

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton
Draft Minutes - Board Meeting of May 3, 2007
Champlain Park Field House

Attendees: Archie Campbell, Chair (Dalhousie CA), Michael Kostiuk (Carlington CA), Metin Akgun (Stittsville Village Assn), Jane Brammer (Rothwell Heights Property Owners Assn), Don Stewart (Westboro Beach CA), Stephen Haines (Old Ottawa South CA), Christian Pupp (Ottawa East CA), Alayne McGregor (Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Assn), Bob Brocklebank (Glebe CA), Lorne Cutler (Hampton-Iona Community Group), Si Taylor (Rockcliffe Park Residents' Assn), John Blatherwick (Woodpark CA), Amy Kempster (Greenspace Alliance & Champlain Park CA), Craig MacAulay (Lynwood Village CA - Bells Corners), Virginia Carver (Glebe CA), John Stevenson (Citizens for Safe Cycling)

1 Approval of agenda

Under "business arising" discussion of Manotick/urban boundary was added. Under "new business" additions were election expenses, Committee of Adjustment, Official Plan workplan and Greenspace Alliance membership. Motion by Don Stewart, seconded by Christain Pupp that the draft agenda as amended be adopted. Carried

2. Arrangements for June Annual General Meeting

The AGM is to be held June 7 in the Richmond Room at City Hall. After some discussion it was agreed to start the meeting at 1845. Regarding a guest speaker, there was no response from the Mayor. Russell Mills (new CEO of NCC) was suggested as a possibility with a speaker on plans for the next Official Plan as a backup. Advance notice was served of a motion by Archie Campbell, seconded by Stephen Haines that the revision of the FCA bylaws as it appears on the website [<http://www.fca-fac.ca/about/Const.html>] be adopted at the AGM. A discussion of payment of membership fees followed in which it was noted that only paid-up members are entitled to vote in the officers of the FCA.

3. Introduction to Champlain Park

The Champlain Park association carries out most of its business through e-mail exchanges. In the community there are concerns about traffic and parking - particularly spill-over parking from Tunney's Pasture. The field house is a great asset for the community. A current project is the organization of volunteers for a spring clean-up. To some extent Champlain Park is cut off from neighbouring communities by arterials, particularly Island Park.

4. Approval of the minutes of April 2, 2007

Moved by McGregor, seconded by Haines. CARRIED.

5. Business arising from the minutes

a) FCA planning committee report

No specific action since last board meeting.

b) Intensification workshops

There has been no meeting with the city since with the last board meeting. Nor have minutes from the last (March 21) meeting been distributed.

It was suggested the minutes from these meetings be posted on the FCA website.

c) Traffic issues workshop - April 28

Stephen Haines circulated a draft workshop report and noted that guest speakers at the workshop had been Alex Cullen, Chair of the Council Transit Committee and Bob Streicher, Manager of Mobility and Area Traffic Management. Mr. Streicher had mentioned a great backlog of traffic management requests which indicated a need for liaison with those local communities caught in the backlog.

There was discussion about common themes which impact all communities. It seems there was no single thread from the workshop - for some the issue is speeding, for others congestion. This led to discussion of reduced speed limits on residential streets and questions of street design.

Resolution of traffic issues through change in the modal split toward public transit was mentioned and parking policies were noted as significant.

There was general discussion on the role FCA should adopt on traffic/transportation issues. One suggestion was to concentrate on land-use and planning aspects staying away from certain technical questions. Possibly budget debates could be where FCA influence could be brought to bear. A proposal for a committee would be submitted later in the meeting.

d) Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods AGM - May 5

Archie Campbell invited anyone who wished to attend the AGM to join him in travelling to Toronto for the meeting. The speaker is from the Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform. Amy Kempster moved, seconded by Brocklebank, that Campbell's reasonable expenses up to \$200 in attending the AGM be recompensed. Carried.

e) Property tax reform and the provincial election

Don Stewart circulated a summary from the first meeting of the working group, noting the next meeting would be May 10. He noted that Toronto had proposed new sources of municipal funding in asking for a share of Provincial Sales Tax.

f) FCA website

Brocklebank reported that the small working group has met on the website and issues of screen width, font and layout of the e-zine were discussed. Other ideas for the website offered were to share experiences with the OMB or Committee of Adjustment and a how-to guide for dealing with issues.

g) Carp landfill issues

Metin Akgun said the terms of reference had now been officially withdrawn and it appears that Waste Management wants to wait until after the provincial election. However they had made a certain concession in reducing their demand for an additional 18 million cubic metres to 14 million.

