

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

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 11 MARCH 2013 / 11 MARS 2013
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE @ 7 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER à 19h

- **Board members present:** Marc Aubin (President), Liz Bernstein (Vice President), Mike Kirkpatrick (Treasurer), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary), Michelle Ramsay Borg (Director, Communications), Sylvie Grenier (Director, Planning Committee), Steve Monuk (Director, Business Liaison), Vera Etches (Director, Members/Volunteers), Nancy Miller-Chenier (Heritage Committee Co-Chair), Liz Mackenzie (Heritage Committee Co-Chair), Norman Moyer (Byward Market Security & Safety Committee Liaison)
 - **Total community members present: 22**
1. Welcome Remarks / Mots de bienvenue (Marc Aubin)
 - Welcome and introductions of all present.
 2. Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Marc Aubin)
 - Meeting agenda and notes from February meeting approved.
 3. Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du Bureau du conseiller
 - Present from the Councillor's Office: Mathieu Fleury (Councillor) and Nathaniel Mullin
 - Derelict properties: The mayor and councillors are developing a proactive campaign to deal with derelict properties and launched a media campaign last week that showcased an example of one such property. The campaign lays out what the City would like to see in terms of property standards maintenance for uninhabited buildings. They are currently looking at the City bylaws to determine what changes need to be made in order to address property standards. The basic concept is that buildings should not appear uninhabited from the sidewalk/street (for example, they must have windows and a door). Another issue is how to address buildings that have been vacant for many years. For example, the university has several abandoned buildings.
 - Action Item:** Request from a resident that the Councillor come back to an LCA meeting and speak to the bylaw changes before they are enacted.
 - Byward Market Study (PPS Report): The report is complete and is being reviewed by City departments to generate short and long-term recommendations. The report and recommendations will be presented to the study steering committee in the next few weeks (includes the LCA). The steering committee will have an opportunity to comment on the recommendations.
 - Jules Morin Park: The City is currently looking at structure options, which will include options for all ages. The City is also working on the park's grading. The goal is to be able to see across the park and to have all areas well lit. The City is removing the rusted fence, re-doing the wading pool and fixing up the playing fields. Work on the park will continue all summer and into the fall. The grass will either be planted or sod will be laid this summer. Access to the park will be limited this summer because of all the work. This will be a challenge for summer camps.
 - Question about movies in the park and where they will be held this summer: movies may be held at Macdonald Gardens or somewhere else. The Councillor's Office will help the LCRC committee working on this issue to find a new location.

-Question from a resident about funding for the Jules Morin Park: Lifecycle money is being used for the main park building. The building needed to be renewed because of earthquake damage. The cost of the rink was offset by a community grant. The rest of the park upgrades are from development charges. The number of structures in the park will increase over time as additional money from development charges becomes available. The total likely cost for the park redevelopment will be \$3-4M. Most of the planting work will be finished by fall but there may be a few additional items planted next spring.

-Bingham Park: There is a finite amount of money from development funds to address park upgrades. The Councillor's Office recognizes that this park needs attention.

-Sussex renewal: The Councillor met with City staff two weeks ago. There is no resolution with the NCC on the road allowance in front of the houses. The NCC will make a proposal and there will be discussion/consultation. There would be consultation with the LCA before any sign-off.

-Greenhouse Gas Roundtable: Comment from the LCA that Councillor Fleury's office has been very helpful in moving the event forward. Question about next steps: The roundtable will be on March 23. There is no agenda yet. Councillor Fleury will be attending. Residents can suggest agenda items to the Councillor's office.

-Action Item: Councillor's office to set up a meeting with Liz Bernstein to discuss and prepare for the roundtable.

4. Ottawa Police Update (Constable Ryan Pierce)

-There is not much to report on that is specific to Lowertown, which is good news.

-The OPS March focus is school buses and school zones: This should help to address a resident's concern about vehicles not stopping when required for school buses on Cumberland.

-OPS is also focusing on the Rideau Street corridor. They are partnering with agencies, including OC Transpo and City of Ottawa Bylaw Officers to try to clean it up.

-With the warmer weather, theft from vehicles will likely increase. Prevention is important: be sure to lock your door (double check) and report suspicious incidents (for example, someone out of place in a laneway). The incident may not mean something to you but may be significant to an OPS officer's investigation. Suspicious incidents can be reported to 613-230-6211. This takes your call directly to an OPS dispatcher but is not a 911 call.

-Bordeleau Park has a camera and microphone to pick up noise after 11:00pm. This information is monitored by the City, who contact police for follow-up if they hear/see anything suspicious.

-For more information on OPS activity in Lowertown, you can subscribe to Constable Pierce's Twitter feed at @rockcliffecpc. Residents can also subscribe to OPS crime reports at: http://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/CrimeFiles/CrimeMaps_Reports/cr_redirect.aspx.

-St. Patrick's Day strategies: Last year was very busy, likely due in part to the warm weather. The parties started early. The OPS is working proactively this year with community groups to be out and about, and identifying problem areas. The OPS will have increased staffing to deal with the forecasted increase in calls. Constable Pierce recommends making calls once a situation becomes disruptive (ie. don't wait to make a call until the incident becomes a 500 person street party).

5. Byward Market BIA Update (Marc Aubin, written update provided by Jasna Jennings)

-Jasna has seen a draft of the PPS report and from the BIA perspective, it contains nothing surprising and she believes that overall most will be pleased with the recommendations.

