

Federation of
Citizens'
Associations of
Ottawa

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d'Ottawa

March 15, 2017 -- General Meeting

Draft Minutes

Present: Councillor Jeff Leiper; Daniel Cayuex Daoust; Andrea Rompere; Maria Luisa Marti, CCCA; David McNicoll, OSCA; Erwin Dreessen, Greenspace Alliance; Rod MacLean, KHCA; McKay Bernstein, Bel Air; Alex Cullen, Belltown NA; Susan Young, ASA; Lorne Cutler, Hampton Iona; John Stevenson, CJSC; Archie Campbell, Dalhousie CA; John Chenier, LCA; Sergio Latino; Denys Cooper; Kul Kapoor, KHCA; Bruce Lindsay, Greenspace Alliance; Robert Brinker, Carlington CA; Bob Parkins, Ottawa East; Don Stewart, Westboro Beach CA; Lorrie Marlow, Mechanicsville CA; Anne Stairs, Riverview Park; Miranda Gray, Convent Glen CA; Thierry Harris, Lowertown CA; Graeme Roderick, THCA; Paul Johanis, Greenspace Alliance.

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm

Vice President Sheila Perry, meeting chair - due to President Gary Sealey illness –welcomed everyone and initiated the self introduction of attendees

The **agenda**, as circulated with the addition of an announcement to new business, was adopted on a motion by Alex Cullen seconded by Don Stewart without opposition or abstention.

Paul Johanis, co-chair of Greenspace Alliance, introduced Hintonburg as a community of about 7600 residents living within the area from Scott Street on the North, the O-train on the East, the Queensway on the South and Holland

Avenue on the West. He pointing out that the first building on the site was a church built in 1890 followed by a school in 1918. This was replaced by a recreation centre (including a bowling alley) eventually it became the facility that FCA met in tonight.

Kitichissippi Ward Councillor Jeff Leiper joined in welcoming FCA to the area of creative, aggressive and progressive NGO's in the City as indicated by the Parkdale Food Centre and the Wellington West BIA. In fact the BIA sponsors the Hintonburg C. A. Moreover when some businesses formed the "Happening in Longest Square Park" the BIA contributed financial support and the Hintonburg C A provided equipment.

On City Hall Issues: from the City Council point of view the composition of the City's Planning Advisory Committee will be decided later in the Fall, so it is not an urgent matter. The review of Section #37 of the Planning Act (intended to leverage benefit to residents from redeveloped buildings) is still before City Council. As an example Section 37 benefit from a proposed building at Scott and McRae should provide \$750,000. to be used in support of affordable housing or cycling pathways or to bring water to a park for a rink.

Councillor Leiper pointed out that the City has to deal with a number of issues including: the transformation of Elgin Street in to a Complete Street for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians; relieving street congestion with road tolls, and as well resolving solid waste concerns. The 2017 budget achieved a low income transit pass and partner funding for social services – he believes that the 2018 budget should improve paratranspo and adequately fund snow removal within the City so that less time is lost due to snow on streets.

"Protecting Greenspace: Community Association Engagement" Presentation

Paul Johanis began his presentation of the meeting theme with a brief outline of the Greenspace Alliance. The Alliance is a not for profit organization established in 1996 with the goal of protecting and preserving the greenspace

within the National Capital Region. It has 30 active members and some 110 persons interested in its work to keep greenspace green.

Greenspace Alliance has adopted a number of priorities for 2017, including oversight and liaison for urban expansion areas now under development such as the North Kanata urban expansion area, the Regional Group development in Leitrim. Ongoing attention is centred on current greenspace under threat such as the Central Experimental Farm, the Carp River rehabilitation project and KNL lands in the South March Highlands. As well the Alliance is alert to new greenspace policies and plans such as the Urban Forest Management Plan for the City of Ottawa and an Eastern Ontario Green Plan in the event that the province expands the idea of growth plans to Eastern Ontario as, has been done in the Toronto and the Niagara Area.

Among its internal management priorities, in addition to developing a larger presence on social media, Greenspace Alliance is developing a structured approach for a Planning and Action Framework for greenspace protection and preservation. Within the Framework, the approach begins with developing an inventory of green resources within the geographical area ranging from local City block on through to the regional level including information type, precise location and current level of protection. Once the inventory is established, the greenspace needs to be monitored so as to be alerted to any threats or opportunities regarding the preservation or protection of specific greenspace assets. With this information, the next step is to educate and communicate with residents using such means as an annual report card which will indicate the status of the greenspace on an ongoing basis.

