

LCA Meeting October 19, 2014

Item 1: Welcome and introductions

Meeting called to order shortly after 7:00 pm with an introduction of all those attending. One of the attendees was a graduate student who is doing a study of Lowertown.

Item 2: Approval of agenda and notes of previous meeting

Donna Kearns moved that the minutes of the last meeting be approved Seconded by John Chenier - adopted.

The agenda for the meeting as proposed was adopted.

Item 3. Councillor's update.

No one was present from councillor's office

Item 4. Discussion of the Echo

The Chair invited the editor and publisher of the Echo to address the meeting. The editor, Giulia Nastase introduced herself and the publisher Merle Reid and then asked those present at the meeting to share their views on the Echo.

A general discussion ensued.

- People commented that the Echo was doing a good job on informing residents of the heritage of Lowertown and telling the stories of persons who have left their mark on Lowertown.
- Favourable mention was made of the articles on Lowertown businesses written by Peter Gould.
- Mention was also made of the amount of talent to be tapped in the community given the number of artists and galleries in Lowertown
- Others commented on the absence of notice of events such as what's on at venues like St Brigid
- Another suggested more attention to stories of the many health facilities in Lowertown
- The possibility of running classified ads in the Echo and on our proposed website were also raised
- There was a suggestion that extra copies of the Echo be left at restaurants, stores, etc. and notification be provided on where people can find copies.
- Donna Kearns agreed to help in finding advertisers for the Echo

Anyone who had more comments and suggestions was asked to send these to thelowertownecho@gmail.com

Item 5. Areas of Interest updates

Planning

- Sylvie Grenier gave a brief presentation on the Trinity application to build two towers with 785 units on a 5-storey podium for a 2-storey shopping mall and 3 for tenant parking. There would be 2 levels of below-ground parking for shoppers.
- Trinity is seeking amendments to the official plan and the zoning bylaw to allow for the construction of this complex situated at Chapel St between Rideau and Beausoleil
- Robert Tritt gave a report on the Upper Rideau Community Development Plan. Due to the temporary absence of the key planner on this file, the process has been temporarily suspended.
- There was also a brief discussion of the designation of Dalhousie as a Traditional Mainstreet.
- Reference was made to a recent article in the Ottawa Citizen on the decline of the Byward Market.

Safety and Security

- Steve Monuk told the meeting that the LCA is requesting better reporting of crime statistics, in particular more precise location and more frequent reporting of crimes
- There was a briefing on a security survey that took place in Lowertown East

Heritage

- Nancy Miller Chenier gave a report on the work done by the summer students hired to produce oral histories on residents and history of various buildings around Macdonald Gardens. The work produced by the students was displayed on exhibit boards for viewing.
- She informed the meeting that we are still awaiting the result of the OMB hearing on lifting the heritage overlay on King Edward Ave
- She described the ongoing efforts to get heritage designation of certain houses on Rideau Street as part of the Upper Rideau CDP.
- The heritage committee is also trying to influence the design of the LRT station at the Market to reflect the heritage of the area.
- There are still DVDs on Lowertown produced by the Grew Up in Lowertown group. All proceeds of the sale go towards promoting the work of the heritage committee.
- Mention was made of the upcoming presentation at the Vanier Museoparc on the research into the resistance put up by Lowertown residents to the urban renewal effort of the 1960s.
- The meeting was told of the success to have the sign at the new Shopper's Drug Mart (former Desjardins) changed to reflect the character of the Market area.
- There was a discussion of the proposed study of a lighting plan that would encourage lighting features that would showcase the historic buildings in the Market while, in other instances, set guidelines for lighting appropriate to the historic district.
- Donna Kearns identified a potential resource to help with the lighting study.

Federation of Citizens' Associations

- John Chenier provided an update on the activities of the FCA. He noted that the FCA is preparing a new website and it is hoped that the designer would be available to offer services to other community associations for a modest price.

Item 6: Community interest

Volunteers & Ice Rink

- Justin Dyet has agreed to take the lead on coordinating volunteers for the ice rink this year. But he needs volunteers to help him. People interested or looking for more information can reach Justin through Twitter @BINGHAMRINK and through Facebook at Bingham Park Rink

After outlining the work that needs to be done for the ice rink, discussion turned to the need for volunteers for the ice rink, for the production and distribution of the Echo and for the various committees of the LCA.

- A table will be set up at the general meeting on November 10th for people to learn of the roles available for volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15p,m

