

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton
Minutes – Board Meeting Wednesday April 8, 2009
Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road**

Participants: Archie Campbell (Dalhousie CA - chair); Jane Brammer (Rothwell Heights POA); Bob Brocklebank (Glebe CA); Hijal De Sarkar (Heron Park CA); Rick Devereux (Centretown Citizens' CA); Brian Dickson (Rockcliffe Park RA); Mike Fullerton (CC of Overbrook); Annie Hall (Copeland Park CA); Michael Heenan (Glabar Park CA); Mary Lovelace (Glebe Neighbourhood Activities Group); Joan Mason (New Edinburgh CA); Kathryn McCallion (Action Sandy Hill); Paul McConnell (New Edinburgh CA); Shawn Menard (Centretown Citizens' CA); Iola Price (Rockcliffe Park RA); Cam Robertson (City Centre Coalition & Dow's Lake RA); Tom Rodda (Manor Park CA); Peter Runia (City View CA); Marjorie Shaver-Jones (Copeland Park CA); John Stevenson (Citizens for Safe Cycling); Don Stewart (Westboro Beach CA); Mary Tsai-Davies (Glebe Neighbourhood Activities Group)

Introduction to Rockcliffe Park

Brian Dickson noted that the first subdivision in Rockcliffe Park was in 1864 by Thomas Keefer, son-in-law of MacKay, builder of the Rideau Canal. The municipality was created in 1926. In 1998 a heritage conservation district designation was applied to the village and the Rockcliffe Foundation was set up. With amalgamation the Residents' Association was created. One principal focus is to preserve heritage, not just buildings but also the environment. The association has concerns about traffic like other neighbourhoods and it works with its neighbour communities in such causes as support for libraries.

1. Approval of agenda

The draft agenda was adopted with the addition of a presentation on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the topic of Safer Communities under New Business

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2009

Adoption was moved by Cam Robertson, seconded by Annie Hall CARRIED

3. Presentation: Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Diane Huffman, a planner in the Parks and Recreation Dept. said that the intent is to draw up a master plan to guide parks and recreation activity for the next 15 to 20 years. In particular it is hoped to determine the principles to use in decision-making.

Since amalgamation programs that had existed in the former municipalities have been continued. This means that differences across the city have become apparent. For example different prices are charged for the same program in different locations.

Three white papers are to be released in early May to stimulate input from the public. There is no budget for the consultation. Thus the Dept. is seeking partner organizations to put on meetings and encourage discussion. A second version of the documentation, reflecting the input received is planned for October with the full document to go to Council in December.

In response to questions, Huffman indicated they will attempt to support organizations sponsoring meetings with speakers and facilitation guides. She said harmonization is probably a goal of the process and this may extend to rationalizing the partnership agreements with groups delivering the recreation programs. Public comment is welcomed through July with the plan

being to consolidate comments in August. Some 53% of the recreation budget comes from enrollment fees and policies are needed about charges. The infrastructure, particularly in the old City of Ottawa, needs repair.

Participants who indicated interest, possibly in working on an FCA response to the white papers included Perry Marleau, Hijal De Sarkar, Mary Tsai-Davies, Don Stewart plus a rep from Sandy Hill.

4. Business arising from the minutes

a) Official plan review - hearing of March 31

Bob Brocklebank reported that the FCA submission (available at www.fca-fca.ca was delivered featuring five points: reconsider urban boundary expansion; include non-residential needs in looking at the urban boundary; clarify measurement of intensification and density; clarify conditions for tall buildings; and reconsider allowing country lot estates.

He reported that, in accordance with minutes of settlement of the FCA/Greenspace Alliance appeal of the 2003 Official Plan, city staff had drafted an official plan amendment to disallow country lot estates which would be brought before Council.

b) Membership outreach

Archie Campbell commented on the death in March of Stephen Haines, Vice President for Membership and noted Stephen's contribution to the Federation.

Rick Devereux reported that e-mail approaches had been made to some eighty community associations. He would welcome assistance in this.

