

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton
Draft Minutes - Board Meeting of January 14, 2008
Glebe Community Centre, 175 Third Ave.**

Attendees: Archie Campbell Chair (Dalhousie CA), Rosella MacNeil (Heron Park CA), Michael Kostiuk (Carlington CA), Metin Akgun (Stittsville Village Assn.) , Andy Doraty (Copeland Park CA), Annie Hall (Copeland Park CA), Kim Bates (Vernon CA), Brian Tansley (West Manotick CA), Bruce Webster (Richmond Village Assn.), John Blatherwick (Woodpark CA), David Sacks (New Edinburgh Community Alliance), Ernie Smith (New Edinburgh Comm. Alliance), John Sankey (Hunt Club Community Org.), Lorne Cutler (Hampton-Iona Community Group), Don Stewart (Westboro Beach CA), Gary Ludington (Westboro CA), Linda Hoad (Hintonburg CA), Amy Kempster (Champlain Park CA & Greenspace Alliance) Stuart Sykes (Central Park CA), Laurie Lyon (Central Park CA), Robert Stehle (Action Sandy Hill), Tony LeMoine (Faircrest Heights CA), Joey Erjavec (Osgoode Village CA), Stephen Haines (Old Ottawa South CA), Bob Brocklebank (Glebe CA), Si Taylor (Rockcliffe Park Residents Assn.), Tom Rodda (Manor Park CA), Graeme Roderick (Tanglewood-Hillsdale CA), John Forsey, (Manor Park CA), Mike O'Neil (Manotick CA), Cam Robertson (Dow's Lake Residents' Assn), Gail Lynch (Hintonburg CA)

1. Location of next meeting

Stephen Haines offered to arrange for the February meeting in Old Ottawa South.

2. Introduction to the Glebe

Bob Brocklebank noted issues of interest to the Glebe including the redevelopment of Lansdowne Park. He said the Glebe association had found it was possible to run a survey on the Internet for as little as \$25 per month. He circulated a document "Demographic-Economic Facts" published by the city which details info from the 2001 census by census tract. This allows for comparisons by neighbourhood of population, dwelling type, household income, employment etc.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Draft Agenda adopted with the addition of FUN under New Business.

4. Adoption of Minutes of November 21 meeting

Motion to adopt by John Blatherwick, seconded by Michael Kostiuk CARRIED

5. Business arising from the minutes

a) Membership outreach

Stephen Haines reported that efforts continue to identify contact information for associations to be approached as prospective members.

b) Transportation working group

John Blatherwick said that it is hoped that the inaugural meeting of this group can be held shortly. There is interest in participation by Woodpark, Old Ottawa South, Sandy Hill, Osgoode,

Copeland Park, Manotick and possibly Richmond. Topics to be considered should include the city White Papers, the Transportation Master Plan, and transportation impact assessment guidelines (which are said to be awaiting translation). Robert Stehle suggested that the group should also link to the CCC (City Centre Coalition) which has a focus on transportation.

c) FCA property tax reform paper

Don Stewart gave a summary of the ideas in the FCA paper. It was agreed that action needs to be taken to publicize the report and the tax committee will meet to draw up a plan for promoting the report.

d) Official plan review

Robert Stehle reported that Sandy Hill was actively engaged with the Planning Dept. and had learned that they were interested establishing a mechanism for dialogue with various interests on the revision of the Official Plan. Methods of engaging with community groups on such topics as intensification targets or building design are cited as examples. It was proposed that a small FCA delegation hold a preliminary meeting with Planning officials to explore this further.

Amy Kempster noted that information on the revision of the Official Plan is available on the city website.

e) FCA website

Bob Brocklebank noted that in addition to the public website at fca-fac.ca, FCA continues to have a by-invitation web presence on the Altogether Ottawa service. Comments were made that the Altogether Ottawa site was too difficult to access; that some saw a need for a location for private conversation whereas others thought communication should be transparent to all; and that some thought there should be a link between the public and the restricted site. It was suggested that there should be a page of "positions and views" on the public site for agreed statements by the FCA on issues of the day.

Another concern was that one participant in FCA activity does not know how to contact others. One suggestion was that many of the organizations are listed in the city recreation listings. Another idea was that FCA use a series of blind addresses through which messages would be automatically readdressed to partner associations.

f) Rural roundtable initiatives

No specific issues were highlighted from the previous meeting's roundtable but it was noted that a second Rural Summit is planned by the city.

