

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton
Minutes – Board Meeting of Tuesday September 22, 2009
Pretty Street Community Centre, Stittsville**

Participants:

Archie Campbell [Dalhousie CA - chair], Metin Akgun [Stittsville Village CA], Jay Baltz [Hintonburg CA], Jane Brammer [Rothwell Heights Residents' Assn], Bob Brocklebank [Glebe CA], Lorne Cutler [Hampton Iona C Group], Don Ford [Woodpark CA], Kathryn McCallion [Action Sandy Hill], James McLaren [Heron Park CA], Paul McConnell [New Edinburgh C Alliance], James O'Grady [Trend-Arlington CA], Don Parkinson [Manor Park CA], Iola Price [Rockcliffe Park RA], Christian Pupp [Old Ottawa East CA], Cam Robertson [Dow's Lake RA & City Centre Coalition], David Sacks [New Edinburgh Community Alliance], Joan Spice [Centretown Citizens' CA], John Stevenson [Citizens for Safe Cycling], Anna Sundin [Old Ottawa South CA], Don Stewart [Westboro Beach CA], Brian Tansley [West Manotick CA], Agnes Warda [Glens CA], Bruce Webster [Richmond Village Assn]

Guest:

Councillor Shad Qadri

3. Welcome from Councillor Qadri

Councillor Shad Qadri noted that he had previously been President of the Stittsville Village Association. The association had been formed in 2000 and a new ward was created in 2006. But Stittsville goes back to 1850 as a town, founded by Jackson Stitt. In 1974 it was incorporated into Goulbourn Township and had resisted amalgamation into the City of Ottawa. The ward now has a population of about 24 thousand but is expected to grow significantly with the development of the Fernbank lands which are to eventually house 50 to 60 thousand persons. In response to questions, the Councillor noted that the area is not just residential with commuting into downtown. He said there is much employment from Stittsville in the IT industry in Kanata and Ivor Road is developing as a manufacturing strip. In the Fernbank development there are lands designated for employment. On Lansdowne Park he said it is a liability to the City now and he was not convinced that there was a need to go to international competition for redevelopment ideas. He said the community can make input into the issue.

1. Approval of agenda

The draft agenda was modified by adding a discussion of Carp under "business arising from the minutes" and water rates under "new business"

2. Minutes of the meeting of June 15, 2009

Brocklebank apologized to the meeting that notes from the previous meeting had been lost. He circulated "rough notes" on the June meeting. It was agreed that the issue of June minutes would be tabled.

4. Presentation by ACORN

The representative from ACORN could not be present.

5. Business arising from the minutes

a) Official plan

Brocklebank noted that two of the principal points made in FCA submissions had received a response from Council – the expansion of the urban boundary was limited and the policy on country lot estates is to be studied.

Bruce Webster commented that villages are under pressure for additional development. This is particularly the case for those with services such as Manotick, Richmond and possibly North Gower. He attributed some of this development pressure to the limitation of urban boundary expansion which put pressure on developers.

Don Stewart asked if the problem was with the Provincial Policy Statement or was it that the City failed to enforce policies in the Official Plan and the Zoning By-law. Cam Robertson defended Council's decision to try to limit urban sprawl. James McLaren suggested that there is a need to enforce the Official Plan policies regarding village growth. Brian Tansley noted that developers can always ask for reinterpretation of policies and he said the Manotick case comes before the courts on October 9.

b) Membership outreach - no report

c) Lansdowne Park redevelopment

Brocklebank said the detailed outcome of the negotiations begun in April were released on September 2. The plan is for public consultations beginning September 28 and he asked others to encourage participation at the open houses.

There were numerous complaints about the nature of such consultations. Kathryn McCallion said it is hard to get people to participate; Sandy Hill residents had invested considerable time in such consultations and felt they got little benefit. Cam Robertson said the public has lost faith in the City's consultative mechanisms.

