

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

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

- **Board Directors Present:** Liz Bernstein (President), Jan-François Grabowiecki (Vice President), John Chenier (Director, Community Outreach), Donna Kearns (Director, Business Outreach), Sylvie Grenier (Director, Planning), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary)
 - **Appointed Liaisons:** Michelle Ramsay Borg (Communications Liaison), Nancy Miller Chenier (Co-Chair, Heritage Committee), Norman Moyer (Safety and Security Liaison)
 - **Community Members Present:** 20
1. **Welcome and Introductions / Mots de bienvenue et introductions (Liz Bernstein)**
 - Roundtable introductions.
 2. **Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Liz Bernstein)**
 - December agenda and November meeting notes approved.
 3. **Announcement of the LCA's Appointed Liaisons / Annonce des liaisons nommées de l'ACB-V (Liz Bernstein)**
 - Annual General Meeting was in November, new Board of Directors elected.
 - Also confirmed appointment of liaisons in some areas. Still working on confirming others. Those confirmed to date are:
 - Michelle Ramsay Borg, Communications Liaison
 - Giulia Nastase, Echo Editor in Chief
 - Merle Reid, Echo Advertising Coordinator
 - Mario Gasperetti, Co-Chair, Planning Committee
 - Nancy Miller Chenier, Co-Chair, Heritage Committee
 - Amber Clarke, Membership Liaison
 - Norman Moyer, Safety and Security Liaison
 4. **Winterfest Update (Katherine Van Meyl, Lowertown Our Home Coordinator, Lowertown Community Resource Centre)**
 - Winterfest: February 16, 2015 (Family Day), 1-4pm at Jules Morin Park.
 - Activities will include: BBQ, bouncy castle, carriage rides, kids activities.
 - Working with partners: Enbridge, Ottawa Police Services, Crime Prevention Ottawa.
 - Looking for volunteers: e-mail info@lowertown-basseville.ca.
 - Would like financial contribution from LCA. In general, LCA supports Winterfest. President to speak with Treasurer regarding contribution and then will follow up with Katherine.
 - Next Winterfest meeting: December 18, 6:30pm at Lowertown Community Resource Centre.
 5. **Special Feature Presentation : Tree Ottawa (Velta, Ecology Ottawa)**
 - Goal is to plan 1 million trees within Ottawa city limits by Canada's 150th birthday.
 - Engaging with many Ottawans and community organizations.
-

- Want to plant and protect trees, and protect tree habitats.
 - Also would like people to take ownership of trees through “adopt a tree”: commitment is to water tree once per week. Includes trees on public property.
 - Soft launch of Tree Ottawa was October 2013 at Bingham Park.
 - Would like to know if there is interest for further tree planting in Lowertown and locations. Suggestions from Tree Ottawa are:
 - Jules Morin Park (currently has trees infected by Emerald Ash Borer disease that will need to be taken down in next three to five years).
 - Beausoleil Drive in area near existing schools and site for proposed construction of two buildings.
 - York Street (has many ash trees that are infected and will need to be taken down).
 - Bordeleau Park (someone in neighbourhood has already expressed interest. FIFA Women’s World Cup want to “leave a legacy” and are interested in tree planting near soccer fields).
 - Suggestions from community:
 - Bingham Park: many trees dying and people using park move toward trees.
 - Bordeleau Park: Suggestion that people in this area would likely be interested in adopting trees.
 - Suggestion to have more tree-lined roads. Has much impact.
 - May not be attainable for next planting season. Working with City and may be possible in future.
 - Tree Ottawa has a petition for City of Ottawa to develop strong forest management strategy, including planning for tree planting as part of street-scaping.
 - Medians on St. Patrick and King Edward are recommended.
 - Put trees everywhere that was mentioned and lots of them! Boulevard on Beausoleil likely has room to plant trees and would enhance that neighbourhood.
 - Trees are for people and focus should be on parks not roads.
 - Cumberland Street needs trees to enhance the streetscape.
 - Trees contribute to traffic calming and would be beneficial on King Edward Avenue.
 - Tree Ottawa is a three-year initiative. Possible to start a tree planting initiative within the LCA. Number of trees to be planted depends on the site. Hundreds of trees are possible. The City makes the final decision.
 - Variety of trees to be planted: second time mass dying-off has occurred because of mono-culture planting. City is now looking at varied types of trees. Tree Ottawa is advocating for native species that are hardy and viable for the weather.
 - Can make request for coniferous trees to enhance winter landscaping.
 - Can make request to the City to have trees planted on private property. Have to agree to water the tree for four years and notify the City if it has any problems.
 - If not room to plant trees because of surface parking lots, etc, is there possibility to plant trees in large planters?
 - Building partnerships with Conservation Authority, FIFA World Cup, etc to sponsor more trees. Looking for additional sponsors.
 - PPS report is priority for LCA and could encourage more plantings in the Byward Market.
 - Next steps for Tree Ottawa: will contact Forestry Services to obtain their plan for Lowertown. Set up time for Forrester to go for walk with LCA and identify locations. Have community meeting to discuss plan. Set up planting dates. Spring planting will be dependent on the City but may not be until the Fall.
- 6. Areas of Interest – Updates / Sujets d’intérêts particuliers– Mises à jour :**
- **Planning Update / Mise à jour du Comité de planification (Bob Tritt for Sylvie Grenier)**
 - **Upper Rideau Community development Plan:** some meetings in the summer but no movement. Next meeting is in January.
 - **Review of the Dalhousie Re-Zoning Plan:** process is complete. Report was approved by Council. LCA recommendation that Dalhousie be taken off list was not taken but report recommends status quo



