

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

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 14 APRIL 2014 / 14 AVRIL 2014

ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER

- **Board members present:** Liz Bernstein (Acting President), Michael Kirkpatrick (Vice President), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary), Steve Monuk (Director, Business Liaison), Sylvie Grenier (Director, Planning), Vera Etches (Director, Membership/Volunteers)
 - **Appointed members present:** Liz Mackenzie (Co-Chair, Heritage Committee), Michelle Ramsay-Borg (Brand Communication Advisor), Amber Clarke (Membership Coordinator)
 - **Total community members present:** 26
1. **Welcome Remarks / Mots de bienvenue (Liz Bernstein)**
 - Welcome remarks and 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)**
 - Notes from March 10, 2014 meeting approved.
 3. **Volunteer Recognition / Reconnaissance des Bénévoles (Vera Etches)**
 - Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time for the Lowertown Community Association over the past year. The LCA is always looking for volunteers, please let us know if you are interested in helping out: info@lowertown-basseville.ca.
 4. **Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du conseiller**
 - **Present from the Councillor's Office:** Mathieu Fleury, Nathaniel Mullin, Alanna Dale Hill
 - **A-frame signs:** This is an issue because of a gap in the policy. For this summer, there will be zero tolerance for businesses with patios but the City is trying to develop a Byward-specific policy to define "sidewalks" and minimum allowance for pedestrians and others. The City is trying to ensure fairness to all businesses despite policy gaps. The Ambassador group in the Market will be responsible for enforcement of the signs. A-frames will be taken away if a business has a patio. There is an opportunity for the community to be involved in the policy review.
 - **St. Patrick Renewal:** The City had applied for a grant for multiple projects along St. Patrick but did not receive it so are now trying to do as much as possible with other funds. Portions of the road will be resurfaced but there will not be additional accommodation for pedestrians and cycling.
 - **Dalhousie/York:** pedestrian access has been improved.
 - **Rideau pedestrian access:** The City is working with the Rideau Centre on puddling and access issues. Call Councillor Fleury's office to report any issues.

- **Flooding:** Rideau River is quite high and some paths are flooded. We are on a flood watch. The Rideau Falls dams have been opened to full capacity to let water into the Ottawa River faster.
 - **Our Lady School:** Last fall, the City came to agreement with the Lauzon family to protect the two outside walls. The work has not been initiated and there has been further deterioration to the building over the winter. The City is now taking the Lauzons to court to ask that strict timelines be imposed on the remediation work. Alternatively, if the City is doing the remediation work, it wants to ensure securities are in place to recoup the costs from the Lauzons.
 - **Abandoned properties on King Edward Avenue:** They are being addressed through the City by-law and property standards groups. The City is challenged to implement the by-law retroactively on properties that have been long abandoned but are trying.
 - **Building at Bolton and Parent:** The approvals were in place in 2007 for demolition but the building was demolished recently. The new building for that lot will be four stories high.
 - **Union Roundabout:** Once the pavement is dry, pedestrian crosswalk lines will be painted. Let the Councillor Fleury's office know if cars are exceeding the speeding limit.
 - **Water Strategy:** There was limited discussion at City Committee. We can't put all the focus on the Ottawa River Action Plan, as there are other water bodies that need to be considered (Rideau River, Rideau Canal, etc). Additional analysis is being undertaken. Road runoff and other issues will be considered.
5. **Byward Market BIA Update / Mise à jour de la ZAC (Steve Monuk for Jasna Jennings)**
- The Byward Market is open throughout Easter.
 - Starting May 15, stores along Byward and standholders will be open until 8pm on Thursday evenings. This allows people who work during the day to shop in the Market in the evening.
 - During summer, there will be a demonstration stand at south end of Market Mall Building for Savour Ottawa. Local restaurants and vendors will be showing products.
 - Market stand holders received a grant from City for Harvest Fest Celebration next fall.
 - Province of Ontario is allowing VQA wine producers to sell wines in the Market. Only wines made with grapes from Ontario are eligible.
 - Thanks to Nancy Miller Chenier for assistance with heritage issues, including developing a self-guided historic walking tour.
6. **Special Feature Presentation: Uptown Rideau Community Design Plan / Présentation en vedette : Le plan de conception communautaire du secteur est de la rue Rideau (Melanie Knight and Matthew Ippersiel, City Planners)**
- See power point presentation, available in French and English.
 - Other notes: A Community Design Plan (CDP) is a development or growth plan and is typically focused on areas targeted for intensification. In 2005, the City thought the CDP would replace the need for a secondary plan. The City learned that they do need to have secondary plans in urban areas to ensure more stringent wording for development.
 - Design Priority Area: development in these areas means that developers need to take projects through the urban design review panel.
 - Action Sandy Hill (ASH) and the LCA requested that the City study the heritage buildings along the Uptown Rideau corridor to determine their heritage value. This work is underway.
 - Following completion of the CDP, zoning would be amended to match what is approved.

