

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton
Draft Minutes – Board Meeting of Tuesday May 12, 2009
Glebe Community Centre, 175 Third Avenue**

Participants:

Archie Campbell [Dalhousie CA - chair], Metin Akgun [Stittsville Village CA], Bob Brocklebank [Glebe CA], June Creelman [Glebe CA], Lorne Cutler [Hampton Iona C Group], Brian Dickson [Rockcliffe Park RA], Annie Hall [Copeland Park CA], Michael Jenkin [Old Ottawa South CA], Amy Kempster [Champlain Park CA & Greenspace Alliance], Sheila Perry [Community Council of Overbrook], Cam Robertson [Dow's Lake RA & City Centre Coalition], Peter Runia [City View CA], John Stevenson [Citizens for Safe Cycling], Don Stewart [Westboro Beach CA], Caroline Vanneste [Glebe CA], Agnes Warda [Glens CA]

Introduction to the Glebe

Bob Brocklebank noted that the Glebe Community Association seemed always to have several issues to tackle. There had never been a period in which the association ran out of topics to engage its community. One current issue of concern is the proliferation of graffiti throughout the neighbourhood.

1. Approval of agenda

The draft agenda was modified by adding a discussion of the planning process to the discussion of the Official Plan review, by inserting a report on FUN (Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods, Ontario) follow the membership update report, and by adding Development Charges under new business. Adoption of the amended agenda was moved by Cam Robertson and seconded by Metin Akgun. Carried.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 8, 2009

Approval of the draft minutes was moved by Brian Dickson and seconded by Don Stewart. Carried.

3. Business arising from the minutes

a) Official plan review - PEC Meeting May 12

Bob Brocklebank outlined the presentation he had made at the Planning and Environment Committee earlier that day. He had restated the five concerns of FCA voiced previously in March:

- that the expansion of the urban boundary not occur or that it be significantly scaled back;
- that non-residential needs (particularly land for employment) be considered in any discussion of enlarging the urban area;
- that measurement of intensification and of density be clear and be given legal status;
- that conditions under which tall building are permitted be clarified; and
- that provisions allowing additional country lot estates in rural Ottawa be reconsidered.

In this submission emphasis was given the urban boundary and country lot estate issues.

Amy Kempster noted that the rural summits had indicated support for country lot estates. Agnes Warda commented that some landowners wanted absolute ability to use their land without

constraint.

Don Stewart said issues were greater than the Official Plan. He questioned how the process works in Ottawa. For example site plan approvals are not consistent with the Official Plan. He noted that at the FUN AGM it was suggested that if the OMB were done away with, municipalities would need to tighten their own by-laws. He said direction is needed to city staff because development approvals rarely support the Official Plan.

Amy Kempster cited the role of the Committee of Adjustment as also important. She said the city could set up its own appeal process to address matters brought to the Committee of Adjustment. Agnes Warda noted that many of the minor variances dealt with by the Committee of Adjustment are in fact major deviations from by-laws.

In discussion it was agreed that Don Stewart make his points before the ongoing PEC hearings on the Official Plan.

b) Membership outreach

Archie Campbell gave a progress report on behalf of Rick Devereux..

C) FUN Annual General Meeting

Archie Campbell reported that the FUN AGM was held on May 2. Minister Watson who had asked to address the meeting to present the government's position on Municipal election reform was unable to attend because of a family health issue but he reaffirmed his willingness to speak to FUN and to FCA at a future date. Only Mr. Watson and the Premier are allowed to speak for the government on this issue, so invitations were extended at the last minute to the two opposition parties in the Legislature. Finally it was only possible to have a phone conference with the NDP's Municipal Affairs critic, Michael Prue, on the issue. Back in 2004 FUN had adopted a resolution on electoral reform, and Mr. Prue said he generally agreed with it referencing his party's position and his earlier work on this file as a municipal politician.

There was a lively discussion stimulated by Prof. Barry Wellar dealing with the mandate of the OMB. This dealt with the effect of reforms in Bill 51 and there were several references to the OMB decision on Manotick development. FUN is to write saying that Bill 51 has not worked.

Questions were raised about whether an "OMB chill factor" was setting in at the Committee of Adjustment. It was noted that city planners provide no comment to the Committee.

Don Stewart said FUN is about to issue a press release on Bill 51. In response to questions, Archie Campbell noted that AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) had not made any comment and the FUN statement was an attempt to induce AMO to come out with opinion on Bill 51.

Metin Akgun commented that Bill 51 is so vague as to be unenforceable. He said the legislation only calls on the OMB to consider Council deliberations. Bob Brocklebank observed that the

Manotick decision by OMB does not seem to deal with the urban boundary issue.

