

Lowertown Community Association
L'Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 8 SEPTEMBER 2014 / 8 SEPTEMBRE 2014
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7-9 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER, 19-21h

- **Board members present:** Liz Bernstein (Acting President), Mike Kirkpatrick (Vice President), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary), John Chenier (Director, Community Liaison), Sylvie Grenier (Director, Planning), Steve (Director, Business Liaison)
 - **Appointed members present:** Norman Moyer (Liaison, Byward Market BIA Safety and Security Committee)
 - **Total community members present:** 35
- 1. Welcome and Introductions (Liz Bernstein)**
 - Roundtable introductions.
 - 2. Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting (Liz Bernstein)**
 - Agenda and June meeting notes approved.
 - 3. Councillor's Update**
 - **Present from the Councillors Office:** Alana Dale Hill, Nathaniel Mullin
 - **Rideau Street construction:** will be done in November after the concrete sidewalks go in.
 - **Sussex Street construction:** work is ongoing until the end of the year and will finish next year. Work to move the heritage houses will be finished by the end of October.
 - **Basketball court by Union Street and Bordeleau Park:** will be open September 19.
 - **St. Patrick Street:** has been resurfaced and the bike way is being implemented. There is now cycle track and pathways from Cobourg to Island Park Drive. A multi-use pathway will be implemented from Cobourg to King Edward Avenue. The next phase of resurfacing on St. Patrick will happen next year and will run to Sussex. The cycling pathway will continue along that corridor. A counter-flow bike lane at Cumberland and Rideau will be implemented to allow cyclists into market. A second one will be implemented near Zack's restaurant.
 - **Minto Bridges:** closed because they are structurally unsound. Will be re-done in 2015-16.
 - Comment from resident that multi-use pathways take cyclists off the road but they put them in same area as pedestrians, which can be dangerous if cyclists are going too fast. Suggestion to make the path undulating to slow cyclists.
 - Question about how to access Minto Bridges through the STO area without going on sidewalk. Alana will follow up on this and report back.
 - 4. Special Feature Presentation: Update on Governance Study for the ByWard Market (Jake Rupert, City of Ottawa)**
 - See attached power point presentation.
 - Noted that these are preliminary ideas for a concept plan and that the plan has to be approved by Council before anything happens. There will be further opportunities to comment on the draft final recommendations to council in the New Year.
 - Purpose of the presentation is to let residents know the City vision and seek feedback.
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- The City is looking at governance options. They are beginning by examining what decisions are made about the Byward Market and who is responsible within the City. They are also looking at the public spaces in the market and what the new governance structure would manage. They are considering a non, profit, arms length governance model.
- Parking, market building retrofit options, have a public space concept plan and will be putting forward a retrofit plan for the building.
- They conducted a review of planning tools to limit bars and restaurants but determined that it is out of scope for the current process.
- In Q1 2015, the City will put forward a report to Council with a governance plan, business case, high level public space concept plan, and budget request. Trying to get it established as City priority.
- In terms of governance: cities are getting out of market business. Most are run by municipal service corporations. Owned by cities and given mandate by cities, report annually (like library board or Ottawa Hydro). Would have its own capital plan so money generated by the market would stay in the market. Would work in coordination with BIA and LCA.
- What are the things that the corporation should be able to do or not do? The municipal service corporation would be what we make of it.
- Physical improvements that were examined: building interior and exterior, street-scapes, gathering places, parking and costing estimates.
- PPS developed concept plan. Identified that we have a market in a parking lot. Need to have a parking lot supporting a market. Need to have a central gathering place. Re-visioned the space. Pavers would be used to indicate the pedestrian nature of the space. Getting rid of parking garage means losing a lot of market revenue that would need to be replaced. Proposed market plaza building would be statement-making. Building interior: plan is to open it up so it is not as crammed and create flexible space so vendors can move around. Think about how spaces are used and how we would like to see them working moving forward.
- Zoning review: has been done. Shows that zoning is fine the way it is (in keeping with other cities for separation of bars, etc) but City has not been good at follow up to ensure businesses are functioning as planned. Will be taking a more proactive approach to zoning enforcement.
- Will finalize PPS business case and governance report, public space concept plan and budget. Will draft recommendations. Public consultation. Presentation to Council in Q1 2015.

Questions/Comments:

- Comment about future presence of LRT in Byward Market and less need for car accommodation. Parking is a key issue because other markets have it. Free 15 minutes has made a big difference because that is all a lot of people need. Need to keep parking in the market until we have LRT.
- Will be opportunity to comment during public consultation in winter 2015 before report goes to council.
- Question about how encouraging fresh food availability is linked to encouraging other retail.
- Question about how changes to Byward Market are impacting neighbourhood and is it being studied? Landlords have increased rents and property taxes have gone up a lot. They restrict the types of businesses that can operate. Need to have City reduce taxes to encourage entrepreneurial businesses.
- Question about public funding available for project and willingness of businesses to take risks and embrace change. Plan is to have a governance structure that will take risks and embrace change.

5. Areas of Interest – Updates:

• **Planning Update (Sylvie Grenier)**

- **LRT Team presented at LCA Planning Committee:** Scotia Bank will be demolished in fall to make way for construction of LRT entrance at Rideau and William Street. The other two will be integrated into the Rideau Centre. Plan for LRT entrance is a modern glass block that does not reflect heritage character of area. LCA will send letter to the city with suggestions on how to integrate heritage elements into the new entrance. Bank of Nova Scotia will rebuild its building above the LRT station.

- **Uptown Rideau Community Development Plan (CDP) Review:** ASH and LCA worked together with other community groups to develop principles for CDP. City of Ottawa will make a presentation on the Uptown Rideau CDP at October 20 LCA meeting.
- **Dalhousie Re-Zoning:** In May, LCA sent letter to request that Dalhousie re-zoning work be stopped because heritage overlay was not strong enough and it did not take residential area at north end of street into consideration. Have not received a response from the City or Councillor Fleury's office.
- **Environment Update (Liz Bernstein)**
 - **ORAP:** LCA worked to get matched funding for Ottawa River Action Plan. Was approved by Government of Ontario. Now need the federal government to approve in the next budget.
 - **Water Roundtable Strategy:** did consultation and collected input. Update is due this fall but issue will need to be moved forward by the next council.
 - **Walkability Audit Workshop with Ecology Ottawa:** worked with those from other neighbourhoods to share experience.
- **Safety and Security Update (Norman Moyer/Steve Monuk)**
 - Not a happy summer in the market. Wants to hear our safety and security concerns. Helps to have specific information to share at Market Safety and Security Committee meetings.
 - Need to remember what is great about the Byward Market. Market Ambassador statistics for interventions were very low this summer, which is an indication of fewer problems.
- **Heritage Update (John Chenier, on behalf of Liz MacKenzie and Nancy Miller-Chenier)**
 - Had three summer students: one for events and two for house histories and oral histories. The focus was on Macdonald Gardens because of its 100th anniversary.
 - Members of committee were at the OMB today to fight lifting of the heritage overlay on King Edward.
- **Bingham Park Revitalization (Mike Kirkpatrick/Sarah Bonesteel)**
 - Mike: 4 finalists for public art competition. One was selected and art will be installed in spring 2015.
 - Mural was approved by City and will be put up soon. Will go on field house.
 - Sarah: The gardens in Bingham Park are LCA gardens and not City of Ottawa gardens so please pull weeds if you see them. The gardens were possible thanks to the efforts of many: Royal Bank of Canada Blue Water Fund for \$1,000 grant, Chance Foundation for initiating the first garden clean up, residents who donated perennials, Ritchie Feed and Seed for giving us discounts on everything we purchased, and Amber for coordinating volunteers from the University of Ottawa.
- 6. **Community Interest:**
 - **Request for support with community gardening initiative (John Woodhouse)**
 - Asking for support from candidates in municipal election for community gardens. Requesting statement of approval from Lowertown for request to City for gardens. Would like letter of support to take to candidates. Liz B. to circulate to board for final approval and follow up with John in a week.
 - **The Lowertown Echo (Merle Reid)**
 - Giulia Nastase is the current editor and Merle Reid is selling advertising. They quadrupled the advertising revenues for this edition but more advertising means less space for articles. They are not

sure that the model is sustainable to continue as-is and may want the paper to move online. Will be developing a business case for presentation to the LCA board.

- Merle and Giulia desperately need people to help with layout and design! If interested, please contact thelowertownecho@gmail.com.
 - The LCA is also looking for people to help update our website. If interested, please contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca.
 - **Ottawa Comprehensive Community Sustainability Project (Josie Howitt, Enviro Centre)**
 - The Enviro Centre is a local, non-profit organization that has been operating for 15 years. Their mandate is community sustainability and energy conservation. The Enviro Boutique is located across the street from Loblaws on Rideau Street.
 - Three-year project (2014-2017) with environmental and community development objectives that is funded by Ottawa Trillium Foundation.
 - The project objectives are cost-savings & improved home health for residents; engaging 6 Ottawa communities with: energy conservation, water conservation, sustainable transportation, and local food.
 - First year of the project will be community consultation and establishment of working groups.
 - Second year: continue work with initial communities and bring on three new communities.
 - Third year: consolidation of programs and initiatives, social enterprise development
 - They will be hosting an open house in October. Information is forthcoming.
 - Contact: josie.howitt@envirocentre.ca, phone: 613 656 0100 ext 115, Website: envirocentre.ca
 - **Byward Market BIA Update (Jasna Jennings, Director)**
 - **Lowertown Harvest:** Oct 3-5, will be free family programming, food and drink element (local foods available in Market).
 - **Canadian Comedy Festival:** will be doing evening shows behind CTV and busking spot in Williams St. square at lunch.
 - **Nuit Blanche:** September 20, will be over 50 installation in Byward Market
- 7. Events – Updates:**
- **All-Candidates Debates (Liz Bernstein)**
 - September 15: organizing debate with ten other organizations, The Future of Transportation, 7pm at the Centre de service Guigues on Murray Street.
 - October 15: LCA all-candidates debate, also at 7pm at Centre de service Guigues.

Adjourned 9:00pm