

**Lowertown Community Association & King Edward Avenue Task Force
L'Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville et Groupe de travail de l'avenue King Edward
Annual General Meeting / Assemblée générale annuelle**

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 18 NOVEMBER 2013 / 18 NOVEMBRE 2013
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7-9 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER, 19-21h

Board members present: Marc Aubin (President), Liz Bernstein (Vice President), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary), Michelle Ramsay Borg (Director, Communications), Steve Monuk (Director, Business Liaison), Sylvie Grenier (Director, Planning), Vera Etches (Director, Membership and Volunteers), Nancy Miller Chenier (Co-Chair, Heritage Committee)

- **Total community members present: 35**

1. Welcome Remarks / Mots de bienvenue (Marc Aubin)

- Thank you to Auntie Loo's Treats for donating cupcakes to the social.

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

- Welcome to the following meeting guests: Michel Vallée (Co-Chair, King Edward Avenue Task Force), Mathieu Fleury (Councillor, Rideau-Vanier Ward), The Honourable Mauril Bélanger (Member of Parliament, Ottawa-Vanier), Thérèse Goneau (on behalf of The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Member of Provincial Parliament, Ottawa Vanier), Ryan Pierce (Constable, Ottawa Police Services), Louise Mayer (Recreation Supervisor, Routhier Community Centre), and Yolanda Jones (Our Lowertown Our Home Project Coordinator, Lowertown Community Resource Centre)
- Notes from 2012 Annual General Meeting and meeting notes from October 21, 2013 approved.
- Meeting agenda approved with one change: Constable Ryan Pierce to provide update following LCA President's report because of his availability.

3. LCA President's Report / ACBV Rapport du président (Marc Aubin)

- See newsletter.

4. Update from the Ottawa Police Service / Mise à jour du Service de police d'Ottawa (Constable Ryan Pierce)

- Provided a breakdown of crime statistics for zone 2400, including intoxicated persons, presence of drugs and dealers, and break and enters.
- Calls for vagrancy are down 25%, complaints for drunkenness are up, residential break and enters down 73%, commercial break and enters are also down, as are calls about mischief.
- Proactive calls (by officer based on pre-identified issue) are up an additional 20% this year from the 50% increase last year. This shows that patrol officers are proactively targeting and addressing issues that have been previously identified by residents.
- There is a trend across the country of decreased crime rates.
- There were more cycle and foot patrols in the Byward Market area this summer. This was initiated by the OPS Inspector for this area. The patrols focused on the entertainment and tourist area to proactively address repeat issues.

5. **King Edward Avenue Task Force Report / Rapport du Groupe de travail de l'avenue King Edward (Michel Vallée)**
- The King Edward Avenue Task Force (KEATF) has a long association with the Lowertown Community Association (LCA). Many KEATF were originally board members or other kinds of volunteers with the LCA. For example, Michel was previously Vice President of the LCA.
 - A. KEATF activities this year:
 - Disappointed by the National Capital Commission (NCC) decision to cancel last phase of bridge study. They had recommended the Kettle Island option and were going to do the last phase of the environmental assessment. The Government of Ontario decided to extract themselves from the study. The KEATF had hoped to get more support from our MPP but she opposed the Kettle Island option. Ontario withdrawing from the study team caused difficulty for the NCC. The Kettle Island option and continuing with the study were not support by Mayor Watson. This all led to a cancellation of the study, which is a waste of money because the most expensive part had been completed.
 - The KEATF is trying to work with City of Ottawa staff on traffic calming measures for King Edward Avenue. The KEATF asked to have speed signs moved to the median, which was done. Other requested items that were not approved by City staff:
 - Segregated cycling lanes on the north and south sides.
 - Shorten pedestrian wait time at St. Patrick. Was approved for after 11:00pm but turned down for other times because would reduce traffic flow.
 - Bulbs by St. Andrew and Bruyere to slow traffic. There was a pilot on the north bound side that slowed traffic but staff said traffic slowed too much so an expansion of the project was not approved.
 - Shorten bus lane to facilitate cycling. Originally told bus lane was a three-year temporary measure but now have more and bigger buses.
 - B. Current status:
 - The KEATF feels abandoned by the City of Ottawa and local politicians. There is little reference to King Edward Avenue in the draft Transportation Master Plan, except to look at a tunnel option.
 - The KEATF did not see much support from the Government of Ontario to look at options other than a bridge after the study cancelled.
 - C. Upcoming:
 - The KEATF is looking at a significant change in strategy and has determined they need to be more politically active. They are looking for a political champion and would like to increase their collaboration with the LCA and Action Sandy Hill.
 - They want King Edward Avenue to be more livable and safer, including resolving the traffic problem (3,500 18 wheelers per day and high traffic volume)
 - Beautification side: The KEATF is looking at options, including the possibility of installing a gateway to indicate the area is residential and speeds should be slower. This may align with the City's 100th anniversary.
 - They are also investigating the possibility of a King Edward Avenue charrette, which is an 18th century exercise to bring together planners, artists, community etc for a joint planning exercise. A charrette was held for Rideau Street about 12 years ago. It could be a good way to push for changes.

