

## LCA Meeting minutes 11th September, 2017

Meeting time: 7-8:40pm

### 1. Introductions

Liz Bernstein opens the meeting. Welcomes everyone.

Board members present themselves:

Liz Bernstein, President. John Chenier, Vice President. Sandra Milton, Safety and Security Committee. Thierry Harris Vice President. Liz MacKenzie Heritage Chair. Ted Lawrence, Treasurer. Catherine Hacksel Housing and Homelessness Chair.

Absent: Peter Ferguson, Planning Committee Chair.

### 2. Pop-up site issue

Liz B introduces Thierry H to present an update on the survey. Thierry mentions close to 250 answers so far. Mentions survey is not perfect and apologizes for the 24h delay in getting French version up. Results will be released in a couple of weeks.

Liz B thanks Thierry and introduces Catherine H. to present from Overdose Prevention Ottawa.

Catherine from OPO presents her slides for 15 minutes and the floor is open for questions.

Clarification questions from community members:

- What is the goal once open. Response: To get services as quickly as possible
- Health Cda does not acknowledge this site. Response: It is not legal
- As a sitting board member of the LCA this is a conflict of interest. Response: Liz stated we are aware
- Asked who provided the drugs, food and drink. Response: Drugs provided by clients, equipment by organizations, food by volunteers.
- Why did you not consult the neighbourhood. Response: The decision of location was based on logistics and immediate need
- Who is paying for this pop up. Response: It is donation
- Why that location not Sandy hill. Response: After setup no liability insurance...

Councillor Fleury :

Acknowledges not following regulation as a tactic that the group used.

Location was due to the proximity, flow, activity of clients.

Ottawa public health, bylaw services, legal team at the city working on best approach for this.

Ottawa Police Service criminal code Officers Mitch and Sebastian can speak to it.

Addiction more treatment and more cohesive response. Sanctioned sit in place. The advocacy will change if a site is open and sanctioned. Public Health with Sandy Hill, bylaw and police to find a solution. If a sanctioned site by an official agency with a board of governance is opened by the end of the week, not in the park the group will cease.

Question from the Community : Why did the mayor not show up to the local meeting yesterday? No direct response from Councillor.

Community Speaker: The group are breaking rules without penalty. What are you going to do about that, the criminal code? Response from Councillor: The police to speak to that.

Community Speaker: This group is legally disposing of hazardous waste. Illegality for biohazard. Presenter Response: Handling used drug equip is to dropped off at public health.

Community Speaker: Encouraging trafficking on King Edward and St Andrew and setting-up behind a youth Community Centre. Councillor Fleury Response: The LCA had a presentation in the spring at different service points where they are in their shelters it is about a coordinated approach. The exemption reduction should be in all the pillars. Wendy Muckles from Inner City Health the presentation is on the website.

Community Speaker: Directed to Liz B.- Disappointed of the lack of transparency with having Catherine on the board and then presenting. If in another neighbourhood this facility would not have stayed up more than 1 day. Children running up to the tent and taking chips, should not be feeding them, a treat will invite them back. You put it in a park with kids!

Community Speaker : Never saw a kid in that park ever, it's an oversized bus stop and for bill boards!

Community Speaker: Do not disagree, only with the way it is handled. An illegal activity, and request it be shut down!

Councillor Fleury (speaks): I am not a bylaw officer and am working with the City legal team.

Community Speaker: Then who makes the decision?

Community Speaker: This is a health issue.

Community Speaker Joel Weiner: Federal legislation are arresting and closing marijuana shops.

Councillor Fleury: We tried to close 5 of them.

Community Speaker: Then why are we not closing this site.

Community Speaker: This is setting unfortunate precedence and will Sandy Hill community now want it to proceed. Consultation is required. Build champions and allies.

Community Speaker: Children 7-9 years old go to the tent.

Community Speaker: Causeway Program picking up needles and paraphernalia this is the only community that has that service. Support all other illegal activities i.e dogs off leash  
Community Speaker Arman: People are now sleeping in back of house and at St Brigids. It may have been thought as a good idea, but is changing the neighbourhood.

Community Speaker: This is a legality appealing to the law when we wish. Do not feel safe in the area because of drunk drivers not the drug addicts. At a previous LCA we had site presentations and discussions, none of you showed up. Because of this popup we have a full room. As a political statement it is very good.

Community Speaker : Due to it being successful will it be setup elsewhere?

Presenter Response: There is a death once a week. The last was 3 days ago. Not in the Pop-up site.

Community Speaker: If following the need – should be going to Shepherd’s

Community Speaker: General comment to Liz B. the general feeling in the room without general consultation in the community is we are uncomfortable with a sitting board member if she continues with the pop-up site then should not be on the board.

Community Speaker: The room does not assume emotional response to the supreme court case, and does not feel the same thing as Catherine does. This community has exposure of side effects of social services. Civil disobedience and breaking the law then bad things happen. You phrase this in the way people think that you are casual about breaking the law.

Community Speaker: I am impressed with the site but fed up with this. Declare victory and close and go to other communities.

Police question to: Sebastian, Mitch

Why are the police not closing this site down?

Response: The police have answered calls, communicated with Councillors office and will be follow up. The police have allowed this to happen. Protestor was told to leave with a dog on a leash. Criminal code, health and safety violations act. The mayor and chief they enforce the criminal code. Occupying the parl is dealt with Councillor Fleury's office. Dealing and using drugs.

Community Speaker: Why raid pot shops? Police Response: They are not selling. It is a political issue once a solution has come up. The police will do what is asked.

Community Speaker: The police have to have suspicion.

Community Speaker: Are you powerless? Police Response: It is for higher-up's to decide. The Park is one thing, then narcotic law is another.

Community Speaker: Who has the authority? Police Response: Send an email to the chief of police.

Councillor Fleury: A community asked about his swearing in as Councillor ... He agreed that his swearing is to uphold all laws of this country. You have the ability to appeal an official record.

Question to Councillor Fleury: Who owns this?

1. Clear green light legal, public health go out and enforce them.
2. Strategy to bring forth solution i.e. Legally sanctioned through Health Canada to work with other official agencies. Stated: not in a park.

Community Speaker: Stated this organization is not trustworthy.

The LCA President Liz Bernstein asked Councillor Fleury to get this agreement / approval as fast as possible.

Councillor Fleury stated: The Agreement to be signed and able to create a solution that no one is left behind i.e a community expectation to close this down and do not want people to die.

Community Speaker: What does the city intend to do if they pop up in another community as this is an issue we are struggling with at centre town park. Discussion ensued that this is not the same as it was a meth kitchen.

End of questions. Liz B thanks everyone for their participation. Mentions the following meeting is October 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.