

LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

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

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 26 OCTOBER 2015 / 26 OCTOBRE 2015
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7-9 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER, 19-21h

- **Board Members Present:** Liz Bernstein (President), John Chenier (Vice President), Nathalie Vallières (Vice President), Donna Kearns (Director, Business Outreach), Peter Ferguson (Director, Planning), Liz MacKenzie (Director, Heritage), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary)
 - **Liaisons Present:** Nancy Miller Chenier (Co-Chair, Heritage Committee), Giulia Nastase (Editor-in-Chief, Lowertown Echo), John Woodhouse (Walkability Liaison)
 - **Community Members Present:** 27
- 1. Welcome and Introductions / Mots de bienvenue et introductions (Liz Bernstein, President)**
 - Welcome and round table introductions.
 - Round of applause to Giulia and everyone else who worked on the latest edition of the Echo.
 - 2. Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Liz Bernstein, President)**
 - Notes from September meeting and agenda for October meeting approved.
 - 3. Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du conseiller**

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

 - **Budget consultation:** Did it before draft budget to look at key programs, social services, transit, and environment. City presentation and then broke down into theme tables for discussion. Will take reports and post on website. Discussion about where additional funds should be directed and option to vote. Draft budget includes tax increase of 1.7%. Need 2.7% increase to maintain existing service levels. Looking for efficiencies to make up the difference. Consultation was well-received and well-attended.
 - Note from the President: The LCA will be sending a budget submission letter to the City so send us your concerns.
 - **ByWard Market Revitalization:** Thanks to LCA and CAFES for bringing issues of governance, zoning and street-scaping to attention of City. Holding off on voting to approve report because want it approved with funding. Planner (Selma) assigned to looking into what can be done as Phase I around main market building. Looking to new federal government for support of this "shovel ready" project. Need community to come to committee meetings to speak about importance of market revitalization to generate support for funding. Selma will present initial work to us soon. Want Market to function more flexibly for pedestrians, like at Lansdowne.
 - **Sewer upgrades:** when we have major rain storms, want capture tunnels to collect overflow so it does not go into river. Tunnel cuts down Cumberland and then goes toward Stanley Park. 19 properties where City is expropriating underground rights (in bedrock). Cut rock, and create outside shell of pipe. Affected residents have been advised. Offer that staff could present to LCA if there are concerns.

LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

- **Community Garden:** Angel Square Garden is a success but has a waiting list. The more residents show interest, the easier it will be to get approval of sites for additional gardens.
- **Uptown Rideau CDP:** Report is coming in November.
- **Trinity:** 42 trees were cut because approval was given mistakenly by staff. Staff apologized. Councillor will see that trees are replanted.
- **St. Patrick Cycling Lanes:** Coburg to King Edward has lanes but Parent to Sussex does not. "Priority element" being added from Parent to Mackenzie. Phase II will be a cycling lane.

Questions:

- **Art installation at Bingham Park:** Artist is the hold up. Councillor Fleury to follow up.
 - **Houses on Sussex that were moved:** Who was responsible for restoration? Quality of exterior restoration is abysmal: cheap hand-railings, concrete porches and steps. Strange that finishing is cheap given millions spent on "ceremonial route" along Sussex. Not acceptable. Few remaining examples of Lowertown along Sussex so wanted them retained but disrespectful how they have been treated. **Councillor Fleury:** Asbestos is NCC responsibility but mold is issue between NCC, City and contractor. Asked that LCA put comments in writing and he will help with follow up.
 - **275 King Edward Avenue/Quality Inn Hotel:** how were residents expected to find out about changes by developer? Decorative elements have been removed, type of hotel has been changed. **Councillor Fleury:** will follow up.
 - **Cycling infrastructure:** cycling lanes disappear. Have to use major routes to get to pathways and is dangerous. Question about why bike paths are not part of sidewalks along Rideau. **Councillor Fleury:** suggested alternate routes, particularly York and Cumberland. Rideau was designed in 2011 and did not have standards for separate tracks. Councillor Fleury wanted cycling tracks but was outvoted.
4. **Presentation: 171 Bruyère Street Consultation / Consultation du 171, rue Bruyère (Liz Mackenzie and Nancy Miller Chenier, Heritage Committee Co-Chairs)**
- 171 Bruyere is part of Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) inventory. OCH wants to demolish house (heritage building) and build a heritage park. Community consultation held on October 22 about proposed demolition and park design.
 - Presentation: provided explanation of house heritage, proposed park, what was heard at consultation, OCH messages from consultation, and follow-up commitments from Councillor Fleury.
 - Messages from consultation: concern expressed about existing park at Cumberland and Bruyere being used for unsavory activity and that an additional park (with seating and canopy) would also be used for unsavory activity. Also, resident who has restored other heritage homes expressed confidence that this home could be restored. Lack of support for park but much support expressed for using land for community garden.
 - LCA Heritage Committee has sent submission to City indicating that there are ways to restore the house and that as the community is not interested in a heritage parkette there is no "heritage" trade-off.

LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

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

Planning Update / Mise à jour du Comité de planification (Peter Ferguson)

- **City Planning Decisions:** communities are not receiving notices of meetings and decisions in a timely manner. Community is left out of decisions and/or not able to provide appropriate comments in effective manner. Examples are Claridge proposal for Metro lot (added a hotel, shape and architecture is different than what we had seen previously) and 235 King Edward (Holiday Inn). Impacts trust in planning process. LCA will be sending letter about communications problem to Jan Harder (Chair, Planning Committee).
- **Trinity Development:** Proposed opening of cul-de-sac at Chapel and Rideau. Expect that Gatineau traffic would use this corridor to get to Mann Avenue. Issue is how to get large transport trucks to site without impacting nearby St. Anne's School.
 - **Question:** Trinity took down 40 mature trees and City only got \$12,000 trees. Won't be able to replace trees for the amount received.
 - **Nathaniel:** Trees were all on City property. Mistake made by City staff who issued permit before other approvals were in place.
- **216 Cathcart:** applicant had approval for extension to current dwelling. Have not followed plan (built 4th story, and cantilevered wall to increase footprint) and now have a stop work order. Noted that building facing OCH senior's building and negatively impacts light and air flow. Development is owned by realtor Shan Cappucino.

Environment Update / Mise à jour environnementale (Environment Committee)

- **Complete Streets:** Policy adopted by City last year and was adopted by Council this month. Will change how City has to design roads going forward. LCA has pushed this policy for several years, in association with other community associations. Suggestion that policy be used for consideration in Beausoleil truck situation. Nathaniel to follow up.
- **Urban Forestry Strategy:** 100 people from across the City at launch for consultation process to develop a new strategy. City has hired a consultant and process will take 12 to 18 months. LCA will have opportunities to provide input.
- **Graham Saul (Executive Director, Ecology Ottawa):**
 - **Urban Forestry Strategy:** first consultation may be November 4. Tree and infill consultation process is experiences challenges similar to planning process. Can get involved if you are concerned.
 - **Climate Change:** municipal, provincial and federal governments looking to be proactive. Nov 29 will be a march from City Hall to Parliament Hill through Lowertown. Will be family-friendly and is an invitation to get involved.
- **Trees Survey:** Cathcart Park would be first because of emerald ash borer re-planting.

Business Outreach Update / Mise à jour des Relations commerciales (Donna Kearns)

- Generating advertising revenue for Lowertown Echo. Talking to businesses and promoting LCA. Hopefully, a step in the right direction to building positive relationships. Some businesses have expressed concern about LCA not supporting businesses because LCA has opposed business licenses. However, lots of common goals. Concerns that ByWard BIA is not representing businesses effectively.
- Request that residents support businesses that advertise in the Echo. Businesses depend on us.
- Suggestion to re-start business profiles in Echo. Concern that past businesses have not continued advertising with us after being profiled. Echo is free and LCA depends on advertising.

LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

Lowertown East Resident's Committee Update / Mise à jour du Comité des Résidents de la Basse-Ville Est (Sandra Pilote)

- No update provided.

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

• Call for volunteers / Appel aux bénévoles

- Looking for volunteers in all kinds of capacities but particularly for the skating rink in Bingham Park and the Homelessness Committee. To volunteer, send e-mail to info@lowertown-basseville.ca.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45