

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton**  
**Draft Minutes of Board Meeting Thursday, November 27, 2008**  
**Library of St. John the Apostle Elementary School, 30 Costello Avenue**

Participants: Agnes Warda (Glens CA) - chair, John Blatherwick (Woodpark CA), Fred Boyd (Kanata Beaverbrook CA), Andrea Campbell (Leslie Park CA), Archie Campbell (Dalhousie CA), June Creelman (Glebe CA), Lorne Cutler (Hampton Iona CA), Rick Deveroux (Centretown Citizens CA), Brian Dickson (Rockcliffe Park Residents' Assn), John Forsey (Manor Park CA), Annie Hall (Copeland Park CA), Linda Hoad (Hintonburg CA), Michael Kostiuk (Carlington CA), Tony Le Moine (Faircrest Height CA), Gary Ludington (Westboro CA), Craig MacAulay (Lynwood Village CA), Perry Marleau (Canterbury CA), Alayne McGregor (Civic Hospital NA), Heather Pearl (Champlain Park CA), Sheila Perry (Community Council of Overbrook), Kathy Roberts (Cedarhill CA), Graeme Roderick (Tanglewood Hillsdale CA), Stephen Sandiford (Westboro CA), Marjorie Shaver-Jones (Copeland Park CA), Robert Sirotek (Cedarhill CA), John Stevenson (Citizens for Safe Cycling), Don Stewart (Westboro Beach CA), Ruth Tremblay (Crystal Beach-Lakeview CA)

Due to the late arrival of designated chair Archie Campbell, the meeting started chaired by Agnes Warda (FCA VP) with the understanding that some items may not be dealt with as planned.

**1. Approval of agenda**

No items were added to the draft agenda.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 22, 2008**

One correction, new business item C - Merivale Triangle: leave public meetings delete traffic study to read Public meetings are taking place and the community association has retained a planner. Approval moved by Andrea Campbell, seconded by Don Stewart - **Carried**

**Introduction to Leslie Park**

Short introduction of the area was provided by the host Andrea Campbell, who described major concerns of residents. CA has been in existence since 1968 and has several accomplishments. The current most pressing issue is the rezoning application (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. Baseline Rd traffic is a major concern as well.

**3. Business arising from the minutes**

a) Membership outreach

Issue postponed to the next meeting

b) Transportation Committee

No report.

c) Transportation Master Plan

Michael Kostiuk presented ideas by Friends of the O-Train (use former tracks as cheaper and

faster solution). John Blatherwick will be writing to The Citizen and other interested parties outlining problems with the existing transit plans. Don Stewart has all documents related to TMP (Transportation Master Plan) if anyone is interested. The group's comments are: the plan is too expensive; LRT is coming too late; if LRT built earlier (within next 5 years) there is chance to settle with Siemens; city should look at alternate routes; approach the province asking for money (GTA received huge funding), alternate routes should be studied in case the NCC land cannot be obtained, Carling was rebuilt in anticipation of LRT, ensure space for cyclists, follow up at the next meeting.

**Motion:** by Sheila Perry seconded by Don Stewart that *FCA insist on the environmental assessment be carried for Carling Avenue (according to the LRT plan or using the Doucet/Leadman proposal); that the EA include the full economic assessment with comparable routes; that the FCA deliver the motion to the Council, MPs (Watson, Baird) and the NCC.*

**Carried** with Crystal Beach CA dissenting

In discussion it was noted that 85% of the EA has been done already while discussing LRT. The EA should include beneficial aspects of each option.

d) Official plan review

Linda Hoad reported on developments. Several members attended the special meeting – there were few residents and many developers. There was a good presentation from city staff. Three documents were presented which can be found on the city's web site.

There are few issues of concern: expansion of boundaries, increasing suburban density, and intensification targets. Expansion/intensification must be tied to the development charges and meeting intensification targets. Planners are afraid that DC increases would slow down development. Local roads are paid by developers but not water/sewer or arterial roads.

OP and various amendments will be presented to council in January and scheduled for public consultation in March. In discussion it was suggested to have a sub-committee dealing with the issues. As most members are not yet familiar with the changes, Linda volunteers to provide information and advice. The issue is to be revisited at the next meeting.

e) FCA website

No comments.

f) Property tax reform

Lorne Cutler reported that a meeting took place with Rick Chiarelli and efforts are being made to set up meetings with western councillors. They have met with Yasir Naqvi (who is cautiously supportive) and there are plans to meet with Jim Watson. Lorne had an interview with CBC.

The proposal is well received with only Councillor Cullen raising objections; it is understood he may prepare a paper on the subject. Members are encouraged to set up meeting with their own councillors or MPPs and Don, Bob or Lorne will join to provide explanations. The best way to

deal with the issue now is through the budget process. Although taxes will be spread over 4 years residents will still have to pay whatever was assessed. The issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

g) Inter-provincial crossing studies  
No report.

h) Lansdowne Park redevelopment  
June Creelman reports there is much disinformation on the subject and the CFL will issue a retraction. The Council motion to have a competition is not being acted on – staff suspended the competition. City staff is apparently circumventing its own policies. Glebe CA is clarifying issues with a lawyer and the auditor general to establish what is happening. The entire process is muddy as the Mayor seems to give direction not in sync with the Council motion.

The Glebe association prefers a more transparent process, gathering information and asking tough questions. Their latest survey has not yet been tabulated but will be released later. Most surveyed people indicated a preference for a design competition. As the city owns the land it would be better to separate the concept (design) from the development. GCA approached the Ottawa Regional Society of Architects to obtain advice and organize a joint forum. ORSA believes that the present offer should be set aside to allow the original Design Lansdowne process to resume.

