

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton
Minutes for Board Meeting of January 13, 2010
Alexander Community Centre, 960 Silver Street

Participants: Archie Campbell [Dalhousie CA - Chair]; Metin Akgun [Stittsville Village Assn]; Jane Brammer [Rothwell Heights Property Owners' Assn]; Bob Brocklebank [Glebe CA]; Jeanne Burgess [Carlington CA]; Lorne Cutler [Hampton-Iona Community Group]; Rebecca Dufton [Cumberland Village Assn]; Amanda Farris [Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Assn]; Kate Greer-Close [Vanier CA]; Annie Hall [Copeland Park CA]; Michael Heenan [Glabar Park CA]; Clive Horne [Cumberland Village Assn]; Michael Kostiuk [Carlington CA]; Jonanna Leffler [Dovercourt Recreation Assn]; James O'Grady [Trend-Arlington CA]; Heather Pearl [Champlain Park CA]; Don Parkinson [Manor Park CA]; Cam Robertson [Dow's Lake Residents' Assn]; Graeme Roderick [Tanglewood-Hillsdale CA]; Peter Runia [City View CA]; Marjorie Shaver-Jones [Copeland Park CA]; John Stevenson [Citizens for Safe Cycling]; Don Stewart [Westboro Beach CA]; Brian Tansley [West Manotick CA]; Bruce Webster [Richmond Village Assn & Rural Council of Ottawa-Carleton]

Introduction to Carlington: Michael Kostiuk commented that Carlington is a sort of island in the city surrounded by the Experimental Farm, Carlington Park and the Queensway. The neighbourhood had received the lowest economic ranking in a survey by the City. The community was launched with some 420 veteran housing units after World War II. This was the first application of crescent street patterns in Canada. There are low-income housing units particularly south of Shillington. With its veteran connections the community has special veteran and remembrance ceremonies.

A current issue is the establishment by the Shepherds of Good Hope of a shelter for recovering alcoholics in a former motel. The community association has encouraged the resolution of issues. Another concern is the actions of the city in excluding the association from consultations with the community.

1. Approval of agenda

The Ministerial response to the revised Official Plan was added to the agenda item and Crime Prevention Ottawa was added to the 2010 City Budget item. New items added under New Business were (b) FUN annual dues, (c) graffiti, (d) future of the Greenbelt and (e) intensification.

2. Meeting Schedule for January to May 2010

The next meeting is February 8 at Glebe Community Centre, March will be arranged by Westboro Beach and the following is April 13 hosted by Tanglewood-Hillsdale.

3. Approval of minutes of November 25, 2009

Adoption of the draft minutes was moved by Michael Kostiuk, seconded by Cam Robertson.
CARRIED

4. Business arising from the minutes

a) Official Plan

Archie Campbell reported that he is working on a letter to the Minister on the OMB.

Bruce Webster noted that a Community Design Plan (CDP) is a precursor to a secondary plan. For the first time, in Richmond a developer is footing the bill for a CDP. The consultations normally conducted in a CDP process are being driven by a developer. The developer wants to build 2300 houses on 400 acres of land. There is concern about the precedent set by Richmond because a developer is driving a CDP in Fernbank.

Webster said that houses in Richmond are on frontage of 20 metres and have septic systems rather than central services. The developer is proposing to develop lots of 35 foot frontage. In the CDP process the infrastructure is designated by the developer; this is in contrast to an urban area such as Westboro. In this situation it appears that the Councillor for the ward is standing aside and not questioning this arrangement.

James O'Grady asked if the community could undertake the CDP itself and wondered what a CDP costs. Webster said the developer is paying plenty for the process, bringing in consultants from New Jersey. Peter Runia commented that he had never heard of planning documents being directly funded by a developer. In response, Bruce Webster said that the City website has a reference to Mattamy, that the city planners seem to be acting as salesmen for the developer, and that the Councillor says that the City has no money for the CDP.

Don Stewart said he had understood that CDP's were to be elaborated through consultations driven by a City Senior Planner. Lorne Cutler commented that as long as there is no Secondary Plan this makes things easier for developers. Brian Tansley noted that a CDP needs only to be signed off by the ward Councillor, not full Council. Lorne Cutler commented that it seems the developer wants to be judge, jury and applicant. Bruce Webster said the City had called this the new trend and it was understood for planning for the Fernbank community.

Clive Horne said that from Cumberland's standpoint it was supportive of Richmond's concern. They had managed to get the Tamarack lands in Cumberland excluded from urban expansion. Bruce Webster commented that the urban boundary was only expanded in ward 21 which includes Richmond and Manotick.

Metin Akgun said that Fernbank is already in the urban area. For Kanata West there is a CDP but the execution of development is quite different from the CDP. Bruce Webster noted a CDP is not a legal document unlike a Secondary Plan; thus a Secondary Plan is sought for Richmond.

Clive Horne wondered if the Richmond situation should be brought to other rural communities. Brian Tansley said it is not a rural issue, the provision of city budgets for CDP's affects everyone in the city.

James O'Grady asked if a CDP is needed to get a Secondary Plan. This was confirmed by Bruce Webster. Lorne Cutler said the real issue is that developers should not run the planning department. Don Stewart suggested that the OMB is running wild and there is no reason to be confident that they would question a planning document conducted by a developer.