6. **Updates from elected representatives / Mise à jour des représentants élus (Mathieu Fleury, Councillor, Rideau-Vanier Ward; The Honourable Mauril Bélanger, Member of Parliament, Ottawa-Vanier; Thérèse Goneau on behalf of The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Member of Provincial Parliament, Ottawa Vanier)**

Councillor Mathieu Fleury

- Present from Councillor's Office: Mathieu Fleury and Nathaniel Mullin
- **Property standards changes:** affects all property owners and sets expectations for upkeep of porch, lawn, shed, etc (whatever is viewable from the street). Also means protecting heritage elements and ensuring their upkeep, particularly for uninhabited buildings. By-law Officers have been assigned to a special project to deal with abandoned heritage properties. This will be an issue of focus in next year.
- **Road construction:** City spent three times the usual budget usual for streets so there is lots of construction, particularly on Sussex and Rideau. There is lots of progress on Rideau and construction will be ongoing to 20 December. Construction from Dalhousie to Sussex will happen along with the light-rail construction and Rideau Centre expansion.
- **Rideau Centre Expansion:** the City of Ottawa has waived some noise restrictions at night. Exemption is for the south east side (Sears side) because the construction would mean closing OC Transpo lanes during day (not feasible) so work is being done at night.
- **Walkability Study:** very successful. City needs to pay more attention to safety and livability issues.
- **Transportation Master Plan:** congratulations to Liz and LCA for speaking at TMP hearings on complete streets. Still need to flesh out guidelines and expectations.
- **PPS Report:** There was a hiatus after the report was release because there was no funding attached. Funding has been approved for this year so the City will start aligning priorities, looking to enhance governance of the farmers' area, street scaping (plan for sidewalk renewal, trees, plants, lighting) for the entire area. Work will be done in consultation with the Byward BIA and the LCA. Work will be confined to the BIA zone. A request for expressions of interest for an underground parking lot will be issued as the City wants to reactivate the surface parking area with buskers, heritage, etc.
- **Jules Morin Park:** lots of progress, building and seating to be completed before this winter's skating season. Will be a big launch.
- **Homelessness Stakeholders Roundtable:** validation from LCA for City's ten year plan to move homeless people from shelters to supported housing. This transition is underway with a facility for 100 people in Kanata. Asked about possibility of additional services for homeless people in Lowertown: previous agreement not to increase shelters in Lowertown would be respected but as the number of homeless decreases some shelters may be converted to provide other supportive services.
- **King Edward Avenue Tunnel:** A feasibility study (5 year timeline) was included in the Transportation Master Plan. The City will continue to work with the LCA and KEATF. City agrees that current situation with trucks is not acceptable. Study is not same as one done previously by NCC.
- **Councillor Fleury's conflict of interest with Claridge:** Councillor Fleury confirmed his intention to run in next municipal election. A resident asked how he will deal with the Claridge conflict of interest situation in the long-term, given that Councillors Harder and Hume do not

seem to have the time to help the LCA on Claridge files. Councillor Fleury invited the LCA to sit down with him and discuss a new strategy.

The Honourable Mauril Bélanger:

