

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

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 8 APRIL 2013 / 8 AVRIL 2013
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE @ 7 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER à 19h

Board members present: Liz Bernstein (Vice President), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary), Steve Monuk (Director, Business Liaison), Norman Moyer (Byward Market Security & Safety Committee Liaison)

Total community members present: 21

1. Welcome Remarks / Mots de bienvenue (Liz Bernstein)

-Welcome and introductions of all present.

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

-Notes from the March meeting were approved. The agenda revised to have the special feature presentation before the Councillor's report.

3. Special Feature / Présentation spéciale: Nuit Blanche 2013 (Ariane Nazroo, Organizer/Organisatrice)

-This year, the event will be held on Saturday September 21, from 6pm to 4am in three locations: Wellington West, Byward Market and Vieux Hull (downtown Gatineau). Artists interested in participating or those interested in volunteering can contact Ariane at info@nuitblancheottawagatineau.ca. For general information, see the website at <http://www.nuitblancheottawagatineau.ca>.

-Last year was the first year Ottawa held a Nuit Blanche event. These events are held internationally and are a celebration of contemporary art, including installations, projections and performances. Artists are invited to artistically modify the urban landscape.

-Last year, the event was held on Saturday September 22. There were 160 projects with shuttles between the two locations: Wellington West and the Byward Market. There was also a kid zone. The demographic was 0 to 70, 30,000 people participated, and 25-30 businesses and artist collectives participated.

-The organizers understand that it is a community-based event, and want to ensure that it involves and represents the community.

-Last year, the event was organized by an organization called Bravo, using a Trillum Ontario Foundation grant. Bravo is a not-for-profit organization for francophone and francophile artists in eastern Ontario. The event was too big for them and spread beyond their mandate so is being organized this year by Ariane and Megan Smith on a volunteer basis.

-They have just incorporated as a not-for-profit organization and are waiting to hear if they will receive any grants.

-The organizers are partnering with many others, including galleries in Ottawa, Ottawa School of Art, City of Gatineau and the Byward Market BIA.

-The event last year was fun and well-organized. Many people in Lowertown participated.

-Question about shuttles between event locations: last year, 417 bus lines donated buses but people could not stand on them and they were full all evening. Thus year, the organizers are trying to partner

with OC Transpo and STO because these buses have greater capacity. Also, there will likely be one major stop at each of the locations and more shuttles overall.

-LCA members were asked to spread the word and get local artists thinking about how they could get involved.

4. Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du Bureau du conseiller

• **Present from the Councillor's Office:** Nathaniel Mullin

-**Spring street sweeping:** This is underway. Residents can call the Councillor's office if they have any concerns.

-**Jules Morin Park:** tender to be issued before the end of month and work will start before end of May.

-**Greenhouse Gas Roundtable:** City staff and Councillors are digesting feedback and developing a process to move forward.

-**Homelessness Stakeholders Roundtable:** city-level consultation is underway this week. The City is reviewing its housing policies and how service providers are funded. It will release information later this week and will follow up with the LCA Homelessness Task Force.

-**Rideau Street Construction:** This has started again for the season. Detours will begin again this month. Work will begin east of Chapel Street beginning in May/June.

-**PPS report:** The Steering Committee is meeting on Thursday to discuss the report and its recommendations. The report will also be available to the public on Thursday. Comments will be accepted by the City for a month. The report will go to City Planning Committee at the end of May.

-**Bingham Park:** Two years ago, the Councillor's office donated \$1,200 to the Bingham Park Foundation and is making another donation of \$1,000 this year.

-sidewalk work being done on Clarence

-**William Street Pedestrian Mall:** Question from resident about location of two stop signs and cross walks and confusion for pedestrian and drivers. Directions need to be clearer. Piece of concrete in roadway and part of sidewalk still to be completed. Response: this should be repaired in the next week or two. Residents noted to the Councillor's office that the sidewalk across the street from the pedestrian mall is not wide enough.

