

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa

General Meeting of 18 May 2016, Beaverbrook Community Centre

Participants:

Alex Cullen, Allan Donaldson, Andy Rapoch, Andy Reside, Archie Campbell, Bill Watt, Bob Brocklebank, Brian Dryden, Bronwen Graham, Bronwen Graham, Bruce Lindsay, Caroline Crowe, Caroline Crowe, Chad Rollins, Chris Barker, Christine Johnson, Cora Murphy, Dan Chenier, Dave Grosvenor, David Clark, Diane Deans, Don Stewart, Gary Sealy, Gillian Salmond, Graeme Roderik, Jesse Cressman, Joan Clark, John Stevenson, Jonathan Morris, Karen Wright, Kul Kapoor, Liya Mclean (Fisher Hts), Lorne Cutler, Mary Anne Robblee, Marianne Wilkinson, Miranda Gray, Pat McLachlan, Phil Sweetnam, Robert Brinker (Carlington CA), Rod MacLean, Roland Dorsay, Sam Harris, Sheila Perry, Sue McCarthy, Tobi Nussbaum, (45)

1. Welcome

Gary Sealey welcomed all participants:

Neil Thomson, President of the Kanata Beaverbrook Community Association gave a brief history and overview with the use of slides of the Beaverbrook Community including the Community & Commercial Centre (was the core of the community initially) and surrounding services i.e. fire hall, library, and gas station. He also spoke about the challenges of financing the community centre and budget constraints. He stressed that community centres work only if they are walkable distance as opposed to present trend of big community centres that are miles apart.

Councillor Marianne Wilkinson spoke about Kanata's early days, its cohesiveness and sense of community that still exists. The Kanata Beaverbrook Community Commercial Centre was at the core of the community.

2. Bear Pit Discussions

Invited guests were provided 5 minutes each to speak on a specific topic related to a community service and or program.

Diane Deans, Ward 10 Gloucester-Southgate Councillor; Community and Protective Services Committee Chair spoke of funding constraints, limited funds and the difficulty of financing community facilities and programs especially for inner city communities because of limited development charges to expand services. She asked whether the city services, programs and activities currently provided meet the present and future needs of residents. The growing senior population was cited as an example. Councillor Deans is the Co-chair for seniors. The Heatherington Community Kitchen was cited as one of

the innovative programs in her ward that is trying to meet some of the everyday needs of residents living in the Heatherington area.

Tobi Nussbaum, Ward 13 Rideau-Rockcliffe Councillor mentioned the climate change announcements made today at Queens Park. He spoke about the importance of developing a community, creating neighbourhoods that encourage engagement and community planning.

Dan Chenier, General Manager Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services referred to a City of Ottawa DMA Report as a background study that is used to compare how well existing community facilities are meeting or keeping up with the standards for municipal community facilities. He addressed the various types of community facilities depending on size of the community and the necessity of continuing to repair older facilities rather than replacing them due to budget constraints.

Jeff Leiper, Ward 15 Kitchissippi Councillor focussed on a community hub strategy and cited the Hintonburg Community was evolving into a Community Hub i.e. Parkdale Food Centre and Somerset Community Health Centre and Connaught Public Library.

Established communities have greater difficulty in funding community facilities because these facilities tend to rely on funds raised through development charges. Cash in lieu used to help with funding construction of community facilities and programs. There seems to be a need to establish a new funding model one that leverages with community partners to provide programs in new facilities.

Would like to see the services integrated i.e. using old schools, churches, etc. used for community programming. Unfortunately, zoning obstacles create considerable difficulties with integrating services.

There isn't enough money in the current municipal budget formula of limiting tax increases to 2% annually to make progress on community facilities and programs that meet the increasing needs of residents. The Federal Government Infrastructure funding may be of help and Culture Canada has separate funding that could possibly be available. All municipal departments provide a list of funding requests and the City Manager and Management Team assesses, evaluates and prioritizes the budget request to meet the available funding.

The discussion was open to members to ask questions of the guests:

Shared use of facilities needs to be refreshed and/or renewed between schools, municipal facilities and the community – it currently isn't working well

Need for greater cooperation and coordination

Need for a policy to retain redundant schools for community use

Councillor Nussbaum cited the Rideau High School which is an integral part of the fabric of the community is slated for closure. This facility provides a number of community programs that contribute to the wellbeing and health of the community and is important to keep open for community use.

There was a reemphasis of the importance of encouraging Community Hubs

Caution was raised with using development charges for maintenance of facilities

Joan Clark from the Cityview Community Association asked for help to fund parks and community facilities. Currently there are no community facilities for children and seniors.

The development charges are divided 60/40 – 60% of the funds received are used for ward priorities and 40% are available for citywide priorities. Councillor Leiper mentioned that councillors can assign some of their available funds to help other councillors with their ward priorities.

A levy can be set up to fund various priorities i.e. parks, community facilities

Sue McCarthy from the Hunt Club Community Association spoke of their limited community facilities and wondered what the development charges collected from the commercial development along Hunt Club went toward.

Neil Thomson, President of the Kanata Beaverbrook Community Association highlighted the importance of communication and being innovative in fund raising. Currently the Kanata Beaverbrook Community facilities are more than holding their own financially. Expenses are shared between the commercial and community uses of this centre. Revenues have been driven up through increasing uses and accessibility. An elevator has recently been installed which allows for greater accessibility to the community centre on the second floor.

The FCA Governance Committee should review cross promotional opportunities.

Guests were thanked for their comments on city services, its challenges and insights on some of the innovative activities currently underway across the city.

After a brief break the business portion of the FCA meeting resumed

Alex Cullen moved adoption of the meeting of April 12, 2016. Motion passed

Business Arising:

Sheila Perry, V.P. Planning & Zoning Committee reviewed her committee report (full report is attached to the minutes)

Highlights of Imagine Ottawa were given: members in attendance agreed it was worthwhile and more of these types of workshops should be planned and more frequent.

Outcomes from Planning Roundtable, City Hall

Building Better Connections

There didn't appear to be enough consultations citywide, a number of the communities across the city were not aware of the proposed changes. Barry Podolsky, local architect presented four scenarios related to height, size, setbacks, and location of lot.

Infill 2 still at OMB

Cal, Community Association Liaison, Program Initiative by PGM, Ward Councillor, FCA and CA's

A steering group was established to review the process for FCA comment on municipal planning issues. Sheila indicated there was an immediate need to come up with a viable method to respond to municipal planning issues. Steering Committee members are Kul Kapoor, Bob Brocklebank, Chad Rollins, Don Stewart and Sheila Perry.

Centretown trees were taken down without consultation. The FCA was asked for a letter in support of the Centretown Community Association concerns regarding lack of consultation.

Sheila appealed to members to volunteer to be active within their respective communities on Planning and Zoning matters and on the Committee.

Communications Issues: FCA members are part of a google group unless they ask not to be. This is to allow everyone to share/exchange information.

Memberships need to be paid up by the AGM to be able to vote.

Bob Brocklebank also appealed to members to join the Communications and Website Committee.

Alex Cullen also appealed to members to get involved with the Transportation Committee; currently there are only three members.

Graeme Roderick gave a brief update on the 2016-17 nominations to the FCA Board and stated that all positions have been filled except the secretary position. He asked if there were any members interested in submitting their name for this position.

The next meeting of the FCA will take place on June 7th at City Hall

The next meeting of the FCA board will take place on May 25th at the Tanglewood Community Centre