

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

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 9 JUNE 2014 / 9 JUIN 2014  
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7-9 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER, 19-21h

- **Board members present:** Steve Monuk (Director, Business Liaison), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary)
  - **Appointed members present:** Nancy Miller Chenier (Co-Chair, Heritage Committee), Norman Moyer (Liaison, BIA Safety and Security Committee), Dwight Burgess (Homelessness Task Force)
  - **Total community members present:** 20
1. **Welcome and Introductions / Mots de bienvenue et introductions (Steve Monuk)**
    - Roundtable introductions.
  2. **Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Steve Monuk)**
    - Meeting agenda and meeting notes from May meeting approved. Some re-ordering of the agenda needed to accommodate late arrivals.
  3. **Byward Market BIA Update / Mise à jour de la ZAC (Steve Monuk)**
    - **Canada Day:** Monday night is likely to be busier at bars because Canada Day is on Tuesday and Wednesday is not a holiday. Big activities planned in Byward Market: Hockey Canada is doing 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary kickoff and activities for kids in the CTV parking lot. From noon to fireworks.
    - **Heritage Tours:** Byward Market map now has buildings with heritage plaques noted so people can do self-guided heritage tour.
  4. **Special Feature Presentation: Results of Safety and Security Survey / Présentation en vedette : Résultats du sondage de sécurité (Norman Moyer)**
    - The survey was open for the month of May. Objectives of the survey were: to determine what people thought of key issues, provide feedback to stakeholders, shape LCA positions on issues, and respond to concerns about road safety, crime, panhandling, and supervised injection site.
    - Methodology: questions were developed in consultation with the LCA executive; made available in French and English; distributed via Survey Monkey; and advertised in the e-newsletter, Echo and Metro newspaper.
    - The survey is not statistically valid. It was completed by volunteers, who are most likely people concerned about the issues. The survey was targeted by special interest groups, including the Drug Users Advocacy League (DUAL) and Campaign for Supervised Consumption Sites (CSCS). The survey results may be skewed by the effort made by supporters of a supervised injection site to register their point of view.

- There were 230 respondents, and of those 73% are residents. There was a good representation of age groups and those living on the east and west sides of King Edward Avenue. More women than men responded.
- The survey indicated that most pedestrians feel safe, less so for those who are handicapped. Cyclists feel less safe than pedestrians.
- Of King Edward Avenue, Cobourg, Rideau, Murray and St. Patrick, King Edward Avenue is considered the least safe and Cobourg is most.
- People feel safer during the daytime than at night. People living east of King Edward Avenue feel less safe at night than those living west of King Edward Avenue. People in Lowertown East would like to see more patrols by police in their area.
- Panhandling: 45% experience it rarely, 42% experience it often.
- Drugs: 100% of people east of King Edward Avenue had observed drugs, 98% west of King Edward Avenue. 90% of people were aware of the SIS debate. Further conclusions cannot be drawn because of known issues with the survey data.
- Bars, nightclubs: 66% of people living west of King Edward Avenue say there are too many.
- Police presence: most think there is not enough or it is just right. More people east of King Edward Avenue think more policing is needed. Sixty two per cent were happy with the police response to their calls. Eighty per cent support extra patrols in the summer.
- By law enforcement: 55% have contacted Bylaw Services, 48% were satisfied with the response. The satisfaction rate was higher in Lowertown East and people in Lowertown West were more likely to call Bylaw Services.

#### **Questions/Discussion:**

- Request to have someone from the City Bylaw office speak at an LCA meeting in the fall to help us better understand how the system works for dealing with issues like derelict buildings, demolition and garbage.
  - No definition of safety was provided in the survey. The goal was to look for peoples' attitudes. People may have different interpretations. Would be helpful to re-do survey over time to see if trends changed. Timing also affects survey responses. For example, shots fired on east side of King Edward Avenue on several occasions in May so people may have felt less safe at time they responded to survey.
  - People may feel uncomfortable rather than unsafe. Could ask people in future surveys what factors make them feel unsafe.
  - Less violence at night than there used to be but violence is now more serious because it involves knives and guns.
5. **Movies in the Park Update / Mise à jour du Cinéma dans le parc (Amber Clarke)**
- Lowertown East Resident's Committee and Lowertown Our Home are screening Frozen and LCA is screening Despicable Me 2. Lowertown East is using the parking lot of Le Patro and we are using Bingham Park. There will be a popcorn machine & free popcorn at both events. The movies will be screened in English with French subtitles.
  - LCRC date is July 4 (will go inside if rains) and ours is Aug 15 (no rain plan).
  - Volunteers are needed to help with the LCA event on August 15. Contact [info@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:info@lowertown-basseville.ca) if you are available to help.