except for two most northern blocks (Cathcart – Boteler). Will be zoned as Traditional Main Street but with four-storey height limit (same as current) but additional commercial uses will be permitted.

- **Basilica Parking Lot:** Archdiocese requested that temporary parking lot be made permanent. LCA has opposed the request on the grounds that the Archdiocese tore down two heritage buildings in 2003 on the condition that parking lot be temporary and that they would re-build. Parking lot is contrary to Official Plan.
- **Trinity Development:** site of former Jewish synagogue and cultural centre. Proposal is for 27 and 32 storey buildings with commercial at grade, located at Chapel and Rideau. Have requested that Councillor's office organize a community meeting for Lowertown and Sandy Hill with Trinity.
- **Environment Update / Mise à jour environnementale (Liz Bernstein)**
 - **Formation of City's Environment Committee:** will Councillor Fleury be on it and what is first agenda? Recommendation that Committee should not have fewer meetings than under previous council.
 - **Priority for LCA Environment Committee:** cycling and walkability.
- **Safety and Security Update / Mise à jour de sûreté et de sécurité (Norman Moyer)**
 - Made a request to OPS for ten years of statistics on criminal activities to better understand longer-term trends. Have submitted a formal freedom of information request. OPS will advise on cost within 30 days. Norman will advise board of costs and board will decide if budget is available.
 - Donna to attend BIA Safety and Security meeting in Norman's place on January 13.
- **Heritage Update / Mise à jour du patrimoine (Nancy Miller Chenier)**
 - **Ontario Municipal Board report issued November 18 2014 PL140212:** Ontario Municipal Board dismissed the appeal of the removal of the 1970s heritage overlay at the corner of Clarence Street along the east side of King Edward Avenue. The Board member (Mr M Denhaz) concluded his decision by noting his dissatisfaction with several elements of the City's actions including the lack of an adequate "paper trail." Mr Denhaz also emphasized that he needed more evidence from the community (and the city heritage staff) about the heritage significance –architectural, historic, cultural, or social - of the buildings. The Board in its decision:
 - Reminded the City that the preparation of Heritage Conservation District plans (including one for Lowertown West) are intended under the Ontario Heritage Act.
 - Questioned how the City's heritage section is supposed to fulfill its mandate without monetary resources and why it does not use the Built Heritage Subcommittee more.
 - Wondered about the assumption of City planners that "development" only comes in one format – redevelopment.
 - Disagreed with the City assumption that Provincial Policy Statement heritage provisions only refer to Ontario Heritage Act designated properties.
 - Noted the failure of the City's Official Plan to revitalize the lowrise buildings along King Edward and the absence of an actual strategy to guide investment.
 - Questioned why the City had no strategy for the other buildings that still exist in the remaining heritage overlay.
- **Community Activities:** Liz and Nancy will supervise a Carleton University student practicum from January to March. The student will do 10 hours research a week on Lowertown buildings identified for potential designation. She will focus on Macdonald Gardens and the trend to develop apartment buildings after the cemetery was converted to a park. A community member has also volunteered to help with the time-consuming task of doing historic titles searches for buildings identified for possible designation in Lowertown East.

