

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

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 12 MAY 2014 / 12 MAY 2014
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7-9 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER, 19-21h

- **Board members present:** Liz Bernstein (Acting President), Michael Kirkpatrick (Vice President), Ted Lawrence (Treasurer), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary), Steve Monuk (Director, Business Liaison), Sylvie Grenier (Director, Planning), Liz Mackenzie (Director, Heritage Committee)
 - **Appointed members present:** Nancy Miller Chenier (Co-Chair, Heritage Committee), Norman Moyer (Liaison, BIA Safety and Security Committee)
 - **Total community members present:** 30
1. **Welcome and Introductions / Mots de bienvenue et introductions (Liz Bernstein)**
 - Roundtable introductions.
 - Marc Aubin presented the LCA with an anonymous donation of \$2,000 for heritage priorities.
 - The LCA is organizing a provincial all-candidates debate on June 4 at the Centre de Service Guigues. More information is forthcoming.
 2. **Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Liz Bernstein)**
 - Meeting agenda and meeting notes from April meeting approved.
 3. **Ottawa Police Services Update / Mise à jour du Service de police d'Ottawa (Constable Ryan Pierce)**
 - Issues raised by residents:
 - Lots of traffic on Mackenzie in the morning so cyclists ride on the sidewalk because they feel unsafe on the road but they go fast and endanger pedestrians. Asked if it was possible to ticket cyclists. Ryan asked to receive an e-mail about this issue that he could forward to their traffic unit. Bicycles are considered vehicles and can't be on the sidewalk. Noted that road safety issues where cyclists are concerned about safety should be directed to the City.
 - Speeding on King Edward Avenue: Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is aware of this issue. In short term, need enforcement but over longer-term need to come up with solutions for re-occurring problems. Issues are related to design of road. The roads do not accommodate all users effectively.
 - Car break-ins on Clarence between King Edward and Cumberland: It is important for all neighbours to call in these incidents. Best prevention is to clear your car at night and call in any suspicious people or incidents.
 - Issue with trying to report a broken car window that was noticed while walking by the car and having the call forwarded three times. Frustrating for residents trying to report a suspicious incident.

- **Online Reporting:** Launched today. Some stipulations about what can be reported but you do receive a case number. Also launched an iPhone app for reporting.
 - **Foot Patrol in the Byward Market:** will be available July-September. The number of officers will increase by 8 or 10 in the tourist area.
 - **May OPS Focus:** Dealing with unsafe vehicles and heavy trucks.
4. **Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du conseiller**
- **Present from the Councillor's Office:** Nathaniel Mullin, Matt Genest, Alana Dale Hill
 - **Jules Morin Park:** Upgrades are almost complete and the park will re-open in early July.
 - **Night Market in Byward:** Begins this Thursday at 5:30. Will be open until 8pm on Thursdays.
 - **Bridge connecting Somerset and Donald:** Construction starting this summer with pillars. Deck will be added next summer. Construction is dictated by wildlife spawning times.
 - **Mural between York Street Public and St. Anne Schools:** Project was approved.
 - **Bordeleau Park:** Councillor's office will look into the purpose of the yellow and red flags that have been there all winter and are rusty.
 - **Water Environment Strategy:** Nathaniel to confirm how residents are able to participate.
 - **Ash Trees:** Trees taken down will be replanted. Some trees had to be taken down around Donald for bridge construction. Planting will occur after bridge construction. One-for-one policy on replanting trees lost to Emerald Ash Borer disease. City is trying to keep the oldest trees as much as possible to retain the canopy.
 - **Basketball court at King Edward Roundabout:** should be completed this year.
 - **Climate Strategy:** Noted that LCA would like to see it for comment.
5. **Special Feature Presentation: Re-Zoning of Dalhousie Street / Présentation en vedette : Révision de zonage de la rue Dalhousie (Steve Gauthier, City Planner / Planificateur municipal)**
- The City is conducting several zoning studies this year as follow-ups to official plan amendments. The Dalhousie zoning study is looking at the area from St. Patrick to Boteler.
 - First phase of implementing the Official Plan (OP) is updating street zoning.
 - The basic zoning on Dalhousie is traditional main street (TM) from St. Patrick to Cathcart but is proposed to be re-zoned from residential to TM from Cathcart to Boteler as well. Designations for heritage will be on top of the zoning.
 - TM zoning usually has a maximum of height of six storeys but because of the heritage overlay, permitted heights will be for a maximum of three stories to align with the existing building heights.
 - Section from Cathcart to Boteler will be re-zoned from residential to TM to align with TM south of Cathcart but because of heritage overlay, heights will remain as is.
 - Both east and west sides of Dalhousie are designated heritage at provincial level.
 - Transition clauses: buildings abutting residential zones would be transitioned. Can have six stories next to residential buildings but there needs transitional aspect to fit with residence. The regulation caps height at the highest part of the abutting building.
 - Heritage overlay is not being touched but TM zoning is being added.
 - Question about why it is being undertaken. Gives a wedge opportunity to someone who wants to ask for greater heights? Being done by City as part of intensification policy. Resident noted that this is already the densest part of the City.

