

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

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE REUNION – 9 FEBRUARY 2015 / 9 FEVRIER 2015  
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7-9 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER, 19-21h

- **Board Member Present:** Jan-François Grabowiecki (Vice President), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary), Sylvie Grenier (Director, Planning), Liz Mackenzie (Director, Heritage), Donna Kearns (Director, Business Outreach)
  - **Liaisons Present:** Norman Moyer (Safety and Security), Mario Gasperetti (Co-Chair, Planning Committee)
  - **Community members present:** 15
1. **Welcome and Introductions / Mots de bienvenue et introductions (Jan-François Grabowiecki)**
    - Welcome and roundtable introductions.
  2. **Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Jan-François Grabowiecki)**
    - Meeting agenda and notes from January meeting approved.
  3. **Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du conseiller**
    - **Present from the Councillor's Office:** Nathaniel Mullin
    - Councillor Fleury sends regrets that he was unavailable to attend the LCA meeting as he is attending a budget consultation. The Ward 12 budget consultation is on Wednesday February 11. Committee consultations are underway.
    - Concern expressed about some sidewalks where snow is not removed. The Councillor's Office will look into this.
    - **Trinity Development:** still waiting for them to re-submit something. Consultation will happen once it is received. The LCA will be included in early consultations.
  4. **Ottawa Police Services Update / Mise à jour du Service de police d'Ottawa (Walter Duhme, OPS)**
    - **Home Security Inspection Program:** volunteers are trained and cleared with safety checks to do interior and exterior home inspections to look for potential safety and security concerns. They follow a checklist. For example, they will look at landscaping, fences, lighting, access to second storeys, security of valuables, garages, and quality of door and window security. There is no cost for the inspection.
    - To request a home inspection, contact Walter Duhme at: [duhmew@ottawapolice.ca](mailto:duhmew@ottawapolice.ca)
    - Officers are trained to do inspections of condo buildings. Contact Walter to request an appointment.
  5. **Special Presentation: 20,000 Homes Campaign (Mike Bulthuis, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness) / Présentation en vedette: Campagne 20000 Maisons (Mike Bulthuis, L'Alliance canadienne pour mettre fin à l'itinérance)**
    - Ottawa Alliance to End Homelessness is embarking on campaign Meeting our Neighbours and Catalysing Housing Solutions, in partnership with the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness.
    - They are building a national movement of communities with the goal of housing 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable homeless people by July 21, 2018.
    - They are using a survey tool to meet all homeless people in a community. Information is then put into a database and provided to City with de-brief. A plan is then determined to house people. Modelled on successful 100,000 Homes Campaign in the United States. Ottawa to pilot the process. Not wanting to re-create the Ottawa housing registry.
    - Want to prioritize homeless for housing, including people who have been on the street for longer, have complex needs (addictions, mental health, etc), and are costly to maintain in the shelter system. City of Ottawa already has similar survey tool and good understanding of priority needs.

- Campaign to focus on week of awareness raising. Purpose is to increase awareness about people in Ottawa who are without homes, and to inspire community action to create additional housing solutions.
- Approach is “housing first”: permanent, safe, appropriate and affordable housing with support necessary to sustain it. Want to support and compliment work of City.
- To be held the week of April 19: teams of 3-4 people will survey people who are homeless about their health and housing needs to learn and share their stories. St. Albans Church on King Edward Avenue will host the project. Data entry will be done the following week and a report will be provided to the City. Purpose is to use the report to establish a housing goal.
- “Broadening the Base”: finding people with resources that can support the goal of housing (money, land, landlords, etc). Project includes Rideau BIA and OPS. Reaching out to community organizations.
- Currently recruiting volunteers and looking for in-kind donations (refreshments, honouraria, etc).
- For more information or to volunteer, contact Mike Bulthuis, Executive Director, Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa: [mike@endhomelessnessottawa.ca](mailto:mike@endhomelessnessottawa.ca).
- First phase is now to April 19: getting out and meeting homeless neighbours.
- Second phase is post-April 19: analyzing data, preparing report and brainstorming solutions.