We have also done background research on several houses on Rideau Street as well as 171 Bruyere St, a house in the Lowertown West Heritage Conservation District that is owned by Ottawa Community Housing. OCH does not want to invest further in the house and have suggested demolition and the development of a public space on the site. The house dates the Confederation era and was the home of one of Lowertown Irish families - Thomas O'Connor and Mary Curry.

- **Heritage Ottawa:** HO will host a Free Lecture Wednesday December 10 at the Main Library 7pm titled Art or Selfie? Canadian Portraits High and Low. Dr. Lilly Koltun a founder of the Portrait Gallery of Canada, is the guest speaker.
- **Communications Update / Mise à jour des communications (Michelle Ramsay-Borg on behalf of the Communications Team)**
 - New team on the Echo has quadrupled advertising revenue and is looking at a longer paper, with four pages of colour.
 - 400 subscribers for the facebook page. Plan is that e-newsletter will shrink once the facebook followers are up to 650 (current e-newsletter subscription). Facebook will have more current information, and will encourage an engaged and vibrant community.
 - Looking for volunteers for Echo and the website. E-mail info@lowertown-basseville.ca if you want to help. Need someone to help with Echo advertising and someone to coordinate delivery. Delivery coordinator needs to be someone with a porch or garage.

7. Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du conseiller

Present from the Councillor's Office: Mathieu Fleury, Nathaniel Mullin

- **Walkability Audit:** would like to do another winter version. Problem zones are outside of the market area. Councillor Fleury to coordinate with Liz B.
 - Suggestion to consider locations of community mailboxes and snow clearance.
- **City coordination of snow clearing policy:** priority clearance for major roads does not work in Lowertown because of high pedestrian density. Councillor Fleury will coordinate with LCA.
- **Re-surfacing of St. Patrick:** multi-use pathway will be built next year. Want to map local community cycling routes via geo-mapping. Want to do more sharrows and line painting, work towards more segregated lanes. Send e-mail with suggestions to the Councillor's Office.
- **Chapel/Rideau Proposal:** City Planner and Manager to be present, along with Trinity for a community meeting. Will likely be January.
- **Western Portion of Rideau:** will host meeting for staff to present working-group findings to community. For example, would like to have combined STO/OC Transpo bus stops.
- **Parsons Engineering Truck Tunnel Study:** to be released in new year.

Questions:

- Request for traffic calming on Beausoleil, particularly at the end of the school day. Development proposal will increase pressure in this area.
 - Has been study done on traffic flow in area. Will be presented with recommendations.
- Status of PPS report?
 - Streetscaping options are for full implementation or phased.
 - Other areas in study are future phases of implementation.
 - Public consultation: focus is to get it on Council priorities to ensure funding and then consultation will follow to make recommendations about specific aspects. Follow up in February/March on consultation.

- Process for putting priorities on Planning Committee agenda: adoption of heritage conservation district and study on heritage in southeast portion of Lowertown west.
- Councillor Fleury to have discussion with LCA board directors about priorities, then get on agenda.
- Comment that tax increase should be based on maintaining services at least at level and increasing if needed to have key services enhanced.
- Question about Our Lady School and whether property owner is paying for encroachment of lane closures on Cumberland and Murray: yes and will pay retro-actively based on recent court proceedings.
- Lauzon demolished properties (Our Lady and properties on King Edward Avenue): have five-year window to re-develop properties. Big fines if property is not re-developed within that timeframe. Substantial completion (defined by Ontario Superior Court judge) required within five years.
- Councillor Fleury committed to message strongly to the Archdiocese that surface parking lot is not what we want as a community. Need to articulate constructively what we want to see as a community.
- Surface Parking Lots: what is longer-term plan by City? Would like to have a strategy for proactively addressing these kinds of properties and working with owners.
- Councillor Fleury willing to work with LCA to identify these properties and work to proactively look at zoning to protect community.

6. Community Interest and Events / Intérêt communautaire et Événements:

- Call for volunteers:
 - Bingham Park Rink volunteer orientation is December 12, 7:00pm
 - Echo delivery and advertising, website development
 - Environment and walkability

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm