

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton
Draft Minutes of Board Meeting Wednesday October 22, 2008
Orleans Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, 1705 Orleans Boulevard

Participants: Archie Campbell (Dalhousie CA) - chair, Jay Baltz (Hintonburg CA), Scott Bradley (Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Assn), Jane Brammer (Rothwell Heights Property Owners' Assn), Bob Brocklebank (Glebe CA), Andrea Campbell (Leslie Park CA), Brian Dickson (Rockcliffe Park Residents' Assn), Roland Dorsay (Island Park CA), John Forsey (Manor Park CA), Annie Hall (Copeland Park CA), Perry Marleau (Canterbury CA), Paul McConnell (New Edinburgh Community Alliance), Noel Norenus (Manotick CA), Mike O'Neil (Manotick CA), Heather Pearl (Champlain Park CA), Sheila Parry (Community Council of Overbrook), Brian Roberts (Riverwalk CA), Cam Robertson (City Centre Coalition), David Sacks (New Edinburgh Community Alliance), Marjorie Shaver-Jones (Copeland Park CA), Robert Sirotek (Cedarhill CA), Don Stewart (Westboro Beach CA), Anna Sundin (Ottawa South CA), Brian Tansley (West Manotick CA & Rural Council of Ottawa-Carleton)

1. Approval of agenda

Additional items were added to the draft agenda. The Intensification Questionnaire was added as a sub-item under Official Plan Review. Further new business items added were Merivale Triangle CDP & Laurentian site; water in Lynwood Village; study of Hope Side Road; redevelopment of Leslie Park and move of the Civic Hospital.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2008

Approval moved by Cam Robertson, seconded by Don Stewart – Carried

3. Business arising from the minutes

a) Membership outreach

Brocklebank noted that holding the meeting in Orleans was part of the general effort to reach out the associations in the east-end of the city.

b) Transportation Committee

No report

c) Transportation Master Plan

The Transportation Working Group intends to propose comments on the Transportation Master Plan

d) Official plan review

Jay Baltz called for a sub-committee to deal with the city's intensification questionnaire. He commented that the proposals in the questionnaire go beyond the provisions of the Official Plan. David Sacks noted that comments are to be submitted by Nov. 7. It was agreed that the findings of the sub-committee would be circulated.

Scott Bradley asked if the FCA has a baseline position on intensification. Jay Baltz noted that the development industry seems to interpret intensification as building beyond the limits of the zoning by-law. Don Stewart suggested that the FCA position had been of general support for intensification within the urban boundary while respecting the character of established

neighbourhoods. This was followed by a discussion about increases of density in suburban areas and questions of provision of parks in association with intensification.

e) FCA website

Brocklebank noted that content for the website is welcomed.

f) Property tax reform

It was noted that appointments with Councillors (or members of the provincial Legislature) are sought so that the FCA proposal for reform could be explained. There were comments that public interests will be rising with the receipt of revised assessments.

g) Interprovincial crossing studies

The original driving force behind the studies was to get truck traffic in appropriate places, notably moving it out of the city centre. The move away from that objective is the subject of the FCA letter to be sent to the consultants (and to municipal, provincial and federal politicians). John Forsey indicated that attempts to identify community associations in Gatineau adjacent to the possible Kettle Island routing had been unsuccessful. Mike O'Neil noted that Manotick had tried to get trucks off Bridge St. but this was refused without any public consultation on the matter.

Jane Brammer said that a coalition, CARAD, had been formed to oppose the Kettle Island routing. They are considering a planning charette and are working out their positions. They had been involved in getting a good turnout for the second of public consultations on the study.

h) Urban tree conservation project

Heather Pearl reported that a paper had been prepared and a questionnaire was up on the web. There will be public consultations on the project. It is not yet clear where this initiative will lead. Brian Roberts commented that he had found the city responsive in considering tree issues in new projects and supportive of tree planting.

Don Stewart asked about the possibility of conflict between intensification and tree conservation. Heather Pearl said the objective is to increase the proportion of tree cover in the urban area from 17% to 30%. Jay Baltz inquired whether this should be in the OP; he noted that intensification seems to trump all else – we need to understand the hierarchy.