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

### Planning Update / Mise à jour du Comité de planification (Bob Tritt)

- **7 Clarence:** NCC has gone back to the drawing board and has three new proposals.
- **Sopra rooftop patio:** LCA opposed the opening of a patio bar at Sopra restaurant. By-laws state that this type of space should be 30m from a residence and the patio is only 3m from a residence. The by-laws also state that the patio should not be more than 2m off the ground and it is on the second story. The City of Ottawa Committee of Adjustment approved the patio with the rationale that it is fine dining so people will be seated but the restaurant is connected to the Sotto bar (which had shooting two years ago).
- **Zoning review of Dalhousie Street from St. Patrick to Boteler:** The LCA had sent a letter to the City requesting that the re-zoning be put off until the City's process for dealing with heritage is decided. There is an information meeting on June 17.
- **Upper Rideau Community Design Plan:** Several information sessions have been held. Representatives from various organizations, including the LCA, were invited to look at the City proposal. There was some discussion about pedestrians and cycling. Federal building at the corner of Rideau/King Edward Avenue is empty and may come up for development, along with other properties, such as the Econo Lodge.

### Homelessness Task Force Update / Mise à jour du Groupe de travail des Sans-abris (Dwight Burgess)

- The Task Force has been working with Councillor Fleury and their next meeting is June 26. The City has a 10-year plan to reduce the number of homeless in the downtown. The focus of the plan is on the chronically homeless (those who are homeless for multiple years, or those who leave and come back). The Task Force is asking Councillor Fleury for the project workflow and framework, financial information of the plan (budget, where allocated), rationale for the budget allocation, and what funds available and what will be done with them. The Task Force would like to see the current proposal document that the City is tabling to the province. They would like to review it and provide highlights to the LCA and community.
- They would also like to have a member of the Task Force sit on the City's oversight committee for transparency reasons. For example, the Task Force have presented ideas for fundraising to the City but are unsure of where do the City stands on these issues.
- Dwight will provide an update to the LCA after the June meeting. The update will be in the Echo.
- People with questions or comments can contact Dwight at [info@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:info@lowertown-basseville.ca).

#### Questions/Discussion:

- What is the plan to track the reductions in number of homeless? Plan is to construct new housing for homeless.
- Source of funds? Funds are primarily from the Provincial Government with some from the City.
- Furnishing homes and helping to move people are big issues. Funding from the Kindness Metre helped to move 86 homeless people last year.
- Is the plan to house people outside of Lowertown? Need to see plan but generally yes. Perhaps Air Miles could be used to support the initiative, similar to hospice in Cornwall, where funds purchase supplies for housing.

### 7. Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du conseiller

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

- **Bingham Park:** Thank you to Mike Kirkpatrick and the Chance Foundation for the re-opening of Bingham Park on Sunday. Jules Morin park is nearly complete, including pool opening and tree planting.
- **St. Patrick Resurfacing:** Will start in July, doing prep work now. Just removing and reinstating asphalt. Also discussion around cycling improvements but no decision yet. Sharrows discussed but community wants lane so are looking for compromise.
- **Byward Market:** BIA and City approved funds for short term fix of street-scaping, feeds into renewal of farmers market and toward 2017. Benches and umbrellas have been well received.
- **Homelessness:** Hard to give an update because many moving pieces. The City remortgaged community housing properties with a \$4M saving so they are able to reinvest funds in housing issues. Moving into model where shelters are for emergencies and housing first is the focus.
- **Dalhousie Re-zoning:** Will get City legal to confirm that heritage conservation district is preceding document that trumps everything else.

**Questions/Discussion:**

- Opportunity to work Complete Streets policy into Dalhousie re-zoning? Need to work through practical and financial aspects. Work on Dalhousie is not the type of work that leads to complete streets.
- Our Lady School: last week got a court decision that gave City a win but has not given judgement with implications. City looking at all alternatives, including expropriation. Lauzon has developed proposals but has never officially submitted a proposal to the City.
- Bruyere Hospital potential changes, would embrace community involvement in development: Councillor Fleury has not heard that. Resident with knowledge of issue to connect with Councillor Fleury.

***Meeting adjourned: 8:30pm***