Should a threat to greenspace be identified, a series of steps would be pursued. The Alliance would at first collaborate by talking through its concerns with authorities so as to end the threat. If necessary, it could escalate its action by advocating with the City and other concerned parties through participation at public meetings and making submissions to city committees and other authorities. Should the threat remain, the Alliance could escalate further by

organizing public campaigns using social media, contacts with traditional media, petitions, demonstrations and other such measures. If all else fails, the Alliance could as a final resort engage in appeals and other legal proceedings and challenges that engage of legal organizations.

Paul then returned to the role that community associations could play within this framework. He pointed out that because of the local knowledge that CAs possess and the importance they attach to greenspace issues, they are best situated to undertake the ongoing monitoring and reporting of threats to the greenspace in their community. The pre-meeting survey conducted on the subject provided very interesting insights into the importance attached to greenspace by community associations.

The FCA survey on Greenspace elicited 83 responses as of March 14. Ninety-four percent rated greenspace as very or fairly important and 97 % focused on parks, 89% centred on natural features with 85% noted tree canopy. 67% work with their Councillor to represent their interests, 57% inform residents on city and environmental matters, 33% organized a network but 10% did not know whether greenspace was part of the organization's mandate. In terms of how to best fulfill a monitoring role, 47% responded that they would monitor development applications, 32% would employ a neighbourhood watch type of monitoring, 11% might use walking tours to monitor, and 10% would appoint greenspace wardens.

Responding to a question Paul acknowledged that the survey could have included school grounds, but a choice among survey questions had had to have been made. **Kul Kapoor** felt that urban expansion endangers rural greenspace, which Paul agrees and which they are very active in opposing the expansion of the urban boundary every five years. But between these official plan reviews, Greenspace Alliance concentrates on greenery within the Urban Area, which is under higher threat. **Alex Cullen** asked whether Greenspace Alliance had any relationship to NCC Paul stated that it established good contacts with NCC staff during the Protect the Farm but that it does not have an ongoing means of

regular interaction with the NCC. It was also suggested that MP's and MPP's should be targeted by the Alliance. Councillor **Leiper** noted that heritage rules may be additional weapons for greenspace. **Susan** Young asked whether greenspace in square meters per resident has been reported on by the City as a gauge of change. The City has a specific provision in its official plan on the matter but does not report on the ratio on a regular basis. Kul asked whether a new road should go through an existing community or an undeveloped area. Paul's reply was that once greenspace is lost it can never be gotten back. Green areas in the urban area focus on parks. In the rural area, it is the forests which the City needs to preserve.

From group discussions Sheila reported that the maps Paul provided as examples of greenspace in certain communities were very useful especially the parks and community gardens in the Alta Vista example. It was suggested that some street names would have helped orient the viewers to the community. Robert reported his group felt that parks and their trees are protected and that the Central Experimental Farm is special example of greenspace. Graeme Roderick reported that the communities ought to authorize local reporting so as to educate residents on their area and that Hydro corridors should be identified as greenspace corridors. It was pointed out walkers getting exercise and dog walkers along with pathways and parks as well as cyclists on the TransCanada Trail and are all good monitors and could report where attention to greenery is needed. Another means of monitoring greenery is the "adopt a park" strategy used by local area residents to ensure that local Parks are properly preserved and maintained. Greenspace Alliance will refine and develop monitoring and reporting while it pilots the use of the framework. For more information, email Greenspace Alliance at: contact@greenspace-alliance.ca

On March 18th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, there will be an emergency meeting of the Greenspace Alliance.

April 22 Ecology Ottawa will have a session on renovating energy strategy.

Reports

Draft Minutes Feb 15th: Since the system for posting has changed, draft minutes may not have been posted for viewing so the adoption of the minutes for February 15th was postponed.

Treasurer Lorne reported that 19 of 50 organizations had paid their 2017 calendar year dues. He noted that dues need to be received by April 30th to vote at the June AGM.

Committees

Planning/Zoning – Planning Advisory Committee: Sheila Perry noted that Steve Willis, the new head of City Planning, will be FCA's guest speaker for the June 15 AGM at City Hall. Then she indicated that FCA is establishing contact with Greater Ottawa Builders Association (GOBA). GOBA is especially interested in Infill #1 & #2 as it wishes to discuss the criteria for assessing infill for the inner and outer urban areas. This step represents an open line as the GOBA is also interested in exchanging views on Streetscape Analysis. Next Sheila asked whether city liaison officers were being well received essentially were they known to members and if known were they helpful. Those who had contacted the liaison officers for advice felt that the advice offered was so limited that it was not really helpful. Lastly, Sheila emphasized that Community Hubs are needed especially in the form of reusing no longer required school buildings.