- LCA experience has been that City lifts heritage overlay in re-zoning projects, such as with King Edward Avenue re-zoning to TM? Properties on King Edward Avenue had only municipal heritage overlay. For Dalhousie, heritage overlay is provincial so City cannot lift it.
- Only Heritage Conservation Guidelines have been accepted in the OP. Requested that a Heritage Conservation study be done to have the area properly protected. A study will not be done.
- Since 2006, supposed to preserve heritage conservation principles as bylaws. The City needs review all Heritage Conservation Areas in the city and adopt the guidelines as bylaws. Sandy Hill is a priority area for this because there are no bylaws, and Lowertown is also being pushed as a priority.
- The LCA noted that it has already sent a letter to the Councillor's Office to request this because of development pressure. The LCA further noted that the heritage conservation district should be approved as a bylaw before the Dalhousie re-zoning study occurs to ensure alignment and that the strength of heritage overlay is maintained. Steve noted that this comment would be shared.
- Dalhousie is not classified as an arterial. Nothing higher than six storeys would be allowed. There are no nodes for higher heights.
- Resident noted that it is hard to fight proposals for heights greater than 6 storeys at the Ontario Municipal Board, even if there is a heritage overlay.
- The LCA requested that the Dalhousie re-zoning study be delayed while the bylaw process is carried out.
- City is hosting information session on June 17, at City Hall, 4-8pm.

- **Stewart-Dworkin House Demolition:** request was made in October to protect the building. Heritage Planner did analysis based on three criteria: architectural, contextual, historical value. The house failed in terms of architecture because the building has been altered previously. The house failed the context criteria because it is a single-family home in an MD zone. The demolition permit was issued in December.
- Residents questioned why the issue was not taken to the City's Built Heritage Sub-Committee? Did not go because the City's Heritage staff decided it was not worth pursuing. The Councillor's office will follow up to find out why the LCA was not aware of the report.
- Several months ago, the LCA sent a letter requesting that façade of the Stewart-Dworkin house be integrated into the new building. This would have made the new building more interesting and would have retained heritage on Rideau. Steve noted that the City dealt with the ASH Planning Committee on the site plan.

- 6. **King Edward Avenue Task Force Update / Mise à jour du Groupe de travail de l'avenue King Edward (Nathan Davis)**
 - In January 2013, the King Edward Avenue Task Force (KEATF) compiled a report on speeding and safety. It outlined speeding and safety issues, which were supported with data, and requested five measures that were the absolute minimum the City could do to increase safety on King.
 1. Bulbouts: Concrete barricades that remove section of lane from vehicle traffic. Requested for both sides: St. Andrew southbound and St. Andrew to Cathcart on northbound.
 2. Removal of bus lane: on southbound side to give Nile grocer parking (the outer lanes of King Edward are wide enough to double-park cars).
 3. Segregate bicycle lanes: bulbouts would help to shelter them.

