

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton  
Board Meeting of March 5, 2007 Overbrook Community Centre  
Draft Minutes**

**Attendees:** Archie Campbell (Dalhousie CA)-Chair; Amy Kempster (Greenspace Alliance); Glenna Soanes-Patrick (Champlain Park CA); Germaine Patenaude (Community Council of Overbrook); Leonard Poole (Overbrook); Neil Pearson (Glebe CA); Alayne McGregor (Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Assn); Christian Pupp (Ottawa East CA); Cheryl Doran (Greenspace Alliance); Bob Brocklebank (Glebe CA); Robert Stehle (Action Sandy Hill); Michael Mack (Carleton Heights Res. Assn); Dave Madeley (Woodroffe North CA); Don Stewart (Westboro Beach CA); Si Taylor (Rockcliffe Park Res. Assn); Metin Akgun (Stittsville Village Assn); June Creelman (Leadership Ottawa); Trish Michaud (Leadership Ottawa)

**1. Agenda:** The Draft Agenda was approved with the addition of Greenspace Alliance, Property Tax Reform and BIA's to the list of new business.

**2. Scheduling:** The Annual General Meeting has been tentatively booked for June 4 with Glebe to seek a room for the first half of April and Champlain Park to seek a room for May. It was proposed that the Mayor be invited to speak at the AGM.

**3. Introduction to Overbrook:** Established in 1912, Overbrook was annexed into Ottawa in 1950. In the postwar period it was a prime destination for social housing investment. Today it faces issues of intensification and traffic. The Rockcliffe Airbase development is bound to have a significant impact on the community. Although traffic is identified as an issue by everyone in the community, most people drive.

**4. Approval of Minutes of February 8 meeting:** Typographical errors were noted including spelling of Nancy Schepers' name. Adoption of the minutes was moved by Alayne McGregor, seconded by Dave Madeley. CARRIED

**5 Business arising from the minutes:**

**a) New FCA planning committee report:** Robert Stehle and Neil Pearson reported that they had met and envisaged the committee dealing with issues such as intensification, zoning by-law, and consultations around the Official Plan. It was proposed that Stehle write to Deputy City Manager Schepers indicating the FCA wish to be involved in consultations and requesting that a planning contact for the FCA be identified within the City bureaucracy .

A draft document of five questions to form the basis of an FCA meeting with Ms. Schepers was circulated. This led to general discussion about Community Design Plans and their relationship to the Official Plan, the role of city staff, the question of environmental sustainability, variances versus rezoning, etc. It was agreed that the committee would circulate a second draft of the document.

**b) Intensification meeting:** As a result of a request by the FCA, the city organized the first restricted meeting on intensification on February 14. This first session, attended by reps from the development industry (planners, builders and architects), city staff and the FCA revealed that

there was a wide range of opinion. The FCA maintained that current zoning provides ample opportunity for intensification and that there is no general need for rezoning. Others challenged this view and suggested that community groups misread the Official Plan. The next meeting is to occur March 21.

It was agreed that details about the discussions would be circulated when available.

**c) Right of Way protection guidelines:** The first session dealing with design of collectors and rural arterials was dominated by a presentation by the city. One problem that kept arising in discussion was that design guidelines are difficult to apply to existing streets. There was also mention of a forthcoming policy paper on street design which is to go to public consultation this spring.

In discussion it was noted that there are related studies underway or in limbo – the pedestrian strategy is in the works and the cycling plan has been referred to Council but has been neither adopted nor rejected.

**d) Traffic Issues Workshop:** A written report from Stephen Haines indicated that the workshop is tentatively planned for April 28 at the Old Town Hall in Ottawa East.

In discussion it was noted that this initiative by FCA should be linked to the studies by the Mayor's Task Force on Transportation.

**e) Manor Park high-rise rezoning:** A written report from John Forsey noted that the OMB hearing, under Chair Norman Jackson, began Feb 28. There had been four days of hearings, stretching into the weekend, and a visit to the site was scheduled. Final hearings may continue into April.

