

# LOWERTOWN BASSEVILLE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE

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

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 8 FEBRUARY 2016 / 8 FÉVRIER 2016  
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7-9 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER, 19-21h

- **Board members present:** Liz Bernstein (President), Liz Mackenzie (Director, Heritage), Peter Ferguson (Director, Planning), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary), Donna Kearns (Director, Business Outreach), Ted Lawrence (Treasurer)
- **Appointed liaisons present:** Nancy Miller Chenier (Co-chair, Heritage Committee), Norman Moyer (Liaison, Byward Market Safety and Security Committee), Giulia Nastase (Editor, Lowertown Echo), Sylvie Grenier (Liaison, Byward Market Core Team), Sandra Pilote (Liaison, Lowertown East Resident's Association), John Woodhouse (Liaison, Walkability), Janhabi Nandy (Liaison, Housing and Homelessness)
- Community members present: 35

### 1. Welcome and Introductions / Mots de bienvenue et introductions (Liz Bernstein, President)

- Welcome and roundtable introductions.
- March 14 LCA meeting will be held at the Jules Morin Park field house.

### 2. Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Liz Bernstein, President)

- Meeting agenda and notes from January meeting approved.

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

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

- Trinity Development: amendments to zoning were approved. Urban design review panel approved design. Site plan issues remain. OMB hearing scheduled for March. Some issues may be resolved in advance. LCA and ASH meeting with Planning staff on Wednesday and Trinity on Friday to discuss issues.

#### Heritage Update / Mise à jour du patrimoine (Liz Mackenzie, Nancy Miller Chenier)

- **Built Heritage:** Two properties designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act and located in the Lowertown West Heritage Conservation District
- **281-283 Cumberland:** To be demolished and development at Our Lady's School site is approved; Planning Committee and Council reversed decision made by the Built Heritage Subcommittee in December; LCA Heritage is assessing next steps including appeal to the Heritage Conservation Board (has jurisdiction under Ontario Heritage Act to protect cultural heritage properties).
- **171 Bruyère Street:** Built Heritage Subcommittee on February 11 is again considering its demolition and replacement with a parkette; this decision was delayed in November and additional information about costs requested - cost of demolition, of replacement housing, and of building a parkette vs. cost of renovating the house to meet current OCH standards. The LCA has also asked for a report about severing and selling/leasing the property.
- **Lowertown Legends Project:** LCA has submitted a nomination for Polly Drouin as a hockey athlete to the Ottawa Sport Hall of Fame. Brendan Bowen, one of our summer students, featured him during our walking tour. Drouin with his wife operated the La Salle Hotel on Dalhousie Street after a career of playing for various Ottawa and Hull teams as well as the Montreal Canadiens where he was known as the Flying Frenchman and the speed merchant. Jack Barber, a renowned speedskater who grew up in Lowertown will be featured at Winterfest this year as a contribution to black history month.
- **Canada Summer Jobs Students:** Liz and I are taking a summer away from supervision and event organization and are hoping that someone else at the LCA will take up this opportunity to advance a Lowertown project. We get good support from our federal Member of Parliament for this application.

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- **University of Ottawa:** The LCA has been asked to provide a letter of support for an international project that will focus on the impact of early urbanization and intensification on Lowertown Irish, French and Jewish residents. This would be complimentary to work that has already been done looking at the urban renewal effect for our French Canadian community.

## **Environment & Transportation Update / Mise à jour environnementale et du transport (Liz Bernstein)**

- Meeting two weeks ago about feasibility study for KEA tunnel. Results will be available in March. Will encourage going ahead with environmental assessment, including community consultation opportunities.

## **Housing & Homelessness Update / Mise à jour du logement et des sans-abris (Janhabi Nandy)**

- Revitalizing committee, getting briefed on issues and developing priorities. Looking for more volunteers.

## **Communications Update / Mise à jour des communications (Giulia Nastase)**

- Always looking for new contributors and stories. Contact Giulia: [thelowertownecho@gmail.com](mailto:thelowertownecho@gmail.com).

## **BIA Update / Mise à jour du ZAC (Jasna Jennings)**

- Stew cook off raised \$6,000 for the Lowertown Community Resource Centre.

## **4. Special Discussion: Lowertown Crime Reduction Strategy / Discussion spéciale : Stratégie de Réduction de la criminalité pour la Basse-Ville**

### **Open Data on Crime / Les données d'ouverture sur la criminalité (Norman Moyer on behalf of Jan-François Grabowiecki, Lowertown Community Association / Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville)**

- Current reporting is based on crimes reported. Data only available for about three months. Information kept by Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is more useful. Data is only available at Ward level and for two years.
- Made an Access to Information request to OPS. Cost \$150 for five years of data. Now have six years of data on Lowertown. Recommend that data be more easily available to communities, such as in Toronto.
- Some cities in Europe and the United States have open data and would like to it in Ottawa.
- Presented request to OPS and Federation of Community Associations. Will continue outreach to build support for idea.