4. Move the speed signs: so they are not hidden behind trees in the summer.
5. St. Andrew cross walk: adjust timing so pedestrians not waiting so long.

- In January 2014, the City rejected all requests, except for adding speed signs to the median. This was a defeat for the KEATF. The City's approach to King Edward does not reflect the City's Complete Streets Policy or policy to prioritize safety.
 - Last summer, the City ran a pilot for the bulbouts on northbound side with cones and monitored traffic flows. Staff declined to make the bulbouts permanent. The Councillor was not aware of traffic staff response and told them to run another pilot. Staff wanted to run a pilot for a longer period but the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge is under construction and causing congestion so would not give good data. Waiting to hear what will happen with pilot.
 - Other options to increase safety are to implement variable speed boards and remove shoulders.
 - The KEATF is now considering taking the safety issue to the professional engineering association if the politicians won't hold the engineers responsible.
 - The KEATF has been around for 25 years and has copious data documenting negligence by the City engineers in ensuring safety. Cyclists, pedestrians and residents have been treated as secondary concerns to cars.
 - There is a nine story condo/hotel being constructed at St. Patrick on an island. People will need to cross at the intersection where many have been killed. Changes will need to be made to crosswalks to improve connectivity and safety. Waiting to hear back from City on that issue.
- **Median from Murray street south to Rideau:** plants put in but now overgrown and the areas is full of trash. Citizens can't take care of it because it is in the middle of the road and not safe. The City has no plan for regular maintenance but the Councillor's Office has said it will be cleaned up and more resilient plants added.
- **Tunnel:** The KEATF is meeting with Councillor Fleury and the Mayor regarding progress on the study. The RFP was released about two weeks ago. Engineering firms will bid on contract for study. The study will last 15 months. The Mayor is very hopeful that tunnel will go forward. Political and financial ducks seem to be falling in line to make it possible.
- **Speeding:** The Councillor's Office staff noted that Councillor Fleury will be meeting with Chief Bordeleau about speeding enforcement on King Edward.
 - Peter Hume tweeted about a permanent variable speed board in his Ward. The KEATF have been asking for boards since before Councillor Fleury took office and have requested that he follow up on this. Have also requested that the Councillor's Office follow up on a truck that is habitually and illegally parked at St. Patrick.
- **Bollards:** Trying to get funding for bollards at bulbouts at Waller/Rideau and at KEA. Would help truck drivers to identify where sidewalks are and force them to take wider turns.

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

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

- **Upper Rideau Community Development Plan (CDP):** Information shared at most recent session was generally the same as what Melanie presented to the LCA in April. Information confirmed at the session:
 - The City is looking at heritage buildings in area, as requested.

- In the ten years since the original CDP was developed, emphasis on cycling and pedestrians has increased and will be incorporated into the new CDP.
- There will be a section on implementation and funding sources for any projects. This could be useful for community-identified projects as it helps to get them on the City's priority list.
- Rideau will be a "traditional main street" but the City does not feel it is realistic to limit height to six stories and we should expect development beyond that. The City currently has three proposals from developers for projects in excess of six stories.
- More formal stakeholder meetings on the Rideau CDP will be held at the end of June. The LCA will be invited.

Environment Update / Mise à jour environnementale (Liz Bernstein)

- **Water Environment Strategy Roundtable:** Expect to be receiving information this week from the Councillor's Office. Roundtable will be held on June 14. The LCA will participate.
- **Draft Climate Change and Air Quality Management Plan:** The LCA will be reviewing the report and sharing information.
- **Tree Ottawa:** Developing plan to plant trees before City anniversary to replace trees lost to Emerald Ash Borer.
- **Complete Streets:** Implementation meeting taking place in two weeks.
- **Cycling:** City of Ottawa has bike tune up and tire pumping in May.

Safety and Security Update / Mise à jour de sûreté et de sécurité (Norman Moyer and Steve Monuk)

- **A-frame Signs:** If businesses have a patio, they cannot have an A-frame sign in front of the patio. The City is not enforcing this By-law. Norman will follow up with the City and ask them to enforce their own policy.
- **Safety and Security Survey:** There is a link to this survey in the e-news. It is available in French and English. People are encouraged to complete the survey and share it with their neighbours. There is no deadline but Norman will be making a report on the preliminary results at the June meeting.

