

LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

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

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 14 MARCH 2016 / 14 MARS 2016
JULES MORIN PARK FIELD HOUSE, 7-9:00 PM / PAVILLON DU PARC JULES MORIN, 19h-21h

- **Board members present:** Liz Bernstein (President), John Chenier (Vice President), Nathalie Martin (Vice President), Liz Mackenzie (Director, Heritage), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary), Donna Kearns (Director, Business Outreach), Ted Lawrence (Treasurer)
 - **Appointed liaisons present:** Nancy Miller Chenier (Co-chair, Heritage Committee), Norman Moyer (Liasion, Byward Market Safety and Security Committee), Sylvie Grenier (Liaison, Byward Market Core Team), Sandra Pilote (Liaison, Lowertown East Resident's Association)
 - Community members present: 21
1. **Welcome and Introductions / Mots de bienvenue et introductions (Liz Bernstein, President)**
 - Welcome and round table introductions.
 - The board of directors want to hear from residents about their preferences for meeting locations and thoughts on alternating between Jules Morin Park and the Routhier Community Centre.
 - Noted that Annual General Meeting will be June 13 at the Jules Morin Park field house.
 2. **Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Liz Bernstein, President)**
 - February meeting notes and March meeting agenda approved.
 3. **Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du conseiller**
 - **Present from the Councillor's Office:** Councillor Mathieu Fleury, Emeline Sparks
 - **ByWard Market Revitalization:** Plan reviewed by City finance and audit first week of May. Four public sessions coming up to discuss zoning, governance review and streetscaping. George Street Plaza streetscaping (between William and ByWard) construction will happen at end of summer 2016 to prepare building facade for more work in 2017. Request to present at April LCA meeting.
 - **Combined Storage Sewer Tunnel:** Runs from Cumberland toward Bordeleau Park, impacts 19 properties (owners received notice). Tunnel in bedrock. Second phase of discussion with owners.
 - **Light Rail Transit:** Progressing toward Sussex Drive. Slow because of soil condition. Concerned about collapse, like at Laurier. Biggest platform and lots of excavation. Overall program is on track.
 - **2017 Funding:** Grants of up to \$5,000 announced for community groups. Applications due in May. Looking for innovation and creativity related to 2017 celebration. See www.ottawa2017.ca. Councillor's office willing to support application development.
 - **Beausoleil and Chapel:** Upset streets opened, even with 11 mitigation measures. Don't want cut through route. Funds available to re-close intersection if mitigation measures unsuccessful.
 - **Street Name Changes:** Charlotte Street and Parent Street. Will be Lower Charlotte Street and maybe Elisabeth Street. Working with Nuns to recognize their work in the area (Parent).
 - **BIA Growth:** Expansion of Rideau BIA to Cummings Bridge. Also want properties of institutional use (NAC, ByTown Museum) to be included. Northern border of George Street is contentious, as some businesses (Rinaldo, Chapters, Bay) advertise as being in ByWard Market but are part of Rideau BIA. Voting is underway. Councillor Fleury supports Rideau BIA extension to Cummings Bridge. Border issue will be resolved through individual discussions. Question about potential to merge BIAs and combine their budgets to increase effectiveness. Up to businesses to decide.

LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

Councillor welcomes discussion about different ways of looking at situation to ensure that BIAs represent all businesses and not just bars and restaurants.

- **Ottawa Police Services (OPS):** Need budget efficiencies to hire more officers. Have decided will not respond to noise complaints. Means ByLaw officers cannot escalate noise complaints for large parties. Currently, after 3:30am, calls to ByLaw are re-routed to OPS. As of May 1, will refuse calls. Downtown Councillors are working to reverse decision. Will be looking for community support. Need OPS more involved in community. Want to see administrative efficiencies, not service cuts.
- **Public Libraries:** Major issues, could see central library east of canal. Hopeful it will be in ByWard Market or Ottawa University zone. Two proposed locations are in Centretown and two are west of Bronson. Concerned that west of Bronson would be too far for pedestrian traffic. Downtown Councillors want to see public consultation on location criteria.
- **King Edward Tunnel:** Six options being analyzed that connect Macdonald Cartier Bridge to Highway 416. In the City Manager's Office. Next will go to Committee table.
- **Bingham Park Fence:** Councillor Fleury to look into when construction barricades will come down.