6. New Business

a) Presentation on urban sprawl in Manotick

In introducing a presentation by Brian Tansley, Bruce Webster said that the city cannot support the present infrastructure but all the while there is pressure to build more and take on

responsibility for more. This problem is worsened because Development Charges fail significantly to cover the cost to the city of growth. He noted that there are 26 communities in the rural area of the city. The feeling is that there is no need for gigantic growth in the rural area because it can be handled in the urban area through infill and possibly use of the greenbelt. There seems to be no need for an expansion of the urban boundary. [On the urban boundary, Metin Akgun commented that between Stittsville and Kanata the urban boundary has been extended through a decision of the OMB.]

Brian Tansey said the West Manotick Community Association (WMCA) is essentially a one-issue organization dedicated to resisting the Minto proposal for development in Manotick in the Mahogany project. A crucial meeting on the project will be the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on Jan 24.

In March Minto had outlined the plan to double the size of Manotick by building 1800 homes. WMCA's view is that the infrastructure is not there to respond to the needs of additional residents and that the proposal is contrary to the secondary plan for Manotick. That plan was the result of extension discussion about growth in the former township and it envisaged an additional 250 homes in Manotick by 2020.

WMCA has conducted polling and feels that residents join it in resisting the Mahogany project. The concern is the rate at which the project is to cause Manotick to grow and the impact this will have on the community. One fear is the destruction of the commercial centre of Manotick with a power centre planned by Trinity Corp. There are fears of traffic congestion with deteriorating ambulance and police service for the expanded population. Bringing sewer services to the area is to cost \$67 million.

Bruce Webster commented that it could be possible to provide sewer services in Manotick through local processing rather than connection to the city system. Mike O'Neil questioned whether some 400 homes in Manotick which now have problems of dealing with sewerage could be accommodated through local processing or if connection to the city system might be a step to solution of a present Manotick problem.

The presentation led to a general discussion in which Robert Stehle suggested FCA should engage with the city on the matter, Linda Hoad said this is essentially an urban boundary question, and John Blatherwick questioned whether the city sewer system could cope with additional demands. Amy Kempster noted that only 10% of the city's growth in population is expected to be in the rural area, not all of this in Manotick. She also questioned whether city decision-makers are overly close to the development community because of election campaign financing. Mike O'Neil cautioned that there are people in Manotick who want central services, that the issue of large-scale retail is already challenging Manotick because of the proximity of Barrhaven shopping and that the big unresolved issue of sudden growth may be transportation.

It was moved by Amy Kempster, seconded by Stephen Haines, that FCA make a statement about

the Mahogany project, if possible before the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, questioning the project in light of the Official Plan and the urban boundary. CARRIED

b) Renewal of membership dues for 2008

Stephen Haines asked that members promptly remit their fees for 2008

c) Directors' liability insurance

John Forsey said that Manor Park had managed to find insurance coverage from private firms and was willing to share information about the arrangement. Bob Brocklebank noted that this had been a contentious topic in the Glebe – many felt that there was no real need for insurance for directors' liability but that the decision had been taken to take insurance through Volunteer Canada. He continued to say that another insurance issue is general liability coverage which is provided to some community associations, but not all, through a city program. This is demanded on occasion by the city for certain events.

d) Media attendance at CA/FCA meetings

John Forsey noted that media were attending association meetings and some extensive reports were appearing in local newspapers. Robert Stehle said that Action Sandy Hill has had occasion to go into "in camera" sessions for discussion of sensitive matters. Others commented that their meetings were in principle open to anyone to attend.

e) Environmental initiatives

For want of time, it was agreed to table discussion to a subsequent meeting.

f) Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario

Archie Campbell reported that Thunder Bay and Sudbury have now joined further expanding the reach of FUN. He noted that FUN discussions have turned to concerns about the OMB, in particular in environmental issues. There is apparently some friction between MNR (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources) and the OMB. There continues to be concern about election financing at the municipal level where some 70% of funding is said to come from developers.

It was moved by Bob Brocklebank and seconded by Stephen Haines that FCA's annual FUN membership fee of \$50 be paid. CARRIED.

7. Adjournment