

LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

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

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 14 SEPTEMBER 2015 / 14 SEPTEMBRE 2015
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7-9 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER, 19-21h

- **Board Members Present:** John Chenier (Vice President, Community Outreach), Nathalie Vallières (Vice President, Communications and Volunteers) , Donna Kearns (Director, Business Outreach), Peter Ferguson (Director, Planning), Liz MacKenzie (Director, Heritage), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary)
 - **Liaisons Present:** Norman Moyer (Safety and Security Liaison), Nancy Miller Chenier (Co-Chair, Heritage Committee), Sylvie Grenier (Market Core Team Liaison), Mario Gasperetti (Co-Chair, Planning Committee)
 - **Community Members Present:** 23
- 1. Welcome and Introductions / Mots de bienvenue et introductions (Nathalie Vallières, Vice-President)**
 - Welcome and round table introductions
 - 2. Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Nathalie Vallières, Vice-President)**
 - Meeting agenda and notes from the June meeting approved.
 - 3. Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du conseiller**

Present from the Councillor's Office: Councillor Mathieu Fleury, Nathaniel Mullin

 - **Uptown Rideau Community Design Plan:** Format will be different than usual public consultations. Room will be set up by themes with City of Ottawa experts.
 - **City of Ottawa has \$40M deficit + \$11M OC Transpo deficit:** Articulated buses no longer under warranty and claims for accidents (largely due to construction) are main issues for OC Transpo. Do not want to increase fares or passes. Need to find a new strategy.
 - **Cathcart Park:** Did assessment of six to seven trees to replace those killed by Emerald Ash Borer. Looking to formalize dog park section at request of residents. Need to plant trees strategically, will be done this fall. Will be finalizing park plan this winter.
 - **Sussex:** Construction is 99% done.
 - **Bingham Park:** Public art is being installed this week.
 - **Budget consultation:** At St. Laurent Complex, October 6 at 6pm. Will reserve place at Le Patro for next year.
 - **Byward Market Revitalization:** First phase is \$10M. Have \$1M confirmed, looking to fund rest strategically and with partners. Have approached provincial government and will be approaching federal partners. Plan is to prepare area around central building before 2017 with renewal of street- scaping (beginning at LRT station, remove side-walks and make space more flexible).
 - Question about consultations on staff plan that were supposed to occur this summer and illumination plan. **Mathieu Fleury (MF):** working with property owners on illumination options, led by NCC. Refusing Byward Market plan to go forward unless \$10M budget source is approved. Doesn't want to see project approved and then shelved because there

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is no funding. Once it is approved, it will go to consultation. Market building lease is up in 2017. Project is shovel-ready. Looking to see federal investment in project as 2017 legacy.

- **Homelessness:** Complaints about Salvation Army this summer because of larger client gatherings than usual and incidents. Have spoken with Salvation Army and asked them to monitor situation and deal with their clients more proactively.
- **Truck Tunnel Study:** Report due this fall. Suggest asking candidates if they will be at table to finance building of tunnel.
- **Question about Charlotte Street name change:** (between St. Patrick and Macdonald Gardens). Street name is close to 200 years old. Concern about changing name in heritage district. Community should have been consulted. **MF:** Emergency Services have difficulty finding location because street ends and then begins again. City has been addressing these situations ward by ward. Section of Parent Street will also be changing name. Will look into Charlotte Street situation further. Will suggest having Charlotte Street North and South.

4. Closure of Centre éducatif Beausoleil / La fermeture du Centre éducatif Beausoleil (SOS Beausoleil, Étienne Trépanier)

- Centre éducatif Beausoleil cared for 49 children. The building needed renovation, resulting in temporary suspension of services and loss of 49 francophone daycare spots. Not clear now whether childcare centre will be reopened or just disappear. Looking for answers from the City. Looking for new spot for Centre éducatif Beausoleil in Lowertown immediately or at least commitment that original centre will be re-opened at end of renovation (within two years). Seems to be change in City policy regarding childcare services but was not discussed with families. Parents are affected but issue is bigger and involves community.
- Question about exploration of alternative locations. Response: Yes, had identified potential locations but did not have opportunities to discuss with City. Councillor Fleury has made some commitments but need broader commitment from City Council to address issue.
- **MF Response:** Thanked Étienne for his leadership on the issue, which opened up broader discussions about francophone childcare spaces and subsidies. Board of Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) approved renovation of building. Went to contract and work plan went to City staff. City rents first floor of building for Centre éducatif Beausoleil. Initial letter sent to parents in mid-June and second letter sent on July 9 indicating childcare centre to close during work. City staff looked at spaces available in City. There are six francophone-only childcare providers in neighbourhood who had sufficient available spaces. City looked at relocation for Centre éducatif Beausoleil but licensing process was prohibitive within the timeframe. Designated staff for each parent to assist with the transition of children. Three of 48 parents are not happy, generally related to ability to walk to new location. Subsidy is attached to parent so those who had subsidies still get subsidies in new locations. Under new provincial act, City as service manager changes; anticipating that spaces may be transferred to not-for-profit societies. Centre éducatif Beausoleil will re-open as francophone daycare after renovations but may be operated by not-for-profit. Let Councillor Fleury's office know if you are a parent and want to be engaged in consultation.

5. Update on LRT Construction on Rideau Street / Mise à jour du TLR Construction sur la rue Rideau (Theresa Mendler, City of Ottawa)

- Rideau station will have three entrances: Bank of Nova Scotia and two within the Rideau Centre.
- 40% of Rideau cavern drilling is complete.
- Working on elevators/escalators within mall to create entrances to LRT station.

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- Rideau currently restricted to traffic because construction will be increasing at the street level to feed the underground work. Buses and taxis will continue to be permitted. About 80% of STO busses are not using Rideau and have moved to Mackenzie King.
- Will close Rideau to all vehicles for one weekend in October.
- Will be creating HVAC shaft on north side of Rideau in 2016.
- \$25,000 given to Byward Market BIA and Rideau BIA to promote businesses during construction. Invitation for someone from LCA to sit on working group.
- Interested in continuing to liaise with community and happy to provide answers.
- Question about pedestrian safety with large puddle at Rideau/Nicholas and people walking into bus lane to avoid it. Response: Working with City operations to address situation before winter. Lighting will be enhanced in pedestrian area.
- Question about construction zones being ugly (boards are grey and black) and happy to know that considerations are being made to make it more pleasant.

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

- **Planning Update / Mise à jour du Comité de planification (Peter Ferguson)**
 - Priorities for 2015/16 are: Uptown Rideau Community Design Plan approval or rejection (currently much improved from earlier draft), application by Trinity Developments (OMB hearing scheduled, on City Council agenda for later this year), ensure follow on PPS report implementation, celebrate 150th anniversary of Byward Market area, Community Design Plan for Lowertown East, and ensure follow up on Rideau LRT station and Scotia Bank building design. Open house for Uptown Rideau CDP is at De La Salle on September 22.
- **Environment Update / Mise à jour environnementale (Feliks)**
 - LCA hosted CAFES meeting and it was very well attended. City of Ottawa presented on Complete Streets. Policy is driven by Transportation Department so focus is on transportation rather than land use planning and street-scaping.
 - October 7 Planning Committee Meeting on Complete Streets. City Council is divided, with urban councillors supporting idea.
- **Safety and Security Update / Mise à jour de sûreté et de sécurité (Norman Moyer)**
 - BIA Safety and Security meeting last week: reasonably calm summer, few Bylaw Services issues. Police felt that extra patrols were successful.
 - Received information from OPS on Freedom of Information request. Will meet with Councillor to discuss and strategy to move forward.
- **Business Outreach Update / Mise à jour des Relations commerciales (Donna Kearns)**
 - No meetings over summer. Talking to businesses about advertising in Lowertown Echo. Most businesses are disenchanted with BIA as their representative. Will have larger report after first fall meeting.
- **Heritage Update / Mise à jour du patrimoine (Liz Mackenzie / Nancy Miller Chenier)**
 - Summer students did histories of businesses and building along Dalhousie. On July 18, students led historical walks for the public. A third student did history of hockey player who lived in Lowertown. Developed historical brochure for Dalhousie for distribution to residents and businesses.
 - North Dal Merchants thanked Heritage Committee for partnering on Avant Garden Party.

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- **Communications Update / Mise à jour des communications (Communications Team)**
 - Reminder that next edition of The Lowertown Echo is out at the end of September. If you do not receive a copy by mail, please let us know by e-mail, facebook or twitter.
- **Gardening Update / Mise à jour du jardinage (Sarah Bonesteel / Donna Kearns)**
 - **Bingham Park:** The LCA received a \$1,000 grant again this year from the Royal Bank of Canada Blue Water Fund and in partnership with Chance Foundation to upgrade the two gardens. Volunteers from the Royal Bank participated in a garden clean-up in May, with support from community volunteers. Ritchie Feed and Seed again provided us with a discount on the purchase of perennials and garden supplies. Suggestion to profile those memorialized on benches in the Echo. Tree planted by Ecology Ottawa also being maintained.
 - **Lowertown West Garden Committee:** The committee was created in April 2015 and is seeking locations for community gardens, particularly in Lowertown west. We are hoping to line up locations and logistics over the fall and winter to begin planting in spring 2016. If you are interested in being part of the committee, please contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca.

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

- All-candidates' debate / débat des candidats :
 - The LCA is organizing a debate in partnership with other community associations and community resource centres. It will be held on October 8, at Sandy Hill Community Centre from 7-9pm.
- Homelessness Committee / Comité des sans-abris
 - This committee has two members and is looking for new additions. If you are interested in joining, please contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca.
- Call for volunteers / Appel aux bénévoles
 - The LCA is always looking for new volunteers! To get involved, contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca.
- Next meeting date is to be determined. We will likely post-pone, due to the federal election. Watch the LCA website and facebook for updates.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45pm