**Motion** by June Creelman, seconded by Don Stewart:  
*that the FCA jointly sponsor (non-financially) a forum with the Glebe Community Association to increase public interest and awareness of the Lansdowne Park options.*  
**Carried** unanimously.

i) Transit tunnel consultations  
It was reported that public consultation group meeting is scheduled for December 1st. Background paper outlines options and recommendations, not yet public.

j) Development charges study  
City is constrained by legislation (Dev. Act) what can be changed. Charges are not reflecting real costs; taxpayers have to pay the rest. Review of the documents is needed to determine whether FCA needs an official position.

k) Manotick OMB hearing  
OMB hearings are underway, no further report.

l) Development Review Process  
No report.

m) Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (FUN)  
No report.

n) Lynwood Village water

Members agreed that the issue is too complicated for this forum and would be better dealt through the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee. To be taken off the agenda.

o) Leslie Park redevelopment

Andrea prefers to have it postponed and to wait for further development.

p) Civic Hospital move

Agnes Warda stated that during the NCC meeting the Greenbelt Coalition was advised that this issue will be dealt with in the new Greenbelt Master Plan, not before. Michael reminded us that the Scott Bradley (Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association) position is "over my dead body" the hospital will move.

#### **4. New Business**

a) City of Ottawa budget

Lorne Cutler commented that the entire process is a farce, because no one knows what the money is actually spent on – Councillors get a report only once a year. There have been noticeable increases in the City's employment higher than the increase in population. All 700 new positions cannot be explained by hiring more paramedics. Only the Capital budget contains line-by-line designation so it is difficult to establish what's happening with the operational budget (it only provides top level categories).

Alayne McGregor mentioned that certain soft areas are targeted. She is against cuts to culture and recreation. Archie suggest getting money from the capital budget slated for infrastructure to apply to preserve cultural programs. Don Stewart and Agnes Warda disagreed saying some funds may be diverted by postponing new capital projects but not maintenance. They noted that delayed repairs are very expensive. They said the City is already doing it (i.e. Prince of Wales and other large projects are considered to be shelved).

Many CAs still need to examine the budget. FCA will not be able to reach a consensus as each associations is facing different problems. Volunteer driven programs are worth preserving.

It is too late to provide comments for 2009 budget but the members agree that the process needs to be improved and made more transparent. FCA must revisit this issue before the next 2010 budget.

b) Lawsuits against community groups

Greenspace Alliance has opposed development in the Leitrim wetlands, and has lost several times (at OMB and later twice in court). Both the city and the developer sued for legal costs. The City's legal counsel strongly supports going after the GA for costs. The developer is refusing to settle. In the past citizens were sued but never had to pay. The city will not seek cost awards from citizens or public interest groups unless opposition is vexatious or frivolous as viewed by the judge.

Agnes described a motion drafted by councillors Rick Chiarelli and Alex Cullen to establish a policy for the City not to go after public interest organizations for costs. The motion will be presented most likely at the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee at a later date. Individual associations are being asked to lobby their councillors asking them to support the motion. The FCA is being asked to endorse the motion and present its support to the committee.

**Motion:** by Andrea Campbell, seconded by Don Stewart:

*that the FCA fully endorse the intent of the Chiarelli/Cullen motion and advise council and the committee of its support.*

**Carried** unanimously.

**Motion:** by Don Stewart, seconded by Linda Hoad:

*that the FCA write to the province to pass legislation preventing developers from going after opposing Community Associations*

**Carried** unanimously.

c) Hope Side Road

Robert Sirotek said Cedarhill CA is ready to defer their presentation to the next meeting. An environmental study of Hope Side Road is underway which plans for a truck route parallel to West Hunt Club. It appears that this road extension would connect with a residential street thus affecting other communities. A map of the undertaking and contact numbers are on file.

d) Outdoor Rinks

A letter from the city advises rink operators that the rink grants may be reduced and if adopted, a proposal would eliminate grants to operate rinks starting in January 2009. This would mean that only 25 % of the 2008 Council-approved budget for grants would be available for the entire 2008-2009 season. The City would absorb the cost of the insurance premium for those eligible. Each community would need to pay the applicable \$500 deductible in the event of a successful claim against their organization. The City would continue to set up and remove outdoor rink infrastructure (temporary lighting, boards, trailers, electrical hook-ups).

Graeme Roderick reported that Councillor Hunter is proposing a motion reducing grants to \$3,000. In another scenario operators are proposing that \$500 be deducted from each contract for 2008-2009 (providing savings of \$500 by 260 rinks or \$130,000). This would show the city that rink operators are trying to assist in reducing costs.

The discussion focussed on lack of volunteers and fundraising options. Many rinks without the grant will fold. CAs may sell ads to local businesses to support rinks. There is a need to lobby council. The best way would be to go through the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee that has prepared a presentation to the council this coming Monday. Sheila Perry will collect names of interested associations sign as supporters.

e) Speed Limits

Brian Dickson is concerned with the speeding in many residential communities and wondering whether it would be possible to have a unified speed limit for all residential areas. The FCA transportation group has not worked on this issue yet. Different street designations may pose a problem for the idea because of the cost of changing street signs. One solution would be removable speed humps in summer. Brian Dickson and John Blatherwick will consult.

f) Armstrong-Strandherd Bridge.

Agnes Warda informed members that the bridge has reached a consultation stage with discussion now centring on a range of technical issues, comments on special studies, design guidelines and policies. Pictures with two proposed designs were circulated.

Alayne McGregor proposed a motion to thank Agnes Warda for taking over and chairing the meeting. **Carried.**

Agnes would like to extend her personal thanks to Heather Pearl who, realizing that Agnes was both chairing and taking notes, submitted her notes after the meeting.

**Adjournment**, next meeting will be hosted by Carlington CA in January.