

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton
Minutes – Board Meeting Monday March 2, 2009
Old Town Hall Community Centre, 81 Main Street

Participants: Archie Campbell [Dalhousie CA, chair], Jay Baltz [Hintonburg CA], Bob Brocklebank [Glebe CA], James Clancy [West Manotick CA], Rick Devereux [Centretown Citizens' CA], Annie Hall [Copeland Park CA], Tony LeMoine [Faircrest Heights CA], Michael Kostiuk [Carlington CA], Harry MacKay [Cardinal Glen CA], Perry Marleau [Canterbury CA], Nick Masciantonio [Old Ottawa East CA], Joan Mason [New Edinburgh Community Alliance], Sheila Perry [Community Council of Overbrook], Iola Price [Rockcliffe Park Residents' Assn.], Christian Pupp [Old Ottawa East CA], Tom Rodda [Manor Park CA], Graeme Roderick [Tanglewood-Hillsdale CA], David Sacks [New Edinburgh Community Alliance], Marjorie Shaver-Jones [Copeland Park CA], John Stevenson [Citizens for Safe Cycling], Don Stewart [Westboro Beach CA], Brian Tansley [West Manotick CA], Agnes Warda [Glens CA]

Guests: Jack Ferguson and Lesley Paterson [City of Ottawa]

Introduction to Old Ottawa East

Nick Masciantonio welcomed the FCA to the real Main Street of Ottawa. This is a central core community bounded by the canal on the west and the Rideau River on the east. Along Main there is both institutional and commercial properties. For the population there is a very high number of churches. Possible redevelopment of some of the institutional land is an issue for the community. For example, the Oblates' land is about half the size of Lansdowne Park. Much activity has been devoted to the preparation of a community design plan which is almost finished. The association has an active environmental committee - SLOE (sustainable living Ottawa East) which has been involved in the childrens' garden and other community gardens. Other interests, which are shared with neighbouring communities, include a possible footbridge connecting Clegg to Fifth Ave., connections of footpaths, property taxes, capability of the population to age in the community, transit and redevelopment of Lansdowne Park.

1. Approval of agenda

The draft agenda was adopted with the addition of new business items – Adopt-a-park; LACAC issues; Parks & Recreation Master Plan; Police & Graffiti; and Speed Limits. The presentation on the Official Plan was advanced to the beginning of the meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2009

A correction was inserted to the comment about transportation planning Moved by Michael Kostiuk, seconded by Rick Devereux. CARRIED.

3. Business arising from the minutes

a) Official plan review -presentation + discussion

Lesley Paterson and Jack Ferguson gave a general presentation on the revision of the Official Plan. It was emphasized that this is not a new OP but just a revision of the 2003 document. There will be a public meeting on March 31 at which public delegations will be heard. Then staff will work on refinements and responses to the delegations for a further meeting on May 11. The intention is to prepare a response to each comment received. The final document will be subject

to approval by the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs.

In addition to the document outlining the proposed revisions, attention should also be given to the infrastructure master plan with its listing of capital projects and its capacity management strategy. There are details presented on proposed urban expansion, affordability of the plan (including some \$98 million for acquisition of natural areas) and of the relative cost of growth. Candidate areas for expansion of the urban boundary are outlined.

Factors of importance in the OP revision include the high proportion of population increase in the 65 plus age demographic and the establishment of density targets based on generating demand for transit. It was observed that the ability to generate Community Design Plans depends on budgetary resources allocated.

In response to questions it was noted that a full bibliography of supporting reports is attached to the staff memorandum of November 27. The proposal of adding 850 hectares to the urban area is to meet a 22 year demand for dwelling units. There are passages dealing with heritage conservation and how this is related to density targets. The development industry has called for a greater expansion to the urban boundary and the OMB decision in the Del/Brookfield case was relevant to the calculation.

b) Membership outreach

Rick Devereux asked for examples of FCA activity and effectiveness for use in membership recruitment.

c) Transportation committee

No report

d) Transportation Master Plan

No report

e) FCA website

Harry MacKay suggested that information on membership fees should be on the website.

f) Property tax reform

Don Stewart recommended further promotion of the FCA proposal for reform.

g) Interprovincial crossing studies

Tom Rodda said the NCC has now approved moving ahead to look at three options. Five Gatineau Councillors have called for residents to participate in the technical advisory group. Iola Price said that a new Request for Proposals has been issued for a consultant for the next stage of the project.

h) Lansdowne Park redevelopment

Bob Brocklebank reported that the city had suddenly issued a paper on procedures for

responding to unsolicited proposals from local firms. This is called the “Ottawa Option” and people closely following the Lansdowne issue, had interpreted this as an effort to speedily proceed with proposals for Lansdowne. This was denied by city staff who said the policy was not intended to apply to development proposals.

