

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton  
Minutes for General Meeting of March 9, 2010  
Dovercourt Recreation Centre, Dovercourt Ave.**

**Participants:** Archie Campbell [Dalhousie CA - Chair]; Metin Akgun [Stittsville Village Assn], Jay Baltz [Hintonburg CA]; John Blatherwick [Woodpark CA], Jane Brammer [Rothwell Heights Property Owners Assn], Bob Brocklebank [Glebe CA]; Darrell Carson [West Barrhaven CA], Lorne Cutler [Hampton-Iona Community Group]; Roland Dorsay [Island Park CA], Rick Devereux [Centretown Citizens' CA]; Rebecca Dufton [Cumberland Village Assn]; Don Ford [Woodpark CA], Julia Goodman [Lincoln Heights-Parkway CA], Annie Hall [Copeland Park CA]; Stewart Kronberg [Trend Arlington CA], Gary Ludington [Westboro CA], Shawn Menard [Centretown Citizens' CA]; Kris Nanda [Riverview Park CA], Will Ney [Greely CA], Heather Pearl [Champlain Park CA], Sheila Perry [Community Council of Overbrook]; Cam Robertson [Dow's Lake Residents' Assn], Graeme Roderick [Tanglewood-Hillsdale CA]; Peter Runia [Cityview CA], Marjorie Shaver-Jones [Copeland Park CA]; Don Stewart [Westboro Beach CA]; Brian Tansley [West Manotick CA]; Agnes Warda [Glens CA]; Bruce Webster [Richmond Village Assn & Rural Council of Ottawa-Carleton], Mari Wellman [Westboro Beach CA]

### **Introduction to Westboro Beach**

Don Stewart said his community has varied housing forms ranging from single dwelling to tall apartment towers, including the Metropole, the highest in the city. There is also social housing in the area. Although Westboro Beach shares concerns about Richmond Road development with other Westboro associations, it has a special interest in the Ottawa River and the NCC lands along the river. The association is concerned about the idea of transit on the parkway and considers Carling as a better route. There is also a maintenance yard in the neighbourhood which might be sold and this creates uncertainty. They would like to have a Community Design Plan for their neighbourhood.

The association does not have a membership fee but runs fund-raising events, notably a book sale. One community highlight is the annual beach barbecue and bonfire.

He then explained that the venue for the meeting, Dovercourt Recreation Centre is a city building but the operation of the centre is conducted by an independent non-profit corporation which has a contract with the City. Westboro Beach association would like to see Dovercourt take over the supervision and lifeguarding at the beach which would probably be more economic than direct supervision by the City.

### **1. Approval of agenda**

Under "4(b) Neighbourhood planning initiative" a sub-item "Ottawa Neighbourhood Study" was added. Under New Business three items were added: (d) Important OMB decision, (e) Convent heritage designation, ;and (f) Ottawa Taxpayers Advocacy group. Moved by Rick Devereux, seconded by Don Stewart that the agenda as modified be adopted. CARRIED

### **2. Meeting Schedule for April to June 2010**

Archie Campbell noted that the April meeting is fixed for Tanglewood-Hillsdale and the May meeting for New Edinburgh. The June meeting would be the Annual General Meeting and is usually held at City Hall.

**3. Approval of minutes of February 8, 2010**

Moved by Don Stewart, seconded by Agnes Warda that the minutes be approved. CARRIED.

**4. Business arising from the minutes**

a) Planning

Regarding the Intensification implementation group, a message has been received from John Moser suggesting that the city provide a briefing at the April FCA meeting.

On revision of the Transportation impact assessment guidelines, Bob Brocklebank circulated printouts of comments he and Jane Brammer had submitted.

Metin Akgun confirmed that the experience in Stittsville was that each project was examined in isolation rather than in wider context. Gary Ludington said that if John Moser is to participate in the next meeting, this should be raised with him. Bruce Webster commented that in Richmond it is argued that because the city lacks funding that the planning is left to the developer; his view is that development can wait until the city has appropriate resources. Will Ney said that in Greely planners have only looked at traffic within 300 metres of the specific development under application; this raises problems where all the traffic converges.