- **Summer Jobs:** Noted that the timeline for applications has been moved up and will be in early January but that as a previous grant recipient, the LCA will receive notification.
- **Householder:** recently mailed to all households in Lowertown.
- **King Edward Avenue:** Noted that he has opposed the Kettle Island option since 1995 because it just moves the problem. His proposed alternative was the option by the Canotek Industrial Park. The NCC didn't want to look at the Quebec side of this option and weren't prepared to restrict trucks to the new bridge so would just spread the problem. He congratulated the Government of Ontario for pulling out of the study because it was the right decision. However, the problem still needs to be solved. He has spoke about this issue with Councillor Fleury and Madame Meilleur. Other community associations have proposed the idea of a tunnel and think it could work. The Government of Ontario and City of Ottawa will hopefully fund a feasibility study. If it is determined to be feasible, then funding options would need to be explored. The current truck situation is not acceptable. He would like to see the community put ideas forward, such as depots at outer points of the City where trucks could transfer their loads to smaller trucks that are allowed downtown. King Edward Avenue is the truck route for dangerous goods and we could have problems if there is even an accident.
- **Science Policy Debate:** Noted that he has organized a debate on science policy for tomorrow night. Two speakers will debate science policy at the Centre Block (room 253) on Parliament Hill from 7-9pm.
- **Town and Crown:** This event is being organized with the LCA. Mr. Bélanger is waiting for the NCC to appoint a new CEO (have interim CEO currently) and then will confirm a date with us.
- **Supervised Injection Site:** Bill C-65 is now Bill C-2. He does not support it because the conditions in the bill are outrageous and do not reflect the Supreme Court decision from two years ago. There are three elements to dealing with drugs: punishment, treatment and prevention. Need experts on treatment to speak to issue and it is important that the community be given all the facts and for decisions to be based on facts. Decisions should be made by the Minister of Health and not Public Safety.
 - In terms of treatment, Mr. Bélanger has been involved with the Chief of Police in raising \$3M to build two treatment centres for youth. Noted the importance of treating youth with addiction issues because treatment success rates are higher for youth.
 - **Prevention Program:** Mr. Bélanger is involved with a program that is currently in every high school in Ottawa as well as some health centres, such as Wabano and Youville. 150 students were targeted as potential drop outs. Through the program, the large majority did not drop out and improved their marks. Wants to expand the program to more levels of schooling.
- Mr. Bélanger will hold another coffee Saturday in Lowertown soon.
- Question about what Mr. Bélanger will do to support police in dealing with drug dealers: Police reported decrease in drug use and crimes. Police are doing very good job of containing situation. Funding for police is higher than ever.
- Question about why the Aviation Parkway is not a good option for the truck route: NCC was not prepared to designate the Parkway as a truck route. Would also need to solve the 417 split issue for it to work. NCC trying to solve two problems: commuter traffic from Gatineau and

trucks. Not possible. A better option would have been to extend public transit to Canotek and have a bridge there. In Miami, two tunnels were constructed at a cost \$600M. That is cheaper than one bridge. Mr. Bélanger has heard there may be a river under Sandy Hill that may impede the tunnel. Feasibility study will explore this.

Thérèse Goneau, on behalf of The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur:

- Thérèse noted that she is privileged to represent Madeleine Meilleur, who is a hard-working MPP. Thérèse read from notes prepared by Madeleine Meilleur:
- **Supervised injection sites:** this is one model of harm reduction and is not currently available in Ontario. The Ontario Ministry of Health supports a range of harm reduction options. As a former nurse, Madame Meilleur supports harm reduction strategies but does not think there is enough evidence to show how supervised injection sites affect host communities. She is aware that this is a contentious issue for police and communities because these sites are perceived to promote illicit drug use. She does not support supervised injection sites for Lowertown or Sandy Hill, as she does not believe they are in the best interest of residents.
- **Trucks on King Edward Avenue:** stated that this problem has gone on for too long and that a real solution is needed to the problem. Convinced that we need to work together and focus our energies. She is working with the City and Mauril Bélanger. She wants a solution that works for all communities but the continued presence of trucks is not acceptable. The idea of a tunnel has merit and would eliminate non-local trucks. She has encouraged the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to work with the City to find a solution. She noted that she will be making an announcement on 29 November.

7. Update from the Routhier Community Centre / Mise à jour du Centre communautaire Routhier (Louise Mayer)

- Louise has been with the Routhier Community Centre for one year now and loves it. We are an active and vibrant community and she is excited to be part of it.
- Over past year, the Routhier has been involved in City-wide events like Doors Open Ottawa, Nuit Blanche (hosted Ottawa University students art work). Also, Google filmed the centre so virtual tours are now available online.
- Louise has worked with partners to provide French programs for all ages.
- There will be new programs in the spring/summer. Louise encouraged residents to send feedback and ideas for new programs.
- Role of the community centre: they are part of the City's Parks and Recreation Department so offer programs for all ages, particularly health and wellness programs.

8. Treasurer's Report / Rapport du trésorier (Liz Bernstein on behalf of Michael Kirkpatrick)

- See Annex A attached.
- Liz and Mike have been working to get the LCA's financial house in order. The LCA hired two summer students through a government grant so had to pay staff for first time. The LCA now has a Revenue Canada number.
- The budget in 2013 is \$33,000. The grant for the students was about \$5,000 and grants received for Bingham Park totaled about \$15,000. Other sources of revenue included the Bingham Park rink maintenance grant from the City, donations to the LCA Heritage Committee, and Echo advertising.

