

## **Lowertown Community Association – General Meeting**

December 12, 2016

**Board members:** Liz M, Liz B, John Chenier, Ted, Peter Ferguson, Giulia

Councillor Fleury

24 people total

### **1. Review and approval of minutes from last month's meeting**

- a. No changes to the notes from last month.

### **2. Ecology Ottawa re: Energy East pipeline**

#### **a. What is it?**

- large project proposed, using old pipeline from Saskatchewan used for natural gas. Convert to use for bitumen to go across Canada, all the way out to New Brunswick
- crosses a number of water sheds
- central concern is for spills/leaks
- in response to concerns over leaks, company noted they have leak detection technology; but research suggests that this type of technology only catches 20% of spills
- larger risk associated with converted pipelines (pipelines that used to be used for something else) – as the lines weren't originally built to carry the material
- another significant concern is the content of the proposed pipeline – bitumen from the tar sands, which doesn't respond well to conventional spill containment methods. Sinks to the bottom, doesn't float on the top and is not easy to contain or clean up.

#### **b. Local issues**

Savaria Report: conducted a risk assessment for Ottawa surrounding the possibility of a leak or spill. Suggests that a spill would make its way into all water intakes in Ottawa and Gatineau within two to three days. Also suggests that the proposed containment methods would not be very effective at limiting the spread (such as gates to close off tributaries). Bitumen sinks (does not float on the surface like refined oil), and as such is very difficult to clean.

Rideau River impacts: a spill or leak could have significant impacts for the Ottawa region. The structure of water intakes and rivers in the Ottawa area make potential limiting methods and clean up very difficult.

#### **c. General environmental issues**

Climate change: if all proposed pipelines are approved, other industries would have to make massive cuts to their environmental impact. Not likely. Given all these risks, we should seriously reconsider our reliance on oil and our approval of the construction of more pipelines.

Canada should take a serious look at the push for continued growth of the oil industry and reliance on fossil fuels – for many reasons. Including it not being a sustainable energy source and the environmental risks it poses.

Should the oil industry be allowed to grow exponentially – as much as it wants? If you think yes, then the pipeline makes sense. If not, then why would we support this project that poses significant environmental risks and supports the continued reliance on fossil fuels?

Additional considerations for Aboriginal rights – with pipelines running through Indigenous lands.

### **Action ideas**

1. Ecology Ottawa has a petition that residents can sign to show their support to Ecology Ottawa and opposition to the pipeline
2. Residents can volunteer with the organization
3. LCA as a community group can speak out to the City to give a position on the pipeline

### **3. Ottawa Police Service – Walter Duhme at OPS**

-67 shootings this year so far for the City of Ottawa – seeing a link to gang activity. Just over half across the city are believed to gang-related.

-number of homicides for this year has tripled from this time last year

#### **Rundown of major incidents in Lowertown**

-Lowertown has had 7 reported shootings this year -seeing more stabbings in Ottawa lately, and particularly in Lowertown

-Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at Rideau and Nelson

-Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at Rideau and Dalhousie

-Oct 14<sup>th</sup> at 100 block of George St.

-highlights of some major interpersonal injury crimes

#### **Resources & Initiatives**

-five dedicated ‘zone’ cars for Lowertown/Sandy Hill, which overlap at peak times

-overview of other teams/targeted policing groups

-overview of specific initiatives, such as police pairing with the University of Ottawa and Ottawa By-law services to ensure the back to school transition was safe for students and residents

#### **Overview of Safe Streets Act**

-panhandling is not a crime in itself – totally legal

-it’s when it becomes aggressive that it becomes illegal under the Safe Streets Act

-meaning of ‘aggressive panhandling’

-soliciting a captive audience (such as at an ATM, bus stop or in traffic)

#### **Contact Information**

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#### **4. Update from Councillor Fleury**

All city sidewalks should have been plowed twice over the past two days; if you notice tonight an area not plowed, call the city to report it.

Bridges back open after restoration work

Budget 2017: thanks to members of the LCA for speaking to budget issues at various budget committees.

Winter portion of the George St Plaza construction is now complete. Will return in the spring to do finishing touches like benches, lights, greenery, etc.