

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton  
Minutes – Board Meeting Wednesday February 11, 2009  
Tanglewood Park Community Centre, 30 Woodfield Drive**

Participants: Archie Campbell (Dalhousie CA - chair); Metin Akgun (Stittsville Village Assn); Jay Baltz (Hintonburg CA); Bob Brocklebank (Glebe CA); Lorne Cutler (Hampton-Iona Community Group); Rick Devereux (Centretown Citizens' CA); Brian Dickson (Rockcliffe Park Residents' Assn); Annie Hall (Copeland Park CA); Michael Heenan (Glabar Park CA); Michael Kostiuk (Carlington CA); Perry Marleau (Canterbury CA); Kathryn McCalliion (Action Sandy Hill); Paul McConnell (New Edinburgh Community Alliance); James McLaren (Heron Park CA); Shawn Menard (Centretown Citizens' CA); Sheila Perry (Community Council of Overbrook); Christian Pupp (Old Ottawa East CA); Cam Robertson (City Centre Coalition); Graeme Roderick (Tanglewood Hillsdale CA); Tom Rodda (Manor Park CA); David Sacks (New Edinburgh Community Alliance); Sol Shuster (Greenspace Alliance); Don Stewart (Westboro Beach CA); Agnes Warda (Glens CA)

**Introduction to Tanglewood-Hillsdale**

Graeme Roderick noted that his association is not so issue-oriented but is principally engaged in community building through fun days, the rink and the community newsletter. The community centre is about ten years old, established in the days of Nepean. The neighbourhood has many townhouses and semis with a sprinkling of detached homes.

**1. Approval of agenda**

Under new business additions were (b) the bus strike, (c) Rideau cleanup (d) speed limits and (e) OMB reform. The amended agenda was adopted on a motion by Shawn Menard seconded by Don Stewart.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2009**

A correction was introduced to the description of costing for possible Carling transit investment. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Don Stewart seconded by James McLaren.

**3. Business arising from the minutes**

**a) Membership outreach**

Rick Devereux reported that he had drafted a general letter to invite new members to join and existing members to renew. He proposed to focus on benefits the FCA can provide to a prospective member including advocacy, knowledge and experience in organization. He was interested in press coverage of FCA accomplishments.

This led to discussion of the FCA seeking a regular column in the Citizen (similar to that of Michael Polowin). Don Stewart noted this would need to feature content with city-wide interest. Christian Pupp wondered if FCA material in community newspapers would be effective and Metin Akgun commented that Councillors do read the community papers.

Paul McConnell suggested that the FCA should consider a communications strategy more broadly and Perry Marleau inquired if new communications tools were needed.

**b) Transportation committee**

No report

**c) Transportation Master Plan**

Michael Kostiuk said he had heard that the view in the federal government, potential source of funding for city transport investment, is that Ottawa is a ‘transportation planning quagmire’. Cam Robertson noted that a central theme of the TMP is an increased “modal share” for transit and this has been set back by the transit strike.

**d) Official plan review - meeting with John Moser**

Members of the FCA Executive are to meet with the Director of Planning on Feb. 18 and discuss the possibility of a broader meeting to follow. Bob Brocklebank read from a preliminary document listing some topics which the delegation could explore at the meeting.

This led Graeme Roderick to suggest the list of topics is too extensive. Others commented that this could be a long list from which topics for further discussion could be selected. Jay Baltz noted that Mr. Moser had taken the initiative in suggesting a meeting, and topics are to inform him of the range of concerns in the community.

Christian Pupp said a crucial issue is intensity targets and this is linked to public trust in the planning process. Lorne Cutler suggested that zoning is ignored but even if the zoning regulations permitted more extensive development, this would be acceptable if there were greater transparency in the process. Kathryn McCallion commented that at present there is anarchy with approvals granted one at a time without adhering to any policy or pattern.

**e) FCA website**

Metin Akgun noted that hypertext links seem to work on the website but often do not in broadcast e-mail messages.

**f) Property tax reform**

Don Stewart reported that he had participated in a meeting on property tax held in the Glebe. He was on a panel with the MPP for Ottawa Centre and Ward Councillor and outlined the FCA proposal for reform. The FCA plan was well received by the audience, which may serve to bolster support with the MPP and Councillor.

Archie Campbell commented that we had our first Citizen article on the tax proposal.

**g) Interprovincial crossing studies**

Tom Rodda noted that the NCC CEO had expressed support for the Kettle Island site selection which had irritated Minister Meilleur. There had been some confusion in the reporting of the NCC position. City Council had voted to include the two Lower Duck Island sites into consideration and, as Councillor Monette had called for reconsideration the debate was going on simultaneous with the FCA meeting.

Apparently Minister Meilleur of Ontario had met with her counterpart from Quebec and asked for 3 options to be studied. Quebec seems to favour Kettle Island, while Gatineau Council has passed a resolution to minimize truck traffic on Montee Paiement

Rodda said that at a meeting held in Orleans it was reported that only 5% of interprovincial truck

traffic goes out of Ottawa. He commented that his view is that a new bridge is needed. Don Stewart asked why a bridge should be built if the truck traffic is not thereby diverted from downtown.

