Minutes – Community Meeting

Lowertown Community Association

November 9, 2020, Zoom

19:00 – 20:45

**1. 19:00 Welcome / Mot de bienvenue**

Meeting called at 19 :03 with 52 participants.

**2. Report by Sebastien Lemay on Crime in Lowertown / Rapport du Sebastien Lemay sur la criminalité dans la Basse-Ville**

Constable Lemay provided an update on crime statistics in Lowertown. Crimes against property and crimes against the person have decreased. The main driver for this decrease is attributed to COVID-19. For instance, there is less shoplifting due to restrictions on businesses.

The President noted sentiments that despite crime statistically being on down, residents have expressed feeling less secure. Constable Lemay noted that this may be factored to residents working from home and being more aware and exposed to neighbourhood dynamics than before. Furthermore, throughout varying phases of COVID-19 many businesses closed, which left homeless with less places to go during the day.

The Police are striving for rapid response and welcomes input from the community about areas requiring increased police presence.

There has been an increase in people sleeping outside. This is attributed to people feeling less inclined to stay in the shelter due to COVID-19. The Police have launched the Unsheltered Taskforce that strives to collaborate with housing services and the city to build better relationships with those experiencing homelessness.

Inspector Bryden briefed the community on the Neighbourhood Resource Teams. There are currently six of these teams deployed across the city. The Byward Market and Sandyhill teams have been running for quite sometimes. The aim of the program is to build stronger relationships with these communities by having the same officers circulate the neighbourhoods on bikes. The model is not perfect, but it is regarded as a success. In the winter, some officers will continue to patrol on bikes, while others will do so on foot.

**3. Presentation by Linda Duxbury on the evaluation process for the Neighbourhood Resource Teams /  Présentation de Linda Duxbury sur l'approche à l’évaluation du modèle de police de quartier**

Dr. Duxbury presented on the evaluation of the NRTs, which are more commonly referred to as community-oriented policing. The goal of the project is to evaluate the “value” of the NRT program to the community.

The approach is action-research, which means capturing the lived reality of recipients of the program. This research will be used to inform evidence-based decision making.

Challenges with the program include resources. Officers involved in the program are being pulled from other initiatives. COVID-19 also poses a huge challenge. It disrupted community-police interaction and the research team’s ability to conduct interviews.

The researchers are applying the Social Return on Investment (SROI) approach and are collecting data over three time periods to analyze fluctuations over time. Research Advisory Boards are being established to advise on the project. The Lowertown / Market RAB is being set up and Dr. Duxbury’s team is looking for a broad representation of stakeholders.

The researchers are using surveys (once a year) to gather quantitative data and community focus groups (once or twice a year) for qualitative data collection.

The downtown is a wicked problem – there is no quick fix and the problems are complex.

**4. Update from Councillor Mathieu Fleury / Mise à jour du conseiller Mathieu Fleury**

Bordeleau park’s tennis and pickle ball court has been refurbished and is being enjoyed by many community members.

The city’s draft budget was presented last Wednesday. The Councillor did a video blog expressing his concern over the city’s interpretation of deficits. User fees and charges remain at the same levels before the pandemic, and there is a lot of reliance on provincial and federal investments.

The Councillor encourages community members to take part in the budget committee. These meetings are all held on zoom- because they are all on zoom [https://engage.ottawa.ca/draft-budget-2021](https://engage.ottawa.ca/draft-budget-2021%20)

The Councillor also encourages community members to read Dr. Vera Etches (a Lowertown resident)’s recent [letter](https://mathieufleury.ca/important-letter-from-vera-etches-our-medical-officer/) on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Byward Market Report is coming to Finance and Economic development committee December 1. LCA members are encouraged to come and speak

The Château Laurier development plan is being resubmitted and city council asked that the city staff ensure there is proper public consultation.

NCC had two consultations recently – one was a framework on crossings. There is another one they are conducting right now relating to the Alexandra bridge.

The Councillor is conducting a [survey](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PQPM34ffbkyhuI6qc_G3LrG9z5jeecVLiRVo-llwKrVUOTdKOUpaV1MyQjlUWkhMQktaT080UzM5Ny4u) on parking in Lowertown and encourages all residents to participate.

There is an upcoming planning consultation for the building located at 126 York Street.

**5. Updates and plans of the LCA working Committees / Mise à jour et plan des comités de travail de l'ACBV**

Chairs and Co-Chairs of the LCA’s working committees provided an update of their priorities,

**6.** **Next Meeting, December 7: a focus on our many shared interests with the National Capital Commision / Prochaine réunion, le 7 décembre: un accent sur nos nombreux intérêts communs avec la Commission de la capitale nationale**