Kris Nanda said one part of the city structure does not seem to talk to another; this is seen in the question of the new bus garage being built on Industrial Avenue. There was no public consultation prior to Council's decision to dramatically expand the size of the garage facility and apparently no consultation with Canada Post, whose major facility is nearby. Agnes Warda said her community has asked about cumulative impacts of development and were told each application is assessed independently. She said she believes the City has money because they have spent some 140 thousand dollars over the opposition of her community.

Brian Tansley said transportation relationships, such as between housing and a shopping centre, are not properly established. He called for FCA to consider pressing for improvements. Lorne Cutler noted that zoning and intensification issues were established along Richmond Road but as development progresses the road capacity is being used up through variances and rezoning.

Jay Baltz commented that developer funding of planning is a problem which also extends to issues under the Heritage Act. He said the group paying for the report gets the answer they want. Lorne Cutler said there seems to be an inability by Council to understand this conflict of interest. Archie asked if there had been any provincial audit or study on this. Bruce Webster observed that it had been argued that the pool of experts in the Ottawa is so small that it is necessary for the City to retain the same experts to act for the City in reviewing application who had written the initial report under contract from the applicant.

b) Membership outreach

Brocklebank noted that the current mailing list, by ward, had been sent to all who were at the January and February meetings. It would also be sent to everyone at the March meeting. He asked for input to correct or add to the list.

c) Municipal election initiatives

Bob Brocklebank said that Our Ottawa is willing to talk at any interested associations about election issues, that Fair Choice 2010 has been offering courses for people interested in running but they say the courses are now full, and that a group led by Don Stewart is working on questions for candidates.

Peter Runia noted that there is also the Ottawa Taxpayer Advocacy group which is planning a meeting on April 27 at which it is hoped that candidates will talk over wine and cheese. The group's aim is to get value for money in taxes paid. The event will be at Hungarian Hall in Grenfell Glen.

Shawn Menard said Our Ottawa is holding a meeting at Carleton University on March 31 at which it is planned to set out principles serve as planks for the election and to release information on the voting records of current members of Council. Rick Devereux added that Our Ottawa had also organized a "hold the line" rally about the plan to expand the urban boundary.

Lorne Cutler commented that he had seen former Mayor Holzman on a Rogers TV broadcast saying that if Council makes a decision it is everyone's duty to support that point of view, a statement he found puzzling given there are so many instances of this not happening, including staff not lining up on Council's zoning and development decisions and Chiarelli trying to reopen discussion on urban boundaries.

d) Neighbourhood planning initiative

Jay Baltz commented on the Neighbourhood Planning experience in Hintonburg. He noted that this was only one planning issue in that part of the city – there were also two Community Design Plans underway and the digging up of Wellington Ave. was in progress. In addition there was special stimulus funding available at the time. Agnes Warda asked if zoning decisions resulting from the neighbourhood planning exercise were subject to change. Jay Baltz noted that the Minister's amendment to the Official Plan would limit change to zoning argued on the basis of intensification. Gary Ludington mention a project on Scott Street for which variances were turned down by the Committee of Adjustment linked to the neighbourhood plan.

Bob Brocklebank said that the Ottawa Neighbourhood Study, led by the University of Ottawa, has released its detailed findings and he circulated a typical neighbourhood report. Gary Ludington noted that some communities seem to be combined into one for purposes of the study. He commented on the number of fast food outlets that some communities are said to have because of the boundary definitions.

e) Strategic lawsuits letter sign-on

Archie Campbell reported that no action had been taken on FCA's letter of support for correspondence to the Premier calling for legislation constraining strategic lawsuits against public participation. The letter would be signed by Agnes Warda because Campbell would be signing a similar letter on behalf of the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (FUN). The delay in sending the letter was to await confirmation that the original letter in this chain had been sent.

f) FCA website

Bob Brocklebank commented that Graeme Roderick had pointed out that the FCA basic by-laws as presented on the web were not up-to-date. The version on the site was the draft for the eventual adoption of the revised by-law.

g) Charity and non-profit legal seminar

Lorne Cutler reported that he had attended the legal seminar for charity and non-profit organizations conducted by the legal firm Carters. The firm seems to have a practice specialized in the non-profit sector. The seminar was well attended but may be of limited application to FCA members. One aspect featured was revision in federal law governing non-profit corporations but members who are incorporated are usually provincial corporations. Issues covered in the seminar included waiver of liability, investment, fiduciary responsibility, dealing with the Canada Revenue Agency and political activities. One feature of federal law would indicate that all members (paid and unpaid) would have some voting rights in corporate decisions.

**5. New business**

a) Ward Councils

Graeme Roderick noted that associations in Knoxdale-Merivale ward are looking into the idea of ward councils. Agnes Warda said she understands that Councillor Cullen has monthly meetings, but she wondered if some collaboration might be conducted through regular exchanges of e-mails. She said the ward council idea might provide access to the Councillor but she wondered if this might be a device for "divide and conquer" approaches to silence dissenters in the ward.

Brian Tansley said that ward 21 has had a ward council for three years. The ward was divided into nine segments and, from each segment, participants in the council were appointed by the Councillor. Most activity by the council originates with the Councillor. There is no budget from the City for the council. Bruce Webster said that 25 to 27 people participated in the ward 21 council. The community associations were not asked for representatives. In his view the associations should have been represented. He claimed most participants were frustrated because it was not clear what the council was expected to accomplish nor what authority it had.

Kris Nanda said that there is an Alta Vista planning group with two representatives from each community association. The meetings are often cancelled by the Councillor who sets the agenda and there are not always timely responses to the issues raised at the meetings.

Shawn Menard said he believes that councils can work in a borough system of governance. They should meet on a regular basis and it should be determined who sits on the council. His idea was that there be regional councils. In response Bruce Webster asked if this would be any better than making direct contact with Councillors or with staff.

Bob Brocklebank suggested that an model might be Halifax where there are councils composed of a few Councillors on a regional basis. He said that in Ottawa there already exists provision for delegation of authority; delegation is now to staff but this could be changed to delegate to regional councils.

Graeme Roderick said that definitions are needed for a discussion of ward or regional councils. As associations we should specify some terms of reference to get debate going. He called for associations in given wards to work together in coming up with recommendations.

Brian Tansley called for any change to benefit the community served rather than simply easing the work of the Councillor. He said a check list should be drawn up. Mari Wellman said that a council concept could serve educational purposes by bringing in speakers and working toward forming consensus. She envisaged individuals being welcome, not just associations but she thought associations and the Councillor would deliver a regular report to each meeting.

Don Stewart cautioned that it was not expected that Councillors simply do the bidding of some other body (a council) in making decisions. The idea was to elect a representative who would strive to make wise decisions, not just be a mouthpiece for another body.

Graeme Roderick called for work on a check list to get discussion started.

**b) CPO Paint it up Review Committee**

Bob Brocklebank reported that Crime Prevention Ottawa is running a program in which youth teams would be funded to put murals on the property of interested property owners. The program calls for a community representative on the project review team to judge the applications. There was general interest from Centretown, Hintonburg and Overbrook in looking for someone to be on the review team.

**c) Financial Sustainability Summit**

Peter Runia noted that the idea of such a summit had been proposed by Ottawa Taxpayers Advocacy group which has apparently been accepted by Council. The plan is to hold a one-day workshop on a ten-year forecast of the city budget. Brian Tansley agreed that this is an important initiative and should figure significantly in the autumn election. Bob Brocklebank suggested that Peter Runia to watch for developments on the summit and keep the FCA informed.

**d) Important OMB decision**

Don Stewart reported that the Westboro Beach association had managed to win a case before the OMB to protect a height designation of 8 metres. The reference for the decision is PL090711.

Jay Baltz said it would be interesting to see the first case which clarify the Minister's amendment of the Official Plan dealing with revisions justified by intensification objectives.

Gary Ludington said there has also been an important court decision on the OMB called Vincent versus Degaspiris. John Blatherwick concurred and said that Committees of Adjustment across the province have been studying that court decision since 2005.

e) Convent heritage designation

Jay Baltz said that the issues of the Sisters of Visitation Convent in Westboro is to come before the Ottawa Built Heritage Advisory Committee on March 18. Lorne Cutler said there would be a meeting on the project on March 10. He commented that the Councillor for the ward had seen the plans which would be released on March 10 and he understood that the Councillor held negative views on the proposal.

f) Ottawa Taxpayers Advocacy Group

Peter Runia reported that OTAG is organizing an event for April 25.

**Adjournment**