-**Ideal Coffee:** resident expressed ongoing concern about the smell and smoke created when coffee beans are roasted. It is especially disruptive in the summer when residents have windows open. Response: there is no by-law to deal with smell because it is subjective. If there is a concern about chimney fires, a fire prevention issue can be investigated. Resident to follow up with Councillor's office.

-**Ogilvy Building:** partial collapse of building two weeks ago. All heritage elements had been removed prior to collapse. The workers were trying to take it apart slowly so it would not impact cars and pedestrians. Ontario Labour Relations Board inspected to ensure the building is safe and subsequently closed two lanes of traffic on Nicholas.

-**Garbage Collection:** change to bi-weekly garbage collection is permanent. Green bin will continue to be collected every week.

5. Ottawa Police Update / Mise à jour du service de police d'Ottawa (Constable Ryan Pierce)

-Lowertown has been relatively quiet lately. There have not been any residential break and enters in a few weeks. As the weather warms, we can expect increased "crimes of opportunity" if people leave their windows and doors open or unlocked. The OPS is putting blue cards in mailboxes to warn

residents if there have been crimes in the area, such as residential break and enters or theft from vehicles. It is a reminder to take precautions.

-The crime statistics for Central Area (year-to-date, current to end of March) indicate that break and enters are consistent with last year, personal robberies (including swarming) are down 46%, and theft from vehicles is down 25% (this is a trend across city). Theft from vehicles can be prevented by not leaving any valuables (or evidence of valuables) in sight.

6. **Areas of Interest – Updates / Champs d'intérêt – Mise à jour:**

• **Planning Update / Mise à jour du Comité de planification (Norman Moyer, on behalf of Sylvie Grenier)**

-PPS report: This is a chance for community and City to take longer term look at how to ensure the Byward Market remains vibrant. The timeline for consultation to be discussed at the Steering Committee meeting on Thursday. Discussion on how the LCA will report back to the community now that report is available. Possibly, the next LCA meeting could be devoted to community feedback. May also look into issuing a special e-bulletin.

-Claridge (Union du Canada and 22 storey condo building): The LCA Planning Committee is advocating that the condo building should only be 17 storeys (as per existing by-law) and no new storeys should be allowed to the Union du Canada building. There is no indication that the City or Claridge is listening. The Councillor is not able to comment because of his conflict of interest with Claridge files. The LCA has met with Councillors Hume and Harder (designated to act for us on Claridge files). Other councillors were called. The LCA is presenting at the Planning Committee on Tuesday. The LCA presented objections at the City's Heritage Committee meeting on this file but the Committee approved the project as recommended by staff – that is, to allow a 15 storey hotel and remove the heritage overlay.

-143 Murray: The building is between Chez Lucien and the Centre de services Guigues. The building is owned by the Lauzons who would like to open a restaurant. The LCA Planning Committee will meet with the Lauzons to discuss.

-90 George: There is an application to the City for two patios in this new condo development: one to project onto the sidewalk and the other on the second storey. This second storey area was supposed to be garden/common space for the condo building residents but is now proposed for a restaurant and bar. The LCA has asked for the Councillor to take a stand on this application, as the space was constructed for other purposes, and two bar patios is not consistent with the original purpose.

-Richcraft: They want to build a 12 and an 18 storey building at the corner of Cobourg and Rideau, and a four storey building on Besserer. These buildings would be in Sandy Hill but in lieu of garden space, Richcraft is proposing residents use Macdonald Garden Park in Lowertown. Macdonald Garden is partially a dog park and is not meant for that. Richcraft made a presentation to ASH. LCA will work with their planning committee and the Councillor's office to coordinate a response.

-Sandwich Boards: The City has strict rules on where they can go. There has to be 1.6m of sidewalk available. If a business has a patio, they can have a-frame sign on sidewalk when patio is not present but must take in at night. If the patio is present, the sandwich board would need to be on the patio – it cannot encroach further. The BIA sent out a letter to its membership. They would like something from the LCA, as customers of these businesses, to reinforce that sandwich boards are a safety obstacle. The LCA Planning Committee is recommending a proactive sweep by by-law services.