Section #37 of the Planning Act was reported by Maria Luisa Marti. She re-emphasized that what determines community benefits in exchange for higher density should be substantially expanded. The Communities consulted were Hintonburg CA, Action Sandy Hill, Dalhousie CA and Centretown Citizens Community Association (CCCA). The first issue which arose was the actual determining what the benefits are which has not been resolved and then why are changes in density made after first definition of benefits is done -- were not included at all. These second group ought to be added to the first group by having a revision of the determination of benefits to the community.

During the consultation, CCCA questioned the lack of transparency in the City's data keeping, the status of construction projects related to the distribution of monies, implementing benefits to a community and clarity on what is a benefit. The CCCA has scheduled a membership meeting to review the Association's benefit wish list and will survey Centretown residents to learn what benefits they wish to have. The Association has requested that it review the planners draft report and submit its comments on the draft report before it becomes final.

A concern raised by other associations is the matter of affordable housing. Affordable housing is a City policy and should not to be treated as a "bonus" to the community. As well community associations should survey their residents to learn what benefits the residents may wish to have.

Transportation Committee -- Alex Cullen reported that a half-day workshop open to FCA members will be held to develop an update to the 2013 City Transportation Master Plan. The workshop on Saturday, April 8th will be held at Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview Road from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. A survey will be circulated to members FCA members on TMP issues.

Communications Committee – Thierry Harris reported that the committee is working on social media for the FCA and is grateful that the surveys have become well used.

Membership Committee -- Graeme Roderick indicated that members are needed to serve on the Nominating Committee. Beside the past president who serves as chair, Archie Campbell, Maria Luisa Marti were selected on a motion by Graeme seconded by Alex carried without opposition. The Awards by FCA are described on the FCA website and nominations for 2017 awards must be submitted by May 1st for 2017.

Governance Committee – Graeme Roderick that the City and FCA expect to establish early consultation process. Because of Gary Sealey' illness signing officers are Lorne Cutler, Bob Brocklebank and Archie Campbell for cheques and

President, Secretary, and Treasurer for documents in the FCA by-laws. As it was pointed out those banks require an individual person be named. On a motion by Don Stewart seconded by Graeme Vice-President Sheila Perry was designated as assigning officer for bank and document signing purposes without opposition.

New Business

Sanctuary City: Daniel Daoust and Andrea Rompere with OttawaSanctuarycitynetwork@gmail.com presented the arguments in support of identifying Ottawa as Sanctuary City. Following the presentation, Alex Cullen moved (seconded by Thierry Harris) the following motion (circulated with the agenda): “Be it resolved that the Federation of Citizens Associations (FCA) of Ottawa request that Ottawa City Council declare Ottawa a Sanctuary City i.e. a city where city-funded agencies, boards and services ensure that city services are available to anyone regardless of their immigration status, and that they may access these services without fear of discrimination, detention or deportation.”

John Chenier indicated he could not support the motion as presented. Erwin Dreessen moved an amendment (seconded by Don Stewart) that there be two modifications to the original motion a) that “support declaring” replace the word declare and b) that. “and that FCA encourage all Community Associations to engage in discussions about this topic, including with their Councillor” be added to the end of the original motion which was welcomed as a friendly amendment by Alex and Thierry and was carried with five abstentions.

As a result the following motion as amended was carried with one vote opposed “Be it resolved that the Federation of Citizens Associations of Ottawa (FCA) support declaring Ottawa a Sanctuary City i.e., a city where city-funded agencies, boards and services ensure that city services are available to anyone regardless of their immigration status, and that they may access these services without fear of discrimination, detention or deportation and that community associations in Ottawa be encouraged to adopt this resolution and inform their City Councillor.”

Announcement: Don Stewart reported that the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (FUN) AGM will be held on April 9th and be available on Skype with Geoff Kettel and Cathy Macdonald featuring the OMB On motion by Don Stewart seconded by Archie Campbell the meeting supported paying FUN annual dues of \$28.00

Next FCA General Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 in Stittsville

Adjournment: 9:40 pm.