**f) Contact with the Mayor's office:** Archie Campbell has written to open communication. There was discussion about having the Mayor at the AGM. Various associations noted they had met with David Gibbons, Community Outreach Officer in the Mayor's office.

**g) City Budget:** Few associations had made submissions in this year's hearings on the budget. It is widely believed that further budget discussions will be launched shortly, looking toward next year.

Metin Akgun noted that a topic for consideration is fees versus taxes. Leonard Poole commented that investment in infrastructure is a priority.

**h) Web Site:** Bob Brocklebank reported that the domain fca-fac.ca has been renewed and that it is just a matter of time before a first stab at a web site is mounted.

**i) Membership:** Archie Campbell has drafted a renewal letter for associations active in the FCA; it will go out shortly. Another approach will be required to bring in new members.

**j) Land-use planning workshops:** The city proposal for workshops accessible by community reps and others was supported. As for the draft "curriculum", suggestions were:

- relationship of planning with other city departments

- relationship with school boards in land-use planning  
- changes to the OMB etc. resulting from Bill 51 or the updating of the Provincial Policy Statement.

**k) Official Plan review 2007-08:** The tentative schedule for the next OP had been circulated by e-mail. There were no substantive comments to send back to the City other than our ongoing interest.

**l) Proposal for an FCA environment committee:** Bob Brocklebank explained that speaking of a committee might be premature. The idea from the Glebe was simply to first try to identify other associations with environmental committees and put these people in contact.

**m) Directors' liability:** No substantive discussion.

## 6. New Business

**a) Carp landfill:** The operator of the landfill, Waste Management, is seeking more time for determination of the terms of reference. A report issued by the Stittsville Village Association and copy of a press release by Waste Management was circulated.

**b) Urban boundary change - Manotick:** Amy Kempster noted that there is an application for a major expansion of the village boundary of Manotick and construction of hundreds of homes. This seemed to be an effective extension of the urban area rather than normal development of a village.

**c) Brownfields:** The policy is again under active discussion. Robert Stehle noted that Action Sandy Hill prefers cash incentives (such as defined waiver of development charges) rather than rezoning incentives as a means of encouraging developers to work on contaminated sites.

**d) Leadership Ottawa/Farmers' Market:** June Creelman and Trish Michaud explained that Leadership Ottawa is an education project bringing together people from business, government and civil society (such as community associations) to work on civic issues. In addition to introducing Leadership Ottawa (web address to be circulated), a project is planned on the Farmers' Market established by the city as a two year experiment. There was some general discussion about the farmers' market (generally supportive comments were heard). There is a prospect of associations being approached for community views as the project team conducts its study of the market.

**e) NCC Consultations:** Written briefs must be submitted by March 23 to speak at the public consultation to occur on May 2.

There were comments of surprise that this highly formalized approach is still being followed after the preparation of the report on the NCC mandate which called for greater openness.

**f) Upcoming events:** Brocklebank noted that FCA was invited to send one representative to a

meeting on May 9 on Graffiti Management Strategy. No one else volunteered to go. A rural settlement strategy workshop is to be held on Saturday March 24. The hope was expressed that someone (possibly from a rural association) would attend the event. This topic is particularly relevant in light of the FCA appeal of the country estate lot provisions of the 2003 Official Plan.

Amy Kempster said the NCC appeal of the 2003 Official Plan is to be heard beginning April 23. This deals with designation of land as major urban space. NCC land known as the Southern Corridor has been declared surplus by the NCC. Thus they have an interest in how Official Plan designation may affect possible sale or transfer of surplus lands.

**g) Greenspace Alliance:** Cheryl Doran reported that there is some possibility that an urban turtle sanctuary will be established. Some of the reptiles found in the area are species at risk.

**h) Property Tax Reform:** Don Stewart is interested in forming a group of people to discuss possibilities for reform of the property tax system with a view to the autumn provincial election.

**i) Business Improvement Areas:** Metin Akgun would be interested in receiving information on the formation of Business Improvement Areas.

## **7. Adjournment**