Jane Brammer asked whether the community should organize its own public meeting. Brian Tansley pointed to the success of Manotick in running a large meeting and spoke of a 10,000 person meeting on Lansdowne. Joan Spice wondered about timing and need to inform the public if such a large undertaking is to be successful. Bruce Webster asked about the role of the City in such an initiative. James O'Grady said the need is for meaningful dialogue.

On the "Lansdowne Partnership" proposal, Lorne Cutler said that the financial ramifications of the proposal should not be "dumbed down" in the communication with the public. Metin Akgun asked why it was proposed to pay for the project from public funds, how it could be justified without proper transit service and why there is not more greenspace in the proposal. Jay Baltz questioned the process followed by the City. He said this is yet another case in which the public's confidence in the City's processes is undermined. Brian Tansley noted that this is another example in which developers are advancing arguments of convenience.

It was moved by Don Stewart and seconded by James McLaren that:

FCA draft a letter to Council indicating that an uncertain process for decision-making has led to a proposal viewed with skepticism by residents and that inadequate provision for public consultation deepens further citizens' suspicions about the proposal. CARRIED

d) Recreation Master Plan

Kathryn McCallion noted that one relevant issue is the allocation of funding for recreation across the city. This led to some discussion about arrangements such as that at Dovercourt where a local organization delivers programs on behalf of the City.

e) FCA website

Brocklebank suggested that we might wish to give publicity to interesting documents generated by individual associations, either by putting links on the FCA site or by posting the document on our site.

f) Clyde and Baseline area development

In the absence of a representative from Copeland Park, it was noted that the Smart Centres proposal for the former Laurentian High School site had been approved by Planning & Environment Committee.

g) Development charges

Brocklebank said the proposal for DC's is not as controversial as last time. The issues with the DC's seem now to be largely at the provincial level because the legislation appears to demand that existing landowners subsidize new landowners.

h) Meetings on City property

In the absence of a representative from Carlington, it was proposed to carry the topic to a subsequent meeting.

i) Carp development

Archie Campbell said he will investigate with the Carp Residents' Association to learn the status of the application for the tall building which seems to be at odds with the Secondary Plan.

4. New Business

a) Flooding and drainage

Bruce Webster reported that he had received documentation explaining the background to the flooding which had occurred in the western part of the City, notably in Glen Cairn. He said this suggests a deficiency in infrastructure investment to support development and a failure to appreciate the impact of such deficiency. He noted that pumping stations were added upstream in the wastewater system without upgrading of the intermediate downstream stations. He feels that senior managers are in denial mode and a change is needed.

Iola Price commented that on the rare occasions in which the City declines to approve development for infrastructure reasons, it is over-ruled by the OMB. Metin Akgun suggested that

the problem is that planning is carried out on a piecemeal basis. Jay Baltz said that the hierarchy of planning documents are supposed to bring all these issues together but may fail to do so.

b) New Edinburgh Heritage Forum October 2

David Sacks invited wide participation in the second Heritage forum being organized by the New Edinburgh Community Alliance.

c) Water rates

Agnes Warda said that there currently a review of water and wastewater services. In the urban areas the cost of storm water services are paid from the overall water & sewage bill. In unserviced areas it has been suggested that stormwater services are received but there is no payment.

Don Stewart commented that this is in the context of a wide review. One question is whether there should just be a charge for water received or if there should be a base charge for access to the city water system.

Bruce Webster said some of the City officials do not seem to fully comprehend the difference between the urban and rural situations in the case of water. In rural areas the storm water discussion involves ditches and their maintenance.

Bob Brocklebank commented that applying a fee for storm water services to the property tax does not take into account the possible differences in absorbing stormwater on site versus having it flow into the ditches or sewers. Lorne Cutler noted that usage charges in general promote conservation and should be considered from that viewpoint.

Agnes Warda said that it seems that rather than starting from public consultation, leading to a resolution, this topic seems to start from a staff report which is then used to direct public discussion in a particular direction.

Adjournment