4. **Special Presentation: Staff Recommendations on the Permanent Signs on Private Property By-law Review / Présentation spéciale : Recommandations du personnel sur le règlement concernant les affiches permanentes (Sarah Newell, City of Ottawa / Ville d'Ottawa)**

- By-law has not been reviewed since 2005 and City landscape and technology have changed since then. Public consultation was launched in 2015. Report and new bylaw will go to Planning Committee in mid-2016. Signage objectives are to improve public safety, good design and fit, and economic development. Looking for more balanced approach within the three objectives.
- Public safety: based on best practices in regulation, informed by current knowledge (ex. set-backs from intersections, separation between signs, and frequency of electronic message changes).
- Context sensitive signage: linked closer to overall City design objectives and categories in zoning bylaw (ex. graduated approach to sign permissions near residential and sensitive environmental areas, and respect for heritage conservation districts (HCD)).
- Proposed direction: allowing and regulating new types of signs, including illuminated window signs, video screens and projected images. Cannot regulate existing signs, only new signs. Key changes will include changes to electronic message centres, and mitigation of signage impacts in mixed-use areas through smaller scale signs/types of signs permitted and locations.
- **Questions:**
- LCA letter to City about bylaw changes noted that Lowertown is a mixed-use area (residential and commercial). Recommended that City include "livability" as a review objective.
 - Response: Livability is included in "context sensitive" review element. Challenge to achieve balance and accommodate all interests.
- LCA letter recommended having special requirements for HCD, such as the ByWard Market.
 - Response: Will now be zones so that, for example, ByWard Market commercial area can be treated separately from other commercial zones. Working with National Capital Commission to align with Illumination Plan.
- Opportunity for residents to provide additional input?
 - Response: Directions paper to be posted to City website within ten days, with opportunity for residents to provide comments.
- Concern that electronic sign changes moving from six minutes to 20 seconds will make signs more visible. What is rationale? Signs become part of noise and light pollution.
 - Response: Safety report indicates that 20 seconds is reasonable.
- What takes precedence for zoning if a road goes through multiple zones? Example, arterial road that goes through an HCD. Example, new hotel at King Edward and St. Patrick will be across from

LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

Tim Hortons and family-oriented co-op housing complex. Will the hotel be allowed to put up large electronic signage that changes every 20 seconds?

- Response: HCD component could be super-imposed on arterial road so requirements for that section of the road are different than elsewhere. Noted concern with specific property.
- Question about grandfathered signs, specifically billboard signs in HCD that were approved despite being inappropriate for location and are not related to way-finding.
 - Response: No capacity to address existing signs unless substantial change, such as static billboard becoming digital.
- Concern that digital clock in ByWard Market competes with brightness of Peace Tower on Parliament Hill. Inappropriate for HCD. Suggestion to preserve sight lines of Parliament Hill. Suggestion to have gradients of signs so tall signs do not look as tall.
 - Response: Sign recently tested and readings demonstrate it is not as bright as it could be. Protection is in place for Parliamentary precinct.
- Concern about revitalization of ByWard Market and alignment to new signage bylaw. Need specific rules for ByWard Market to protect HCD and character of tourist district. Would like to see regulations for projected signs, such as on sidewalks versus on sides of buildings. Question about Nordstrom advertising projected from car onto building at Murray/Dalhousie.
 - Response: Projected sign not covered under new bylaw because not a permanent sign.
- How will bylaw be enforced? Cannot always be left to complaints. Suggestion to enforce more bylaws with fines, like parking enforcement, so generates revenue and dealt with proactively.
 - Response: City does not have resources to monitor everything. Proactively deal with safety concerns but generally deal with issues based on complaints. Fines not realistic because City has to give warning for most bylaws. Can't give immediate fines like with parking.
- Suggestion to give businesses guidelines and suggestions for appropriate signage. Think that businesses would be responsive if provided with examples. HCD already have guidelines for signage that could be incorporated.
 - Response: Agree that enforcement could be accompanied by education. Working with Heritage Planners at City to develop guidelines.

5. Areas of Interest – Updates / Sujets d'intérêts particuliers– Mises à jour :

Environment and Active Transportation Update / Mise à jour environnementale et du transports actifs (Liz Bernstein)

- Climate Protection motion approved at City Hall, supported by LCA.
- Encouraging motion to support best practices addressing traffic congestion enforcing speed limits. Petition at: www.safestreetsottawa.ca. LCA co-hosting April 27 event with Janette Sadik-Khan.
- Rideau LRT station designs online today for viewing.

Safety and Security Update / Mise à jour de sûreté et de sécurité (Norman Moyer)

- Asked residents to think about how LCA should be using crime data. Also looking for more Lowertown residents concerned about safety and security to get involved in committee.

Communications Update / Mise à jour des communications (Communications Team)

- New Echo out! Canada Post delivery and available online. Need delivery & advertising volunteers.

Heritage Update / Mise à jour du patrimoine (Liz Mackenzie, Nancy Miller Chenier)

- Two heritage properties, 281-283 Cumberland and 171 Bruyere, to be demolished.
- Heritage designation of King Edward Avenue synagogue at April Built Heritage Sub-Committee.
- Winterfest heritage display featured three local sport heroes.
- Canada Summer Jobs: Will apply for two students to help with work about York Street.

LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

Lowertown Community Resource Centre Update / Mise à jour du Centre de Ressources Communautaires de la Basse-Ville

- Thanks to LCA for Winterfest donation and to people who helped with the barbeque.
- Awesome Arts, March 24 at York Street School. Free.
- April 30: Clean up in Lowertown, led by Envirocentre.

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

- **Call for volunteers / Appel aux bénévoles**
 - LCA looking for volunteers, particularly to help with the Echo and for safety and security.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00pm