### **Crime in Lowertown 2009-2014 / La criminalité dans la Basse-Ville 2009-2014 (Norman Moyer, Lowertown Community Association / Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville)**

- Data presented was obtained from OPS through Access to Information request.
- Level of crime in Lowertown is about five times higher than elsewhere in Ottawa and in Canada. Crimes against the person are higher in Lowertown than in the rest of Ottawa and have risen over the past six years. LCA and OPS surveys show residents are concerned about crime and safety, particularly at night.
- To note, both perpetrators and victims of crimes may be from outside of Lowertown.
- Top crime concerns reported in Lowertown are intoxicated persons and presence of drug dealers.
- LCA and OPS surveys show 36-40% of people feel safe on street at night versus 60% in OPS survey for the rest of Ottawa.
- Lowertown is unique in Ottawa because of mix with residents, businesses, tourists, university, entertainment district, and homeless shelters. Concern about increased tourism in 2017 and potential for increase in crime to take advantage. Would like to see strategy developed to proactively address this concern.
- Suggestion to expand OPS foot patrols beyond the summer and locate OPS community police centre in Lowertown.
- Concern that policing is based on per capita allocation but Ottawa has many more visitors than other neighbourhoods. OPS allocations should take volume of visitors into consideration. Concern extends to allocation of other City services. Also concern that business owners in Lowertown pay premium in taxes for location but revenue from taxes is not reinvested to same degree in providing services to Lowertown.

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- Need to look at options for developing crime reduction strategy in Lowertown, such as working more closely with OPS and BIA.

## **How Much Can Policing Achieve? / Quelles sont les attentes réalistes envers le maintien de l'ordre? (Inspector Mike Laviolette, Ottawa Police Service / Service de Police d'Ottawa)**

- Lowertown has highest concentration of policing in Ottawa because crime data analysis shows it is needed. Working on trying to improve reporting and data mining.
- Insufficient resources to provide foot patrol year round but Lowertown benefits from presence of foot patrol during public demonstrations. Proactive policing, such as at beginning of school terms, will increase crime statistics. Community police office would not be staffed full-time so benefit is questionable. Would resources be better spent to have officer on street?

## **Lowertown East: Analysis and Plans / La Basse-Ville est: analyse et plans (Fathiya Warsame, Lowertown Community Resource Centre / Centre de ressources communautaires de la Basse-Ville)**

- Lowertown, Our Home project focused on a catchment area in Lowertown east. Works with 14 community resource organizations. Works with residents to identify issues and then engages with resource organizations to help identify solutions. Tries to create spaces where people feel welcome.
- Focus: ownership and positive use of space, targeted outreach and increased social cohesion, engaging youth, establishing new partnerships.
- For 2016, focus will be on responding to concerns about mental health and helping residents know what resources to call to resolve situations.
- Focus is on community development and emphasizing positive aspects of community.

## **Violence Against Women / Violence contre les femmes (Lise Martin, Canadian Network of Women's Shelters & Transition Houses / Réseau canadien des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes)**

- Peoples' perceptions of safety are important. Is there a gendered difference between those who have safety concerns? Generally, a maximum of 10% of sexual assaults are reported. Low incidence of sexual assault in OPS crime data may indicate under-reporting.
- Crime Prevention Ottawa is working with Sexual Assault Network and bar owners to train front line bar staff and festival staff to recognize and address situations of assault and harassment.

## **Role of the City and Ottawa Police Service Foot Patrols / Rôle des patrouilles à pied du Service de Police d'Ottawa et de la Ville d'Ottawa (Councillor Mathieu Fleury)**

- Addressing housing and addictions will reduce crime in Lowertown. Provide money to shelters that feed and clothe homeless people, not to homeless people. New housing projects are opening to move homeless into residences. Objections to zoning bylaw changes by residents in neighbourhoods are slowing progress in constructing residences. Residences are small and residents will be there long-term. Need to reach out to Federation of Community Associations to explain value of residences.
- Majority of people hanging out in front of Salvation Army are not residents. As long as they are not committing a crime, they can't be move. Working with Salvation Army to ensure they have good lighting, clean up the area and hire security. Working with federal government on First Nations housing strategy.
- Need to convince OPS of need for additional foot patrols, especially on Rideau Street.

## **Need for a Nuisance ByLaw / Nécessité d'un règlement de dérangement à la paix et la tranquillité (Steve Monuk, Byward Market Safety and Security Committee / Comité du Marché By de la sûreté et de sécurité)**

- Congratulations Sharmarke Abdullah, Crime Prevention Ottawa, on Community Builder Award.
- Looking to extend "use in care of roads" bylaw. Will address public intoxication, consensual street fighting, public urinating, and other nuisance. OPS will be able to give tickets for these issues rather than charge people criminally. Would be similar to a red light camera ticket. Fines will be paid to the City of Ottawa. Will avoid taking OPS resources off the street. Other cities in Ontario, such as Kitchener, have similar bylaws. Asking for LCA support.