- The financial statement is to August 31, 2013: \$26,000 of \$33,000 is spent. There is still one more edition of the Echo to be and printed and there are some expenses for the AGM.
- Liz and Mike are organizing to submit financial statements to Revenue Canada. The LCA has never filed before so we are working with an accountant (some pro-bono) on this.

9. Resolutions / Résolutions

- No resolutions put forward.

10. Election of the Board of Directors / Élection du Conseil d'administration (Dominique Boulais)

- Marc: Thank you to benefactors and volunteers of the LCA, inspirational to see so many people giving free time to help their community. Getting involved helps to increase appreciation for Lowertown. Lots of engagement happens outside of meetings, such as at events and through projects, interactions and other meetings. Residents are encouraged to get involved and volunteer. There are other ways to become involved besides being on the board. Information on appointed and more general positions will be in the next newsletter. Please consider volunteering and share the information with your neighbours.

- **Election (Dominique)**

- Reminded all that nominations are accepted from the floor for all positions. Nominees for president must have previously served on the board.
- See Annex B
- **President:** Marc Aubin incumbent. No further nominations. Marc acclaimed to position.
- **Vice Presidents:** Liz Bernstein (incumbent) and Michael Kirkpatrick (previously Treasurer). No further nominations. Marc acclaimed to position. Liz and Mike acclaimed to positions.
- **Treasurer:** Ted Lawrence nominated. No further nominations. Marc acclaimed to position. Ted acclaimed to position.
- **Secretary:** Sarah Bonesteel incumbent. No further nominations. Sarah acclaimed to position.
- **Director, Planning:** Sylvie Grenier incumbent. No further nominations. Sylvie acclaimed to position.
- **Director, Health and Safety:** John Chenier nominated. John requested title of position be changed to Director, Community Liaison. No further nominations. John acclaimed to position of Director, Community Liaison.
- **Director, Business Liaison:** Steve Monuk incumbent. No further nominations. Steve acclaimed to position.
- **Director, Membership and Volunteers:** Vera Etches incumbent. No further nominations. Vera acclaimed to position. Vera noted that she is looking for someone to take over this position next year.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45pm

Annex A: Financial Statements

LOWERTOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
 January through December 2013

	<u>Jan - Dec 13</u>
Income	
REVENUES	
ADVERTISING FOR ECHO	4,500.00
DESJARDINS- BINGHAM PARK	13,000.00
DONATIONS	1,000.01
GOVT GRANTS	5,560.00
OTHER GRANTS	5,500.00
RINK CONTRACT	4,200.00
Total REVENUES	<u>33,760.01</u>
Total Income	33,760.01
Expense	
BANK CHARGES	60.00
BINGHAM PARK	16,000.00
COMMUNICATIONS	60.00
ECHO PRINTING	4,000.00
EVENT EXPENSES	500.00
INSURANCE PREMIUM	500.00
MEETING COSTS	200.00
PRINTING COSTS	100.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES	500.00
RINK MAINTENANCE FEES	800.00
WAGES	5,000.00
Total Expense	<u>27,720.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>6,040.01</u></u>

Annex B: **Lowertown Community Association – 2013-2014 Position**

Executive/Board

1 – President	Marc Aubin
2 – Vice-President	Liz Bernstein
3 – Vice-President	Michael Kirkpatrick
4 – Secretary	Sarah Bonesteel
5 – Treasurer	Ted Lawrence
6 – Director (Planning)	Sylvie Grenier
7 – Director (Community Liaison)	John Chenier
8 – Director (Business Liaison)	Steve Monuk
9 – Director (Members/Volunteers)	Vera Etches
Ex-Officio President	Jan-François Grabowiecki

Appointed Positions

Co-Chairs (Heritage Committee)	Nancy Miller Chenier & Liz MacKenzie
Co-Chair (Planning Committee)	Mario Gasperetti
Co-Editors (Echo)	Nic Moyer & Sarah Meyer Truswell
Liaison (Lowertown East Resident’s Committee)	John Woodhouse
Liaison (Byward Market Security & Safety Committee)	Norman Moyer
Brand Communication Advisor	Michelle Ramsay-Borg
Membership Coordinator	Amber Clarke
Lead (Homelessness Stakeholder Roundtable)	Dwight Burgess
Skating Rink Coordinator	Shay Purdy & Jordan Sinclair
Liaison (Market Core Team)	Sylvie Grenier