Bob Brocklebank noted that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing had responded to the revised Official Plan. Linda Hoad of the Hintonburg association had commented that a clause added by the Ministry may strengthen the influence of the Official Plan. New text inserted in Section 2.2.3 - Managing Growth in the Urban Area are:

- in item 8 policy 11a

"Where the existing zoning provisions are sufficient to meet the intensification and density targets in the time-frame defined by this Official Plan, these targets shall not be used as a planning rationale for approving additional height or density in excess of the current zoning."

- in item 8 policy 11b

"Where community design plans and secondary plans contain sufficient development potential to meet intensification and density targets in the time frame defined by this Official Plan, these plans shall not be altered for the purpose of achieving intensification"

b) Membership outreach

There was a brief discussion in which it was confirmed that the membership fee for 2010 continues to be \$30.

c) 2010 City Budget

Kate Greer Close noted that there was a proposal to disband Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO) but it had been of great importance to Vanier. She cited the CPO anti-gang program and their handbook for landlords as initiatives they supported. Jane Brammer commented that she had been asked to register Overbrook's support for CPO. Michael Kostiuk noted that Carlington had also CPO participation.

There was some discussion of the argument that CPO duplicates activity of the police. Don Parkinson said it has been suggested that CPO's functions could be folded into the police service

It was moved by Kate Greer-Close, seconded by Don Stewart that FCA support the retention of Crime Prevention Ottawa. CARRIED

Kate Greer-Close noted that public delegations on the budget would be received on January 25. She reported that at some of the consultation meetings there had been statements that only local people were welcome.

Bob Brocklebank commented on strange budget provisions for repairing parts of Lansdowne that are proposed to be demolished. He also said there was difficulty in obtaining budget CD documentation at City Hall. Peter Runia said he was concerned about the budget process.

d) Recreation Master Plan

It was reported that Sheila Perry had submitted a general response on behalf of FCA indicating support with the principles elaborated in the plans.

e) FCA website

Updating of links to association's websites and newsletters would be welcome.

f) Tree by-law for rural areas

Discussion is deferred to February.

g) Regulations on building height and grade

Archie Campbell reported that he is awaiting text from New Edinburgh for a letter. Lorne Cutler mentioned that an article appeared in the Globe and Mail dealing with construction in Richmond Hill which indicated that limits on the height of wood frame construction made mid-rise buildings uneconomic.

h) CAFES

The next meeting of this federation of community environmental committees is to be hosted by Centretown and is likely to be scheduled for after the next FCA meeting.

5. New business

a) Municipal election

It was proposed that a general discussion be held about the possible role of the FCA.

Michael Kostiuk noted that Jim Watson was questioning the Transportation Master Plan while Council has approved the environmental assessment. Cam Robertson said that we should see what candidates' views are on the tunnel project. Jane Brammer suggested that we should look and see which Councillors have supported positions taken by the FCA. Bob Brocklebank said we should look at how community all-candidates meetings are organized. Brian Tansley called for a list to show which associations are in which wards.

Don Stewart said FCA should put together a list of issues, not just looking at how incumbents had voted but also what all the candidates think about such issues. Brian Tansley said the election gave the FCA an opportunity to take the lead with information. He said we should start organizing all-candidates meetings at which there would be two kinds of questions - ward-specific and city-wide.

Lorne Cutler called for caution in taking on too much work. He said one meeting for the mayor's race might be an FCA objective, to be organized by a pool from member associations. Amanda Farris said the FCA could work on election questions which it could share with particular associations for use in their ward meetings. Metin Akgun said that for Stittsville organization of all-candidates meetings had not proved onerous. He suggested that several wards together organize mayoral debates.

Don Stewart noted that renting facilities for all-candidates meetings is an issue. Bob Brocklebank said the Glebe had worked with the school council of the high school which allowed access to school facilities and involved the students taking civics classes to be encouraged to help.

Jeanne Burgess said there had been problems of getting an incumbent to agree to participate in an all-candidates meeting. Bob Brocklebank suggested the meeting be held and the incumbent's absence be prominent.

Archie Campbell suggested that the FCA role might be to make the election meaningful. James O'Grady said the FCA might sponsor an event around a topic such as governance. Kate Greer-Close asked that the FCA pull together idea on how to organize events for the election.

This led to a quick checklist of ideas to persue:

- ward information
- organizing all-candidates meetings
- special events
- question lists

b) FUN

It was moved by Archie Campbell and seconded by Michael Kostiuk that FCA pay its annual membership fee of \$50 to the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario. CARRIED.

c) Graffiti

Bob Brocklebank reported that he has been acting as FCA representative on the city's Graffiti Management Strategy stakeholders' committee; he is willing to step aside if others have an interest. As part of the new year's activity, the city is willing to speak to community (or business or other) groups about dealing with graffiti.

d) Future of the Greenbelt

The NCC is about to hold a series of consultations at the end of January on the vision for the future of the Greenbelt. Dates had not been announced.

e) Intensification

Press reports indicate that the City is moving ahead with the establishment of its Intensification Implementation Group. It was agreed that FCA would approach the City seeking information on community involvement in this exercise.

f) Transportation Impact Assessment

Jane Brammer noted that the City is looking for comments on the possible revision of its Transportation Impact Assessment Guidelines.

Adjournment