

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton  
Board Meeting of 8 April 2008, Vernon Recreation Centre  
Draft Minutes**

Participants: Kim Bates (Vernon CA), John Blatherwick (Woodpark CA), John Brennan (Canterbury CA), Bob Brocklebank (Glebe CA), Archie Campbell (Dalhousie CA)(Chair), Lorne Cutler (Hampton-Iona Community Group), Anthony LeMoine (Faircrest Heights CA), Heather Pearl (Champlain Park CA), Iola Price (Rockcliffe Park Residents' Assn.), Cam Robertson (City Centre Coalition), Peter Runia (City View CA), David Sacks (New Edinburgh Community Alliance), John Stevenson (Citizens for Safe Cycling), Don Stewart (Westboro Beach CA), Anna Sundin (Old Ottawa South CA), Chris Szpak (Greenspace Alliance), Andrew Wisniowski (Lindenlea CA)  
Guests: Michael Heenan (resident Riddell Ave. N.), Robert Webster (ORSA- Ottawa Regional Society of Architects), Ralph Weisbrock (ORSA)

**1. Adoption of agenda** - add to draft agenda f) OMB , g) Advisory Committees and h) community association constitutions

**Next meeting** - Copeland Park CA has offered to host the next meeting in mid-May

**Introduction to Vernon** - Kim Bates noted that Vernon is 2.5km from the boundary of the city. Being so far from City Hall, operators at 311 do not always recognize that this is in the city. The community built the recreation centre – now the city charges for its use. With the support of Councillor Doug Thompson, the community association managed to get an asphalt pad for children's activity. The association organizes events such as the celebration of the survival of the ice storm. One issue in the community is speeding in school zones.

**Procedures for the development of public land** - presentation by ORSA (item moved up from 4a in agenda)

Spokespersons Robert Webster and Ralph Weisbrock noted that ORSA has issued a position paper regarding the "design competition" for Lansdowne Park. The paper appears to enjoy wide support. In the view of ORSA this is not a genuine design competition but seems rather to be a procedure to turn over 38 acres of land to private hands. There are important issues of process here and there may be troubles comparable to the redevelopment of Lebreton flats with 20 yrs of process leading to questionable results (i.e. only one proposal deemed compliant). ORSA promotes competition but Lansdowne is public land and the community should be engaged in any decisions about redevelopment. The process does not need to be rushed nor is a single deal for the entire parcel of land required. There is a need to look for public benefit.

The city could fund a real competition with the sale of only a few lots along Holmwood. Initial estimates indicate that the raw land of Lansdowne is worth \$100 million.

In the question period following the ORSA presentation, it was asked what the outcome would be of a genuine design competition as understood by architects. The response was that first there would be an ideas competition leading to a prize for the best concept of use of the land. This would be followed by a competition for building design leading to a prize plus a commission for the detailed work. Finally there would be the award of a right to develop. ORSA's view is that a competition for a right to develop is appropriate for smaller parcels of land but not for all of Lansdowne Park.

Design competitions as described are common in Quebec and was the approach adopted for the competition for revitalization of Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto.

In response to a question about reintroduction of professional football, it was acknowledged that this is a challenge for the competition process.

Moved by Don Stewart seconded by Heather Pearl that FCA inform the city that there should be a genuine design competition for Lansdowne Park, not just a right to develop process, so that the primary objective is public use and access, not just the business bottom line. CARRIED

**2. Minutes** - draft minutes from the meeting of February 20 are under revision

**3. Business arising from the minutes**

a) Membership outreach

Rockcliffe and Lindenlea joined

b) Transportation Working Group

The working group met Feb 27 and meets again April 14. John Blatherwick outlined the chronology for revision of the Transportation Master Plan. He also noted that the 2007 road safety report has been issued and will need to be considered. Although the group has representation from the city core and the rural area, representation from the suburbs outside the Greenbelt would be welcome.

Blatherwick noted that there is a need to put FCA on map on transportation issues and he proposes tabling info on Apr 16 at the Transit and Transportation Committees joint meeting.

Cam Robertson commented that the City Centre Coalition had agreed on three items – support for efficient light rail through downtown; for light rail connecting Ottawa and Gatineau and for connecting LRT to the airport.

Bob Brocklebank said that the meeting of city committees on Apr 16 is just a call for consultation and there will be further opportunities for specific comment.

Don Stewart supported the need to go underground in the city centre.

Iola Price flagged the issue of endangered species in the region around the airport.