Devereux said the idea of an FCA op-ed article in the Citizen would be useful for recruitment. He said that Michael Polowin started with a single contribution and now seems to have a monthly column. This produced discussion about the respective value of coverage in NowEMC and in community newspapers. Some suggested the content for a city-wide publication needs to be different from that for a single community.

c) Transportation committee

No report. There were comments that follow up with the committee is needed.

d) FCA website

Following on from the discussion about association comment in community newspapers, it was suggested that we experiment with links to community papers from the FCA site.

e) Property tax reform

Don Stewart reported that he had heard from Yasir Naqvi (MLA for Ottawa Centre) that assessment is not to change resulting from improved energy efficiency of buildings. The FCA proposal for reform is being examined by Peter Tomlinson, a Toronto economist interested in municipal fiscal issues.

f) Lansdowne Park redevelopment

Bob Brocklebank reported that the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee is

to consider a staff report on stadium proposals on April 20. This provoked various comments that a competitive process was to be preferred and that a stadium was of less priority than some other city activities, termed core services. It was observed that pressure to meet artificial deadlines for decisions, in the portrait gallery instance, for example, had led to misdirected proposals being approved.

Moved by Cam Robertson and seconded by Don Stewart that FCA reiterate its view that the future of Lansdowne Park should be determined through an appropriate competitive process.

CARRIED

g) Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods [FUN]

Archie Campbell said that the FUN AGM is to take place on Saturday May 2 in the Champlain Room at City Hall. The meeting would be from 10 am to 11:15am, followed by a talk by Minister Jim Watson on electoral reform. As the hosting organization, FCA is responsible for room rental and a light lunch for the delegates.

Moved by Archie Campbell and seconded by Don Stewart that a budget of \$300 be authorized to host the FUN AGM. **CARRIED**

Campbell asked for a small committee to work on arrangements. Stewart and Brocklebank volunteered. It is expected that there may be about 20 people attending with others listening by conference call.

FCA is allowed two delegates to the meeting. It was agreed that Don Stewart act as the second delegate.

h) Heritage issues - Official Plan; demolition

Paul McConnell said that New Edinburgh had made a submission on the lack of vigilance over development in heritage zones. NECA is in talks with Councillor Bedard about neglect leading to demolition, a technique said to be used by the University of Ottawa.

Iola Price commented that there is one hopeful sign – recruitment is underway for a third heritage planner.

NECA will make information available for further examination.

5. New Business

a) FCA AGM

Archie Campbell said the AGM is normally held in June at City Hall. Volunteers were sought for a nominating committee; Devereux, Stewart, McCallion and Brocklebank volunteered.

b) Greenbelt Master Plan Advisory Committee

Archie Campbell reported that NCC has asked for an FCA participant on the advisory committee. Agnes Warda is on the committee now and it is suggested that she act also as FCA representative, pending another person volunteering.

Jane Brammer asked for a list of the members of the committee; Archie Campbell agree to provide it.

c) Clyde and Baseline area development

Marjorie Shaver-Jones noted that the Copeland Park CA supports mixed development on the

former Laurentian High School site but are frustrated by their Councillor's response to the ten point position paper developed by the community. The issue is whether there is to be intensification first or whether supporting infrastructure is to be put in place prior to intensification. The CA has retained a transportation consultant because of concern about the Clyde/Baseline intersection. There have been indications from Councillor McRae that Maitland Ave. could be made a truck route. Shaver-Jones said there was doubt that perimeter buildings indicated in presentation material for the Laurentian site would ever be built. The development will be discussed at a PEC meeting in May.

Kathryn McCallion suggested that Councillor Bedard might be of assistance. There was some success in a case on Charlotte Street in which further infill is not allowed until services are upgraded.

d) Safer Communities

It was noted that the Safer Communities and Neighbourhood Act is under consideration by the Provincial Legislature. In cases of crime this legislation would provide for action to seek eviction of tenants or other actions.

Moved by Don Stewart and seconded by Tom Rodda that FCA support adoption of the SCAN legislation and send letters to that effect to the Premier and the two opposition party leaders. CARRIED

6 Adjournment