Heritage Update / Mise à jour du patrimoine (Liz MacKenzie and Nancy Miller-Chenier)

- **Our Lady School:** Despite the "urgency" expressed a month ago, the Heritage Committee has received no update on the situation.
- **Heritage Walk:** Nancy Miller Chenier will be doing the third annual Heritage Walk in Lowertown East on May 21. Meet at Le Patro. It is co-sponsored by the LCA and the Lowertown East Residents' Association.
- **256 Rideau Street (Stewart-Dworkin House):** There has been community outrage at the demolition of the Stewart/Dworkin house at 256 Rideau Street. This is a file that LCA and Action Sandy Hill have been working on for many months.
 - The community asked for heritage designation of the house months ago and the City was to prepare a heritage evaluation for the building. The LCA received the report from the City at 4:30 this afternoon. The report states that the building was unsafe.
 - The City's report rates the house on three criteria: design, context and historical value. The report notes that the house had no design value and no contextual value but that it did have historical value. Report uses research by Marc Aubin and Nancy Miller Chenier.

- The LCA thought that the house would not be touched until the City prepared and shared its heritage report. However, on Friday or Saturday bulldozers moved in and began demolition. The City knew the community interest and concern about the building but did not inform the community that a heritage report or demolition permit had been issued.
- ASH and Marc reviewed the heritage report and suspect that the City wrote the evaluation today (after demolition began). Much of the content seems to be from a petition that was sent out this weekend. There seem to be one or two people in the bureaucracy at the City that make these important decisions. The LCA wants to see a process put in place to allow for an appeal of decisions by staff to experts.
- Thank you to Marc Aubin for sharing an historic photo of the house and initiating a petition to save the house on a very short timeframe. Nearly 500 people have signed the petition.
- This house was important because it represented the last house of its kind and what Rideau Street used to be like. This was one of a few remaining Confederation-era houses but there will be none left by the 150th anniversary of Confederation if the City continues to demolish them. Heritage houses are losing their contextual value because the City is allowing heritage houses to be demolished.
- This is another battle that we have lost to the march of high-rise development on Rideau Street, despite the importance of the house to the local community and the Jewish community. However, the media interest and the response to the petition is a clear indication that community support for heritage is strong and there will be continuing pressure on the City to protect our vanishing heritage.
- There are 12 heritage buildings on the designation request list. The LCA is concerned that these will also be demolished. The Culinary Conspiracy house is next one to be decided. It has a fabulous history. The City has prepared a report based on Nancy's research but the LCA is waiting for the City's assessment of whether the house meets the architectural criteria.
- The Councillor's office apologized for not sharing the heritage report with the community sooner and for not informing the community that a demolition permit had been issued for the house. They noted that they will be looking into a more accountable process for follow up on these types of issues and that they will share the link to a public site where the public can track demolition permits that have been issued.

Communications Update / Mise à jour des communications (Liz Bernstein)

- The Communications Team, including the Echo, is looking for a new editor and writers, as well as help with delivering the paper and selling advertisements. If you are interested, please contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca.

Bingham Park Revitalization / Mise à jour du parc Bingham (Sarah Bonesteel)

- **Gardening Project:** The LCA is hosting a perennial donation and exchange on May 24 at 9:00am in Bingham Park. Everyone is invited to bring their hand tools, gardening gloves, and perennials and join us in weeding and gardening. Perennials may be donated to the Bingham Park garden or exchanged with others. The LCA has received a grant of \$1,000 from the Royal Bank of Canada's Blue Water Fund to purchase perennials for the park. It was suggested that any perennials left over from the donation/exchange be offered to community housing residents and that they be provided with assistance in planting gardens.
- **Grand Re-Opening:** June 8 at 11:00am.

Meeting adjourned 9 :00pm