6. Areas of Interest – Updates / Champs d'intérêt – Mise à jour:

- Planning Update / Mise à jour du Comité de planification (Sylvie Grenier)

 - Claridge Proposal: The period for providing comments closed last Friday. The heritage element (Union du Canada Building) will go to the Heritage Committee on 20 March. There is currently no date set for the item to go to the Planning Committee. Sylvie understands that many changes have been made to proposal, including the addition of more storeys.
 - 198 Clarence: The LCA has received a re-zoning application for this address. It is a two storey building on the SW corner of Clarence and Cumberland. The current zoning is for commercial on the ground floor and residential on the upper level. The City's secondary plan identifies the area as a residential enclave so commercial businesses must close by 11:00pm. The request is for a restaurant and wine bar on both floors with about 40 seats for patrons. The item was discussed at an LCA Planning Committee meeting but there was no consensus on whether or not to support the request. Residents attending the LCA meeting were asked if anyone living close by has strong feelings about request. A resident living half a block away sees the block between Cumberland and Murray as a buffer between the Byward Market and residential area and doesn't want to see bars creeping into the residential area. The resident further indicated that many neighbours have written in opposition to the request.
- Environment Update / Mise à jour environnementale (Liz Bernstein)

 - Greenhouse Gas Roundtable: The event will be on March 23. It is an opportunity for the City to refresh the expired climate change plan. Over 200 people have already indicated an interest in participating. The event is open to all residents but there is currently a waiting list for participants. Residents can write in or let Liz know if you'd like her to share any comments/concerns (info@lowertown-basseville.ca). Liz will update the LCA after the event.
- Heritage Update / Mise à jour héritage (Liz MacKenzie and Nancy Miller-Chenier)

 - The Committee's goal is to tell the story of built heritage in Lowertown. They do this though collecting oral histories and photographs, doing research on buildings, and giving walking tours. They are guided by the Ontario Heritage Act, which has three criteria for heritage assessment: design value, historical value and contextual value for the community
 - Our Lady school: This was built in 1905 as an English Catholic school for St. Brigid's Parish and is within the Lowertown West Heritage District. They are working with the Irish community to collect storeys related to the school.
 - Union du Canada building: this is the tallest building within the Byward Market Heritage Conservation District. It is reflective of Expo 67 architecture. Louis J Lapierre was the architect and the building was constructed for a French Canadian insurance company. Claridge is proposing to strip the building exterior and change the windows. The LCA Heritage Committee refers to this as "demolition by the back door". Many people see the Union du Canada as landmark building.
 - La Nouvelle Scène (theatre on King Edward Avenue): the owner is planning to construct a modern theatre building that would house about five theatre groups. The LCA Heritage Committee is talking to them about heritage displays for their new lobby.
 - Marc Aubin will be giving a lecture at the Metcalfe branch of the Ottawa Public Library on Wednesday March 20 at 7:00pm about the history of Lowertown. This event is being held on the International Day of La Francophonie.

- Safety and Security Update / Mise à jour de sûreté et de sécurité (Norman Moyer)
 - The BIA Safety and Security Committee will be discussing strategies for Canada Day: do residents have concerns that Norman should be aware of? One resident stated how impressed they were by the orderliness and fun of last year's event. The BIA is expecting Sunday June 30 to be busier than a usual Sunday because the Monday (July 1) will be a holiday.
 - A number of comments were made about the incursion of sandwich boards onto sidewalks and the challenges this poses, especially when combined with patios, for pedestrians and those on scooters or other mobility-assistance devices. They are also a safety issue.
 - Action Item:** The LCA to request to send a joint letter with the BIA to their membership to remind businesses of sandwich board by-laws.

-A resident also questioned the bylaw for businesses playing loud music: music can be played from inside the building but speakers would not be allowed outside the building if they encroach past the edge of the building (hanging or on the ground). The business would need an exemption to the encroachment bylaw.

-Question to residents about whether more bike racks are needed: also hard for pedestrians to get by on the sidewalk when people chain bikes to poles and then the bikes fall over.
- Membership and Volunteers / L'adhésion et bénévoles (Vera Etches)
 - The LCA distribution list has grown to 600 people.
 - It is also helpful if people provide addresses so we can ensure all of Lowertown is represented.
 - A challenge has been connecting with people in condo buildings. If residents living in a building would be interested in acting as "connectors" with the LCA, please let Vera know (info@lowertown-basseville.ca).
 - Thank you to the rink volunteers for all of their work this winter.
 - The monthly newsletter highlights the most urgent volunteer needs.
- 5. Events – Updates / Événements – Mise à jour:
 - LCA involvement in Winterfest / Participation de l'ACBV au Festival d'hiver
 - The Winterfest was very successful. The LCA served food to 250 people but could have served many more. Thank you to Steve Monuk for a donation towards the food.
 - The festival was organized in partnership with the Lowertown Community Resource Centre.
 - The LCA had an interesting heritage display and costumes.
 - Thursday March 14 at 7pm, there will be a presentation at St. Brigid's on the history of Lowertown and construction of the Rideau Canal. Free admission.
- 6. LCA meeting locations / Lieu de réunions de l'ACBV (Marc Aubin)
 - The LCA is looking into possible meeting locations on the east side of King Edward Avenue so that meeting locations could rotate between the east and west sides to make it easier for everyone from Lowertown to attend. The LCA has looked into options but have not found anything free. Le Patro is not a city-owned community centre so would not allow the LCA to meet for free. We could meet at the LCRC but their meeting room only holds 20 people. The Councillor's Office agreed to help the LCA look into options and noted that the Vanier Community Association has same type of challenges with north and south of Montreal Road. Several residents commented that changing the meeting location may cause confusion, particularly for those that attend meetings sporadically. It

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was suggested that the LCA alternate event locations to ensure engagement across the community but maintain meetings at the Routhier Centre.

Meeting adjourned: 8:10pm

Next meeting date is 8 April 2013 / La prochaine réunion aura lieu le 8 avril 2013