The strategy of the community groups is to get Waste Management to come up with a meaningful plan by working closely with Councillors.

h) Pesticide workshop of April 28

There was limited discussion about the workshop but much about the adoption by the Glebe CA of a declaration of a pesticide-free zone. Virginia Carver explained that this idea had been brought to the CA board in the autumn of 2006 but the decision had been that further education and consultation with the community was required. That led to numerous articles in the Glebe Report (community newspaper) and organization of an "Envirofair" in March.

Questions were raised about whether an explicit survey was conducted in the neighbourhood and about the intention of the declaration. There had been no survey as such but the committee had received overwhelming expressions of support. The intent was to encourage the city to consider a ban and to encourage other communities to similarly express support for the limitation of pesticide use.

i) Urban boundary change - Manotick

John Blatherwick reported that it has been confirmed that the proposed Minto project is within the area of the Manotick secondary plan. At a meeting it is said that Dennis Jacobs stated that the secondary plan called for a limit of 2000 dwellings in Manotick, calling into question the Minto plan. Apparently a new West Manotick Community Association has been formed.

Blatherwick commented that the Minto plan would call for Manotick sewage to be piped into the city centre for processing at the Pickard plant. He said Pickard is listed on the pollutionwatch.org site as the biggest regional polluter right now and he will continue to maintain a watch on the city sewer treatment.

6. New business

a) Public Consultation Group on Interprovincial Crossings

Brocklebank noted that the consultation has been postponed to May 23 and reps from Action Sandy Hill and Dalhousie CA are registered to participate.

b) Formation of an FCA Traffic Working Group

Haines commented that in setting up the traffic workshop he encountered a lack of awareness of the FCA among the experts he approached. Haines moved, seconded by Kempster that a traffic working group of at least three people be established. Carried. Volunteers to participate were John Blatherwick, Stephen Haines and Alayne McGregor.

c) Environmental issues

It was agreed that Stephen Haines would be designated as Environmental Rapporteur to coordinate FCA environmental initiatives. Kempster noted that the Greenspace Alliance was interested providing support on broad environmental issues but concentrated its own efforts on land-use and saving greenspace only.

This discussion led to a motion by Kempster seconded by Stewart that FCA continue to be a member of Greenspace Alliance. Carried.

Metin Akgun noted that at the April 24 meeting of Council Planning & Environment Committee a new strategy was discussed on protection of natural features. Amy Kempster said an amendment to add areas for protection is to come forward in June.

d) Election expenses

Brocklebank reported that Craig MacAulay had raised concerns about multiple donations by related donors contrary to law in the last municipal election. Amy Kempster wondered if the experience in Dundas might be useful and Archie Campbell said he would seek contacts in this regard at the FUN meeting. Other possibilities raised were joint inquiries by community associations and contact with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing.

e) Committee of Adjustment

Lorne Cutler asked if the Committee of Adjustment has changed in its general orientation. He noted that the Hampton-Iona group had worked to try to bring parties together in a disputed severance application on Dovercourt. To his surprise the Committee turned down the application, siding with the neighbours rather than the developer.

Archie Campbell commented that three Councillors effectively appointed the members of the Committee of Adjustment this year.

f) Official Plan workplan

The schedule was presented to the April 24 Planning & Environment Committee meeting. The plan is to generate white papers and hold no public consultations prior to October. Items likely to be emphasized include the urban boundary, a strategy for rural areas, and adjustment in response to census results.

g) Greenspace Alliance membership

Addressed earlier under item c above.

h) Upcoming events

The revised draft of the comprehensive zoning by-law is to be released May 7.

7. Adjournment