Perry Marleau commented that ashes were under threat. Andrea Campbell said ashes had been used as a replacement for elms. John Forsey said that ashes are no longer being planted.

i) Transit tunnel consultations

No report

j) Development charges study

Brocklebank commented that the next stakeholders meeting would be held the following day. He said that the level of DC's should reflect the investment in infrastructure required to support the new construction. At least theoretically, this would indicate that areas suitable for intensification, once identified, could be subject to discounted DC's.

Jay Baltz noted that for a developer it might be more profitable to buy cheap land which is zoned

for limited development and then seek rezoning.

Mike O'Neil mentioned concern about the state of infrastructure in the city. He questioned whether DC revenue is spent where the development takes place.

Cam Robertson commented that DC's do not cover the cost of new development, resulting in a sort of subsidy to new development which is a burden on present taxpayers.

k) Manotick OMB hearing

Brocklebank noted that the FCA participant statement had been submitted in accordance with the Board order of procedure. Brian Tansley said the opening of the hearing has now been postponed to Nov. 19.

l) Development Review Process

No report. Stewart and Brocklebank to discuss.

4. New Business

a) Lansdowne Park Redevelopment

Motion: (Moved Brocklebank; Seconded Robertson) FCA believes that a genuine competition should be conducted in which a diversity of concepts for redevelopment of Lansdowne Park can be considered by the City. CARRIED

In discussion Jay Baltz supported competition as a way of getting quality architecture. Brian Roberts expressed the hope that preservation of the football tradition of the park would be secured in the process.

b) Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (Ontario) Report

Archie Campbell gave a brief history of FUN, noting that it first dealt with town & gown issues and with reform of the OMB. There has been some change in the OMB but FUN continues to be concerned about reform. Some of this concern has risen on account of a case involving wetlands around London.

FUN executives had a meeting with Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs on Oct. 4. One issue raised was municipal election reform. In municipal elections financing can come from corporations and labour unions, unlike the practice at senior government levels. There are also issues around the idea of municipal rebates for election costs.

Andrea Campbell asked about FUN positions on property tax. Don Stewart indicated that FUN seemed to be close to the CAPTRA position which calls for capping of assessment changes.

c) Merivale Triangle CDP & Laurentian Site

Marjorie Shaver-Jones outlined the issue. Smart Centres is proposing a commercial development on the former Laurentian high school site. This is seen as worsening a traffic problem because the Baseline/Clyde intersection is already an issue.

Copeland Park and other community associations had called for a CDP of the Merivale triangle (which is potentially all being redeveloped) and this was supported by Councillor Chiarelli. A CDP has been opposed by Councillor McRae and by Smart Centres. The compromise is to put the CDP request on hold for six months and conduct a traffic study. Public meetings for the traffic study are taking place and the community association has retained a planner. Some 167

calls have been made to try to hire an engineer who is available and not in a conflict situation because of a relationship with Smart Centres.

While Copeland Park is principally concerned about traffic, it appears that the Central Park association has other aesthetic concerns.

Smart Centres is to explain their plans in a public meeting on Nov. 6.

John Stevenson noted that cycling patterns through this area should figure in the discussion.

d) Lynwood Village water

Brian Tansley said that Lynwood Village is a mobile home park near Russell. There are severe water quality issues at the project and the city has decided to provide treated water to Russell under a new long-term contract. The Rural Council is seeking the city's approval for city water to be provided to the residents of this mobile home park. Support from FCA for this Rural Council position is requested.

e) Hope Side Road study

Robert Sirotek said that there is an environmental study underway of Hope Side Road which plans for a truck route parallel to West Hunt Club. It appears that this road extension would connect with a residential street.

f) Leslie Park redevelopment

Andrea Campbell said that there is an application for rezoning in Leslie Park (the second for the same property in the year) which would allow some 85 town houses to be replaced by a new project of 6-storey and 20-storey buildings. This would constitute significant intensification in which 85 dwellings are replaced by some 500 dwelling units. The community is not walkable and all new residents would have cars. The association in Qualicum is also concerned about this project.

g) Civic Hospital move

Scott Bradley said that the Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association has a KIMBY (keep in my backyard) concern about the prospect of loss of the hospital. Some indicated their surprise at this concern, citing the association's opposition to a parking garage at the hospital. Bradley noted that the parking garage project in question was for a parcel of land which was supposed to be parkland.

Adjournment