-Development Process: a resident expressed concern that the community is not aware of development until the last minute and things already decided. Stated that we need to have our own

insiders to know further in advance what is going on. Understand that City wanted new hotel downtown because of new convention centre so was open to Claridge proposal.

- **Environment Update / Mise à jour environnementale (Liz Bernstein)**
 - Greenhouse Gas Roundtable:** The LCA worked with other community associations, the Mayor's office, and councillors on the issues. They welcome the Mayor's commitment to developing a strategy and setting targets. The strategy will be drawn up within a year. In the meantime, major reviews of City plans are underway: pedestrian, transportation, etc. We don't want them all reviewed without the benefit of an environmental plan to incorporate, as greenhouse gases affect all of the other plans.
 - Nathaniel noted that the City will be adopting a policy that pedestrians, cyclists and transit users are considered in development before personal vehicles. This will help to guide the plan reviews.
 - Complete Streets:** This is a policy to make streets complete for all: pedestrians, cyclists, transit and cars. The LCA, councillors, and organizations from around the City participated in an event. The event was well attended and the LCA is looking forward to further work on this issue. There is a petition for complete streets to support the policy. It will be circulated in the next e-bulletin.
 - Pedestrian Audit:** The LCA would like to conduct a pedestrian audit in June with specialist. Volunteers welcome.

- **Communications Update / Mise à jour communications (Michelle Ramsay-Borg)**
 - E-newsletter:** We have revised our process and schedule to ensure consistency in the delivery of our e-newsletter. It will always be sent out on the weekend immediately before the monthly meeting. To meet this target, the deadline for submitting articles will be exactly one week after the monthly meeting, so the third Monday of the month. Next, we will change the newsletter format a little to make it an easier read. We want to put a 'clickable' table of contents at the top, so people can navigate directly to the stories that interest them the most.
 - Website:** The volunteer helping us with our website redesign was briefed this past week on the feedback we received and is now making the changes. Next step will be writing the content and taking photos. Hopefully the new site will be up by mid-June.
 - Communications Plan:** This was one of the needs identified at our Board retreat and a plan will be drafted over the next couple of months.

- **Health and Safety Committee / Comité de Santé et de sécurité :**
 - **Safety and Security Update / Mise à jour de sûreté et de sécurité (Norman Moyer)**
 - There is a proposal for a ball hockey tournament in the Byward Market. Norman directed them to the Lowertown Resource Community Centre for assistance in creating a local team.

- **Bingham Park revitalization / Revitalisation du parc Bingham (Mike Kirkpatrick)**
 - No update provided.

7. Events – Updates / Événements – Mise à jour:

- **Town and Crown (Sarah Bonesteel)**

The LCA is working with our Member of Parliament (Mauril Bélanger) to arrange a panel discussion on issues affecting Lowertown residents that are impacted by both City of Ottawa and National Capital Commission policies. These issues include NCC real estate (Byward Market mix of

businesses, Heritage (commercial and residential)), transportation (Sussex redesign, King Edward Avenue and Interprovincial Truck Route, Interprovincial Transit Strategy) and parks (Major's Hill Park, King Edward Avenue Park). The tentative date is May 21, from 7-9pm. The location is still being worked out.

- **LCA Board of Director Retreat (Liz Bernstein)**

-The board met for about six hours on a Saturday to review a number of issues, including managing and supporting volunteers, better organization around planning and heritage issues, board communication, and a communication plan for the LCA. We have a lot of notes and will need to compile them into a summary form to share.

-**Action Item:** develop summary of retreat notes.

-Suggested future meeting item: invite the Aga Khan Foundation to share an update on their renovations to old War Museum building.

Those present agreed that condolences be expressed to Marc Aubin, LCA President, for the situation of his mother.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Next meeting date is May 13 / La date de la prochaine réunion est à confirmer