush hours.

5. The final speaker was Vivi Chi, Transportation Planner. She noted awards that had been received for the City's updated Transportation Master Plan. The plan is characterized by a movement to more sustainable transportation development. This is driven by physical limitations of the current transportation infrastructure, the goal of success for the Confederation Line, the encouragement of higher density development and other council decisions. The earlier approach had been to predict future transportation demand and to attempt to meet it regardless of cost. In the 2013 approach budgetary limitations were taken as the starting point and funds were allocated to best respond to future requirements. The former could be called "predict and provide" while the latter might be termed "backcasting" or the "affordable approach". The plan treats the suburbs as satellite cities with rapid transit links to the centre. In the suburban areas, as in the downtown, much of the movement is within the neighbourhood. Many such trips are of short duration, opening the possibility for active transportation options. Studies of all modes of travel indicate two-thirds of all trips are of 10 km or less. In design of complete streets, safety of sustainable modes of transport is paramount, but is not to be achieved by excluding them.

6. Following the panel presentations, participants asked many questions concerning winter clearance of bikeways, transit arrival times, rural transit, the prospect of fare zones for transit, expansion of complete street makeovers, LRT expansion to the suburbs and north/south traffic flows in interprovincial commuting.

7. Archie Campbell gave a short report on FUN – Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods, an organization of which FCA is a founding member. The FUN attempts to build and energize a network among community groups and to secure access to decision-makers in the Provincial Government.

8. The recipients of the 2015 awards were announced.

Linda Hoad was announced as recipient of the Life Time Achievement Award. An unexpected domestic issue prevented her attendance at the meeting, but a prepared speech was delivered noting Linda's long service as part of the "Hintonburg brains trust" which had been so influential in guiding community understanding of development and other policy matters.

Gary Sealey was presented with the Contribution to FCA Award. His involvement in the Official Plan discussions, his work on a business plan for the FCA and the visionary approach that he had introduced to the Federation's activity was cited. It was noted that Gary had also been recognized as a recipient of the Order of Ottawa.

Diane Holmes was announced as recipient of the Community Builder Award. She was traveling outside the city at the time of the meeting and her participation in a future FCA meeting was anticipated with enthusiasm. It was noted that Ms. Holmes' service as Councillor in both the old City and in the amalgamated City had brought a distinct community-focused voice to deliberations at City Hall.

9. The proposed agenda was adopted on a motion by Lorne Cutler.

10. The draft minutes for the Annual General Meeting of 3 June 2014 were adopted on a motion by Alex Cullen.

11. In his President's report, Graeme Roderick outlined some of the achievements of the past year and commented that a survey had been conducted to provide guidance for the immediate future. He observed that members seemed to support efforts to build closer connections to Councillors and to

encourage elected officials to participate in FCA meetings. He also said that there was a call for balance in arrangements for General Meetings; there was support for inviting meaningful guest speakers but also ensuring time for member interaction. John Chenier reported that the details of the survey were to be released the following day. Graeme concluded by thanking Marjorie Shaver-Jones, Carolyne Clackdoyle and Karen Wright for their contribution to the activity of the FCA executive over the past year.

The President's report was received and approved in a motion by Peter Eady.

12. Treasurer Lorne Cutler outlined the financial reports for the year. His motion to accept the reports was seconded by Anna Cuyllits and carried.

13. Archie Campbell outlined a proposed list of officers and board members for 2015-2016. Additional nominations for members of the executive were requested three times but no nominations from the floor were advanced. Campbell moved that the list of officers be accepted and the motion was carried.

14. As the incoming President, Gary Sealey made a brief speech in which he expressed the hope that hosts for meetings take a heightened role in organizing General Meetings. He called for effective partnerships in which some associations work with others facing struggles to build strong communities. He concluded with the phrase "we need help to help you".

15. Under other business, Carolyne Clackdoyle noted the need to identify participants in an FCA transportation committee to follow on issues raised in the panel discussion.

16. Adjournment

The next General Meeting is September 9 in Lowertown; the new executive committee is to meet June 7.