#### **h) Lansdowne Park redevelopment**

Bob Brocklebank said that the timetable for Council's consideration of the football consortium's proposal for Lansdowne has been delayed.

#### **i) Transit tunnel consultations**

Bob Brocklebank said that Will Ney of Greely has been nominated as the FCA rep on the tunnel consultative committee. He will contact Ney.

Kathryn McCallion indicated that it is not settled how the new transit proposal will fit with the development plans of the University of Ottawa. Christian Pupp said arrangements for crossing the Rideau River during the construction phase are a problem.

#### **j) Development charges study**

Bob Brocklebank reported that the latest DC advisory committee meeting had simply had a review of the investment plans in the Transportation Master Plan (which will require funding in part from DC's). The city's consultant who is drawing up the study for the new DC by-law could not be present because he had to appear before the OMB.

#### **k) Manotick OMB hearing**

On Jan. 6, Bob Brocklebank had appeared on behalf of the FCA in the OMB hearing allocated to participant (as opposed to party) statements. The FCA statement was confined to questions of the urban boundary.

In cross-examination, Alan Cohen of Solway-Wright, representing Minto, had asked if the FCA had ever invited him to their meetings. Brocklebank inquired if FCA would be interested in extending an invitation to Cohen. It was agreed he should explore the matter further.

#### **l) Lawsuits against community groups**

Sol Shuster noted that Committee consideration of the motion by Councillors Chiarelli and Cullen has been deferred pending preparation of a staff report. It is now to be on the agenda for the Feb 17 meeting of the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee and to go to Council Feb. 25. It is hoped that associations can influence members of the Committee to support the motion.

It was observed that Hamilton Council has passed an anti-SLAPP by-law. [SLAPP is strategic lawsuit against public participation]

#### **m) Municipal Election Reform**

Archie Campbell indicated that in his contact with the office of Minister Jim Watson he has gained the impression that there is some increased interest in the topic of election reform. There have been initiatives in Toronto and FUN has formed some ideas. Don Stewart suggested FCA needs to work to articulate its views.

**n) Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods(Ontario)**

Archie Campbell noted that it is now agreed that Ottawa would host the FUN Annual General Meeting planned for May 2.

Lorne Cutler wondered if, in addition to municipal election reform, it would be possible to give some prominence to the FCA proposal on property tax reform.

**4. New Business****a) Hope Side Road**

Discussion deferred

**b) Bus strike**

Metin Akgun proposed that FCA send a letter to members of Council indicating that taxpayers who are subject to the transit charge should receive a tax rebate to compensate for the interruption in service during the strike. Jay Baltz and Don Stewart commented that they might agree if savings had been realized but it now appears that is not the case. Lorne Cutler said any message should go to both sides in the dispute and he called for a full investigation by the city Auditor General of the financial impact of the strike. Rick Devereux said he agreed with the expression of concern but not the specific tax revision.

Annie Hall said there is talk that the Mayor is to propose some plan for privatization of transit service. Brian Dickson said there should be a statement that there should never again be a similar interruption in transit. Perry Marleau agreed a letter is important and there should be a call for analysis. Cam Robertson suggested that any letter should note the difficulty in moving to increase modal share for transit as a result of the strike. Graeme Roderick wondered if the letter should not also be released to the media as an expression of community concern.

Kathryn McCallion suggested that the letter should put on record that we paid the money but did not get the service, that we want a full review by the AG and express our outrage at the impact on the city. This seemed to capture the thrust of the meeting.

**c) Rideau cleanup**

David Sacks indicated that New Edinburgh regularly held a Rideau River cleanup event on Mother's Day (May 10 this year). He would be interested in working with other associations along the river to coordinate activity.

Kathryn McCallion said that Action Sandy Hill has a cleanup event along the river in Strathcona Park which might be a prospect for collaboration.

**d) Speed limits**

Brian Dickson said the Rockcliffe Park association was interested in the idea of reducing the default speed limit in residential zones from 50 km/h to 40 km/h. Contact with their Councillor indicated that there had been a 2006 staff report on the topic which suggests that an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act would be needed. There was apparently another resolution which called for a comprehensive policy review; this is scheduled for later this year. Prior to amalgamation there had been also actions which centred around a concept known as "interim warrant". Dickson wanted to know if this is a topic of wider interest among members.

Kathryn McCallion commented that this seems to boil down to an issue of money. The city asserts that signage cost is a big issue. Bob Brocklebank confirmed that this was the city's position in responding to the Glebe traffic plan which called for 40 km/h speeds. Archie Campbell suggested that Dickson act as chair of an ad hoc committee to investigate the issue further

**e) OMB Reform**

Don Stewart called for a committee to look into the issue of OMB reform, noting that there had been proposals issued by FONTRA [North Toronto federation of community associations] as well as by FUN. Jay Baltz, Michael Heenan and Rick Devereux indicated interest in such a committee.

**Adjournment**