- Having a CDP and aligned secondary plan will ensure there are solid policies about development for the area. However, developers can apply to amend a secondary plan.
- The City's Official Plan tightened up wording for areas without a secondary plan so it is unlikely that having a CDP for Uptown Rideau will put development pressure on surrounding areas.
- The two current proposals by Dharma and Richcraft were submitted before the new CDP process began so they have the right to carry forward with their applications while the CDP process is underway. They can also work with the City on the development of the CDP. The City has to make a decision on the applications within a certain timeframe so will need to respond before the CDP is completed.
- At the end of May, there will be workshops offered to discuss "hot topics" identified through the open houses and online survey. Community members can participate in these workshops.
- The working group for the CDP includes four developers, LCA, ASH and four residents. Ottawa Community Housing is also a landowner and has been part of meetings.
- Melanie is open to meeting with smaller community groups and with the LCA again once the CDP process is further along.

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

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

- **7 Clarence:** This building is owned by the NCC. They have held two public meetings to receive input on the proposed design of the new building. The NCC is now working on an alternative design, which will likely be reduced in height from their original plan and will modify the patio to continue to allow access to the courtyard.
- **Ottawa's 150th Anniversary:** The LCA would like to establish a committee to look for ideas to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the City of Ottawa in 2017. The committee would be tasked with looking for input and developing ideas for legacy projects. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please send an e-mail to info@lowertown-basseville.ca.

Environment Update / Mise à jour environnementale (Liz Bernstein)

- **Complete Streets Strategy Forum:** The LCA and Councillor Fleury participated, along with other councillors and community associations. The purpose was to look at implementing the complete streets policy adopted by the City last year. The event was well attended. The next step is to release a report based on the recommendations and convene a follow up meeting at the end of May. More information is forthcoming.
- **Water Strategy:** This was postponed but is now going forward. The LCA will participate in the discussions.
- **Walkability Audits:** The committee is continuing to look at implementation of the recommendations, including addressing A-frame signs, patios, etc. The LCA participated in a memorial on Rideau Street to the pedestrian that was recently killed.

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

- Several events are coming up: Canada Day, Nuit Blanche
- Let the LCA know if you have concerns about how Canada Day and Nuit Blanche are managed: info@lowertown-basseville.ca.
- The LCA is launching an online survey on various issues related to safety and security. It will be available in early May for about three weeks. The more responses, the better! Please share the

link with your neighbours and others who may visit the neighbourhood. The survey outcomes will be shared with LCA members.

Heritage Update / Mise à jour du patrimoine (Liz MacKenzie)

- **Our Lady School:** It is important to remember that no person at any level of government noticed or reported the devastating winter damage to Our Lady's School. The complaint was lodged with the City by the LCA. On behalf of the Heritage Committee, Liz sent pictures to Jan Harder, Chair of the Built Heritage Sub-Committee, showing that the building was continuing to be demolished by neglect. The walls were soaking wet, the brick was spalling and large cracks appeared on the North wall. Jan acted quickly to open up the legal agreement that the City had signed with Lauzon.
 - Please, please, keep an eye on our Heritage buildings - The community must look out for them, because nobody else is doing it. If you see demolition by neglect problems with buildings in Lowertown, please contact the LCA (info@lowertown-basseville.ca) and they will redirect your concern to the Heritage Committee.
- **Sumer Students:** Once again we have been given a grant under the Federal Summer Students program for two students, for eight weeks for 30 hours per week. Caroline Ramirez will be helping to oversee their work experience this year which will be a great help.
- **7 Clarence:** Architect is coming back with revised design. No date has been set for next community meeting. However, an immediate result of the meetings in response to the Tin Court Residents, the NCC had replaced burnt out lights, has improved garbage storage, and has replace signage. The difference in how they have handled their building to be demolished is in striking contrast to Our Lady's School.

Echo Update / Mise à jour Echo (Michelle Ramsay Borg)

- The LCA hopes to launch a new website at end of month.
- Michelle is working with Nic on the Echo. They have decided to make both the e-newsletter and Echo bi-monthly, and they will be issued on alternating months. The e-newsletter will now be focused on important monthly news. The Echo will be for longer, more in-depth articles.
- The Facebook page followers are growing and this provides a source for day-to-day news.
- **Volunteers are very much needed!** In particular, Michelle and Nic need a volunteer to coordinate the advertising purchases. Two additional advertisements for the Echo would bring in another \$500, which would mean enough funding to have the Echo delivered by Canada Post. This would make it easier for people living in condos and apartments to receive the Echo. This could be a good opportunity for someone in high school or university studying marketing.

Bingham Park Revitalization / Mise à jour du parc Bingham (Mike Kirkpatrick)

- The Grand Opening will be on Sunday June 8 in the morning. Samuel Bingham's great-grandson will attend. There will be sports, activities for kids and a barbeque.
- The LCA applied for a grant through Crime Prevention Ottawa to have at-risk youth collaborate with artists to paint the brick walls of the utility building. We are waiting to hear the outcome.
- There were some funds leftover from the Desjardins/Chance Foundation grant that will be put toward painting line games. The work to install public art in the park is underway.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm