Minutes - 2020 Annual General Meeting

Lowertown Community Association

October 19, 2020, Zoom

19:00 pm – 20:30pm

1. **Welcome and introductions (President Norman Moyer)**

The meeting was called to order at 19:10. Forty-nine members of the community attended the meeting.

**2. Messages from our elected representatives**

**Lucille Collard (MPP) -**  MPP Ottawa-Vanier provided an update of focus point in Queen’s park. Long term care remains an important issue.She explained how it is important to continue to push the Government to do better, especially as the situation with the long term care and COVID-19 remains concerning. The second issue relates to schools, outbreaks, and no limit to class sizes. The third issue is the flu shot campaign which is not being rolled out effectively. She encouraged community members to reach out to her office.

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**Mona Fortier (MP)** – MP Ottawa-Vanier, and the Minister of Middle Class Prosperity stressed that the federal government continues to work hard to support families and businesses impacted by COVID-19. She stated that her office is able to meet with community members virtually or by phone to support their needs: She encouraged members to sign up for her update letter which is sent out every two weeks. Community members can sign up on the MP’s website.

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**3. Presentation by Mathieu Fleury (City Councillor Rideau-Vanier ward)**

The city councillor shared a presentation summarizing the work that he has doing with the association and elected officials.

High priorities:

1. Byward Market Public Realm Plan has been under development since 2012 but it is gaining momentum. The plan includes a street by street proposal (the extensive document can be found the councillor’s website). The plan includes $170 million dollar investment towards beautification, modernization, and opportunity to re-anchor the farmers market, which is now led by Ottawa Markets. The intent is to also make it a four-season farmers market.
2. Inter-provincial truck route along King Edward is being re-examined by the federal government. Traffic calming measures have been put forward for north of Rideau. It is currently an approved document but remains unfunded. The city councillor will be working through the budget process to advance these investments at the city level. The STO will integrate at Lyon station in 2021 and this offers an opportunity to tighten the traffic corridor.
3. Housing and homelessness remain an ongoing priority. There are two points of interest: modernizing infrastructure and working with delivery partners
4. The neighbourhood resource team has brought forward a dedicated team for the neighbourhood. COVID-19 has made it difficult to create community connections. There is an academic lens in partnership with Carleton University’s Linda Duxbury to implement this project. Safe supply is also an ongoing priority and the councillor proposed to extend the pilot project to City Council. to implement an extended pilot program to implement safe supply. The program included 25 clients and the results are visible – none have had overdoses, some are housed, some are employed. The councillor reminded the meeting attendees to use the phone number 2-1-1 for social services, including support and outreach in relation to addictions and mental health.

The city councillor noted that Rideau street will re-open mid-December and the community’s feedback is welcome. He completed his brief by flagging that the city is entering the fall budget period, with the budget being released in December.

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3. **The Formal Business Meeting:** Norman Moyer asked Matt Beutel to assume the chair of the business part of the meeting. He confirmed that more than the required quorum of 10 residents were present.

4. **The Agenda:** The Chair asked that the Agenda be approved. Approval was moved by Warren Waters, seconded by Peter Ferguson. The Agenda was approved.

5. **The Minutes**: The Chair requested that the minutes of the 2018 AGM be adopted. The approval was moved by Peter Ferguson and seconded by Boris Probic. The Minutes were approved.

6. **The President’s Report:** Norman Moyer outlined the main preoccupations and achievements of the LCA in 2020. He thanked the executive and the community members for keeping the community active during this difficult time. He noted that more people have attended meetings and new volunteers have joined to support the community. Looking back on the last 14 months, the Association functioned in its usual style up until February 2020. When the pandemic hit, the Association moved to use web-based tools to conduct its business. The Association also developed a vision statement for the community. The 2035 Vision is a means for the community to define and communicate its priorities. Many community members participated in the consultation and the Association was able to expand its network. This year the Association held thematic meetings on safety and security, homelessness and housing, and heritage.

Committees

Planning – This year the Planning Committee contributed to the City’s R4 zoning plan. It also participated in their study of several large development projects. One project was called off and in a second case the Association was able to work with the developers to have it developed in a way that respects heritage.

Homelessness and Housing – This year, the situation of people experiencing homeless has worsened due to COVID-19. The City declared a Homeless Emergency and this committee will continue to work on this issue.

Safety and Security – This committee worked with social service agencies for harm reduction in the parks and the streets. This committee also worked with the neighbourhood resource teams of the Ottawa Police Service. They were involved in an evaluation framework for this policing model and whether it will address our community’s needs.

Transportation – This committee worked on reducing traffic on King Edward. City has proposed traffic calming and the committee will continue to comment on all plans and proposed solutions. The Committee will also expand to look at parking and traffic in the rest of the neighbourhood.

Heritage – This committee expanded its focus to also look at culture. Some of its work involved addressing the proposed additions to the Chateau Laurier. The committee’s work was very influential in getting those plans shelved.

Environment Committee –This committee looked at the city’s Public Realm plan with a focus on growth management. It also looked into waste management, urban forestry and urged the passage of the Energy Evolution climate change plan. The committee is expecting more investments in trees by the city.

7. **Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer, François Giroux, presented a summary of the financial statements of the Association. Most of this year’s revenue is coming in from advertising in the Echo. The Association is also generating revenue from Bingham rink. There’s an increase in the rink maintenance cost this year since the Association hired part-time students to maintain the rink instead of relying solely on volunteers. This year the Association had a deficit of over 4000 dollars. François Giroux is stepping down as of tonight after three years with the association.

8. **Election of LCA Board Members for 2020-21:** The Chair called for nominations for the following positions:

President: Norman Moyer nominated. No other nominations. Confirmed.

Vice-president: Liz Bernstein nominated. No other nominations. Confirmed.

Treasurer: Lloyd Morrison nominated. No other nominations. Confirmed.

Secretary: Avery Burns nominated. No other nominations. Confirmed

Communications and Outreach: John Chenier. Confirmed

Chair of the Planning Committee and co-chair of the Housing and Homelessness: Warren Waters. Confirmed

Chair of the Safety and Security Committee: Sandra Milton. Confirmed

Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee: Boris Probic. Confirmed

Co-Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee: Kendra Hughes. Confirmed

Co-chair of the Housing And Homelessness Committee: Lauren Intven. Confirmed

The following Non-Voting Members were confirmed:

LCA Representative to the Federation of Community Associations: Catherine Hacksel

Co-Chairs of the Heritage Committee: Nancy Miller Chenier and Liz Mackenzie

Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee: Jordan Ferraro

Co-Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee: Fiona Sant

Liaison with the Business Community: Zach Daylor

9. **Year Ahead:** The Association will send community members a list of upcoming meetings and their themes. The next meeting is 9th November. This one will be focused on the new Ottawa Police model and the resource teams.