Don Stewart noted that Archie Campbell had been elected President of FUN at the AGM.

d) FCA AGM

Archie Campbell said the AGM is scheduled for Monday June 15 in the Colonel By room at City Hall. The nomination committee must meet.

e) FCA website

Bob Brocklebank said he would welcome info to link visitors to the FCA site to community newspapers etc. with columns by community associations.

f) Property tax reform

Don Stewart reported that MPAC can no longer include energy efficiency investment into property valuation for tax purposes. There was some discussion about whether MPAC had “low-balled” valuations in this round to reduce calls for reconsideration. Annie Hall asked if MPAC ever actually visits properties. Various participants commented that there were visits but others said the system is based on computer modelling. Don Stewart understands that the provincial government’s line is that the current system is “fair and predictable” which he interprets as suggesting little enthusiasm at Queens Park for change.

g) Lansdowne Park redevelopment

June Creelman said Glebe CA is more concerned than ever. On April 22 Council voted on two stadium proposals. The staff report had been issued April 10 and public delegations were heard on April 20. The decision had been to enter into negotiation with the Lansdowne Live group for 60 days and coming back to Council. This would suggest public consultation in July with a Council vote in August.

The staff report was the first chance for the public to see the details of the proposals. The actual detailed documents have not been made public. For the Lansdowne proposal, it means a \$125 million investment by the city in the stadium, turning over the stadium plus other land (in effect 70% of the park) to the private group and the construction of 250,000 square feet of retail. The proposal was not well understood by the public. Thus steps are being taken to organize a public meeting for June 2 and a rally in the park on June 14. Until now statements have been made about the process but now it is intended to talk also about the proposal as a bad deal for the city.

Cam Robertson echoed the concern about process saying competition would be appropriate. He commented that Councillors regard Lansdowne as a liability and this is a partial explanation of their decisions. Amy Kempster called for some middle ground between the two conflicting stadium groups and said that money is a telling issue with many citizens.

Peter Runia criticized this as an example of catering to special interest groups. He asked why the Glebe CA has not come out against football. Agnes Warda commented that outside the Glebe people were not engaged in the matter. Sheila Perry wondered about linking the Lansdowne

discussion to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, noting that the consultation on the Master Plan is to be launched on May 15. Don Stewart said the \$125 million expenditure should be made known to taxpayers, this might be particularly important in influencing the right-wing members of Council. He said he thought of Lansdowne as a destination park and wondered if the Lansdowne Live proposal fit with that idea. John Stevenson observed that the Ottawa Business Journal seemed to favour the Kanata stadium proposal. Brian Dickson said many residents had the impression that some smart guys were bailing the city out in the Lansdowne proposal. Peter Runia questioned whether the facilities are as decrepit as has been said.

Michael Jenkin said a concern should be the other needed investments that will be foregone to build a stadium. He noted that it is not clear what will emerge after 60 days. Lorne Cutler said he was concerned about a sole source deal; a P3 arrangement would be on thing but this is sole-source. Cam Robertson noted that with all the discussion about transit access to Lansdowne, there had never been discussion about access from the (now unused) ball park to Train station on the Transitway. Archie Campbell said an unfortunate aspect is that this has been portrayed as a NIMBY concern; he indicated he would attend on June 2.

h) Recreation Master Plan

Sheila Perry said the launch of the survey this week is an important opportunity. There is a need to motivate groups to take part. Support was expressed for Sheila bringing together some FCA members to examine the issues.

Amy Kempster observed that the city seems to have concentrated on megaplexes as the only way to deliver services, a direction she questioned. Don Stewart warned against being over-dependent on responses from community centres which were involved in the present program; responses from those outside is also valuable.

i) Clyde and Baseline area development

Annie Hall reported that the Copeland Park CA have hired experts to examine the background papers prepared for the rezoning application from SmartCentres. They are fundraising in their community. It is expected the proposal will go to PEC in June.

4. New Business

a) Sir John Carling Building

Archie Campbell said that there are rumours that the former AgCanada building is to be demolished which is of concern to Dalhousie CA. Cam Robertson said the Dow's Lake RA is discussing the issue the following day. Peter Runia questioned the assertions that the asbestos installed in the building was sufficient to force demolition.

b) Development Charges

Amy Kempster said that reports have begun to appear on the city website. The indication is that rural DC's will rise considerably.

c) Membership

Lorne Cutler said there are now only 18 paid up members for 2009 and asked others to get their fees in.

d) Upcoming events

Bob Brocklebank noted the public consultations coming up on Interprovincial transportation, mentioned that associations have been send info on a tripartite planning exercise called “Choosing our future” and that Human Resources & Skills Development Canada has a free conference on Neighbourhood Day celebrations.

e) Trails

Sheila Perry asked if anyone had experience with proposals for bmx bike trails along hydro right-of-ways.

Adjournment