The City had a consultant prepare a “needs analysis” report on a stadium for Ottawa. One aspect of the report was that some 23 sites for a stadium were considered. The needs report is to be discussed on March 10. But this does not deal with the details of the various proposals which have been floated for stadium investment including Lansdowne Park and a soccer stadium in Kanata. A staff report on the proposals is to be tabled on March 25, with public delegations to appear on April 7.

Don Stewart commented that we should still have a design competition and we need a comprehensive plan for such development.

i) Transit tunnel consultations

Rick Devereux noted that multiple routes for the tunnel have been proposed. Perry Marleau commented that cost which previously had been \$600 million have escalated to \$800 million. Michael Kostiuk reported that David Jeanes of Transport 2000 was of the view that the stations were being over-built. Christian Pupp said he understood the plan was to finalize design by the end of 2009 and have the project completed by 2017/18. He noted that Tunney’s Pasture was being seen as the location for massive transfer traffic.

j) Development charges study

Bob Brocklebank reported that a significant topic continues to be the exemption from DC’s for the central core and whether this exemption should be maintained.

k) Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods [FUN]

Archie Campbell reported that Minister Watson has agreed to be keynote speaker for the FUN AGM to be held May 2 in Ottawa. He intends to invite Minister Watson also to speak to the FCA meeting in April. City Hall and Ben Franklin Place are being considered as venues for the FUN event. Campbell indicated that he is under some pressure to become the President of FUN. He inquired about member associations of FCA becoming members of FUN on their own. (FUN membership is \$50 per year.) A planning committee will be needed to work on arrangements for the FUN AGM.

l) Lawsuits against community groups

Agnes Warda reported that the motion by Councillors Chiarelli and Cullen went through and no FCA intervention was required. Any case in which costs are to be sought is to be referred to the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee. Iola Price noted that eventually the city agreed not to go after the Greenspace Alliance for costs in the Leitrim matter.

m) Municipal Election Reform

Perry Marleau said he had written to Minister Watson on the need for improved governance at

City Hall and on electoral reform. Graeme Roderick cited a recent article in the Sun on term limits. Bob Brocklebank referred to the Mayor's governance report and Brian Tansely remarked that MLA Stirling had recently called for municipal political parties in an article in the Citizen.

4. New Business

a) Hope Side Road

No discussion. Topic to be dropped from the agenda pending further information.

b) Adopt-a-park

Harry MacKay said Cardinal Glen association had been in touch with Paul McCann about support for a city park and had been asked to sign a complex legal undertaking. Tony LeMoine said Faircrest has arrangements with four parks but they had refused to sign the document. Perry Marleau said Canterbury has an agreement with the city for running the community centre and is interested in making sure that the conditions are uniform throughout the city. Graeme Roderick asked to see some of the documents in question so we could share information. Tony LeMoine said there seem to be two different kinds of applications. Bob Brocklebank said that Glebe has an arrangement for adopting a street and wondered if this is similar. Iola Price commented that she has signed a "consent to enter" document which is required for volunteers to do any work in city-owned forested areas such as Urban Natural Areas.

c) LACAC

Jay Baltz reported on two general topics to be considered at the next meeting of the Local Architecture Conservation Advisory Committee. First is the heritage aspect of the revised Official Plan and how conflict between intensification and heritage preservation objectives is to be resolved.

Second is a motion by Councillor Bedard to address concerns about heritage demolition by neglect. A property owner can allow a heritage property to fall into disrepair to the point that it must be demolished. This is a method of escaping from provisions to protect heritage buildings. Legislation now permits the city to force repairs of such buildings and a process is required to implement that provision.

d) Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Perry Marleau reported that four white papers are to be issued in May for which community response is needed leading to the formulation of the Master Plan. He recommended a briefing from city staff at a future FCA meeting.

e) Police and Graffiti

Graeme Roderick said that there had been an incident of property damage at his community centre; the police did not seem all that interested. Agnes Warda commented that in her neighbourhood they had worked with both the police and with school principals in regard to graffiti. Jay Baltz said such property damage is a priority for Hintonburg and he recommended contact with Cheryl Parrott of the Hintonburg association. Bob Brocklebank noted that the city has a graffiti management strategy and would provide further information. Michael Kostiuk said

his contact with the police indicated that some officers were not aware that graffiti can have a gang connection.

f) Speed limits

Iola Price noted that Rockcliffe Park had raised the issue of speed limits in residential areas at an earlier meeting. This matter was the subject of a question to staff from Councillor Legendre in 2006 and no clear response has emerged on how lower speed limits can be realized.

g) Topics for future discussion

Christian Pupp suggested the FCA might wish to consider the proposal for a city “snitch line” and the ramifications of the financial fragility of media in the city, such as the parent of the Citizen.

Adjournment