John Blatherwick observed that in addition to transit FCA must also consider the Transportation Master Plan.

c) Laurentian High School site

At the previous meeting there was support for a Community Design Plan for the area. The FCA was to write a letter to this effect and need input from Copeland Park in drafting the letter.

d) Official Plan review

Bob Brocklebank reported that informal talks with the Planning Dept. had taken place as part of the FCA direction to work in a more collaborative fashion. These talks had led to discussion about engaging community associations in review of the Official Plan. White Papers had been released earlier and draft policy documents were scheduled for April 22 release.

However he said there was also a proposal that we collect information about concerns about the development approval process. There had been a call for comments but nothing had been received to date.

Archie Campbell noted that the Official Plan is one element in a complex hierarchy of plans,

presenting challenges to community groups.

Brian Tansey commented that the Ottawa OP has been extensively amended after adoption. In some jurisdictions amendments are not permitted.

Lorne Cutler observed that the OP seems to be extensively interpreted. Perhaps we need rules of interpretation?

f) Membership dues update

Lorne Cutler reported that we have the best membership in some time.

g) NCC Consultative Committee on 2010 Land Use Master Plan

Archie Campbell reported that he participated in the Feb. 23 meeting. This is the first of three such meetings. He was surprised at the lack of business groups at the meeting. The plan is to cover the catchment area outside the urban areas of Ottawa & Gatineau.

In response to questions, he noted that the plan does not seem to involve changes in designation of NCC land nor were issues of programs, such as activity at the Central Experimental Farm discussed. He also commented that there did not seem to be any representation from a counterpart to FCA from Gatineau at the meeting.

h) Property Tax Reform

Don Stewart reported that the committee has met with Yasir Naqvi, Member of Legislature for Ottawa Centre. Naqvi is digging into the tax issue. Stewart has also met with Kitchissippi Ward Councillor Leadman and a meeting is proposed with John Dickie of BOMA - Building Owners and Managers Association. In principle, the Committee should meet with all the Councillors and Community Association's are asked to set up meetings with their representatives for the Committee. In response to questions, Don Stewart noted that the FCA committee report dealt only with property tax for residential properties but that its recommendations would significantly reduce the role of MPAC - Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

**New Business**

a) Procedures for development of public land (ORSA)  
moved up in agenda; see above

b) NCC consultation

A meeting was held March 18 at which the NCC reported that they are engaged in traffic counts at Confederation Square. They are concerned about issues of traffic congestion and improving the cycling / pedestrian environment.

c) Rural Roundtable  
no report

d) Rural Summit

Several participants had attended the summit held on April 5. One idea which seemed to have received support at the summit was the establishment of bodies to make decisions about local issues. How this would relate to City Council or how such bodies might be constituted was not determined.

e) Comprehensive Zoning By-law

Submissions on the by-law were to be received by April 8; final changes to draft are to be posted May 30 and the formal vote on adoption is scheduled for June 25.

Michael Heenan noted that occupancy of group homes in the draft by-law are to be increased from 8 to 10 persons. This is a particular concern on Riddel Ave. because the proposed group home has sought a variance to reduce parking. On a narrow street a group home which will be allowed to expand to 10 residents is seeking reduced parking from the current requirement for an 8-person home.

John Blatherwick commented that his community had concerns about section 93 provisions for shopping centres; blanket permission for home-based business in residential areas; and rear yard depth provisions.

f) Ontario Municipal Board

In December a Lake Simcoe developer asked for costs in resolution of a case before the OMB. If awarded this would put a chill on community actions before the OMB.

Archie Campbell commented that there were efforts underway by F.U.N. and others to lobby the provincial government to introduce legislation to stop this kind of intimidation. [In other jurisdictions, notably the U.S. and Australia, these reforms are known as anti-SLAPP laws, where SLAPP stands for Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation.]

g) Advisory Committee

Iola Price circulated information on the Forest & Greenspace Advisory Committee, noting that additional members are needed. Applications for membership should be submitted to the city.

She commented on the problem of getting accurate street maps of Rockcliffe Park.

The issue of maps led Brian Tansey to note the problem of emergency services finding locations in rural areas. This problem is heightened but the closure of the EMS in Kinburn. Kim Bates said there have been instances in which fire trucks ask for directions when proceeding to emergencies.

h) Community Association Constitutions

Lorne Cutler said that Hampton-Iona Community Group is looking at developing a constitution. One idea might be to conduct a survey of other community associations and their organization structure.

This interest arose because of an OMB hearing on a Community Design Plan in which the group's participation was not welcome for want of a formal structure.

**5. Adjournment**