## 6. Areas of Interest – Updates / Sujets d’intérêts particuliers– Mises à jour :

### Planning Update / Mise à jour du Comité de planification (Sylvie Grenier & Mario Gasperetti)

- **Re-zoning:** initiated by City to encourage walking access within neighbourhoods to small businesses, like corner stores. City has identified properties in Lowertown where it wants to change zoning from residential to commercial. In the past, if commercial use ended, the property would revert to residential zoning. Now, the property would retain commercial zoning.
  - LCA asked to provide comments. Concern about increase in commercial and loss of residential spaces. Locations under consideration include: plaza across from De La Salle High School, garage on Cumberland at Guigues, and Portuguese Bakery on Nelson near Clarence.
  - Concern expressed about keeping Cumberland residential because King Edward and Dalhousie are zoned as traditional main streets for commercial businesses. Not concerned about garage staying a garage.
  - City will mail notification to residents living around properties under consideration.
  - Concern about ensuring properties cannot become bars or restaurants in residential areas.
- **No right turn at night signs:** signs were implemented many years ago to curb prostitution (south on Cumberland at St. Patrick and York, no right turn). Resident has requested they be removed. Councillor’s Office will look into issue if LCA is okay with it.
  - Cumberland and York is challenging for pedestrian safety because of odd turning lanes and walk signals.
- **Uptown Rideau CDP:** Along Rideau from King Edward Avenue to Cummings Bridge, and Besserer to Beausoleil.
  - Last meeting was to present on two issues: public realm and built form.
  - New park space to be integrated in built form. Improvements to pedestrian crossings as part of public realm. Three intersections identified.
  - Rideau is zoned for main street (6 storeys). Buildings range from 6-9 storeys. Main proposal is to look at “density transfer”: allow taller buildings at some strategic sites and then allow buildings lower than 6 storeys as well. Going higher may allow for more public space at ground level.
  - Concern that exercise was to clarify zoning and allowing higher buildings introduces inconsistencies.
  - LCA Planning Committee will submit comments. Two more meetings of working group, final report in May and decision by Council in September.
  - Concern that developers may request cash-in-lieu for green space so they will get taller building height and community will not get green space.
  - Cash-in-lieu for parks is helpful for existing parks to receive upgrades, such as Jules Morin Park.

#### **Environment Update / Mise à jour environnementale (John Woodhouse)**

- Walkability Audit on 17 February, 4:00pm. Councillor's Office to confirm the date.
- Commercial area of Byward Market is clear of snow but want to look at back streets. Let John know if there are areas that should be looked at: [info@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:info@lowertown-basseville.ca).

#### **Heritage Update / Mise à jour du patrimoine (Liz MacKenzie)**

- Application for summer students was submitted. Very useful to have student support for research projects.
- Have begun to engage the Chinese Embassy on heritage issues. Ambassador is very interested.
- **17 Myrand Street (Ste. Anne Rectory):** being designated as a historical building. Research has been done for four other buildings and Committee will be asking that the City designate them.
- **Billboards:** concern about large billboards in the Byward Market that are not displaying information relevant to the area and are out of scale for the neighbourhood. Committee has submitted a letter of complaint to the City. Heritage Conservation District status should protect us from these sorts of issues. Councillor's Office to look into update on status of billboard permit.
- **Winterfest:** Heritage Committee will be at Winterfest. Looking for volunteers to help out.
- **Digital Signs:** City Bylaws do not cover signs inside buildings. Grey area that is being looked at by staff and will be brought to Council.

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

- Ten years of crime data was requested from OPS to better understand crime trends in Lowertown. Request was made under Freedom of Information. Response is that data will cost \$2,400 to compile.
- Options to obtain data are: see if other community associations and BIA would be interested in helping to fund data, asked that Councillor's Office verify cost to obtain data and whether discount for community associations is possible. Councillor's Office indicated that cost for data is based on number of hours for someone to compile data. Concern expressed about public access to information that is already being used by OPS. Asked if Councillor's Office is willing to contribute to costs. Nathaniel will look into it.
- Want to understand if crime is increasing, and types of crimes that occur and where within the community. Want to understand impact of very dense bar and restaurant area on surrounding neighbourhood.
- Discussion about information that OPS provides to justify their annual budget requests.
- Norman to follow up with Councillor's Office to discuss options to fund request for data.
- Jan working with two Ottawa U students on research project regarding disturbances in Byward Market. Working with geomapping data on OPS website and media reports. Results of analysis will be provided to community and Councillor's Office.

#### **Business Outreach Update / Mise à jour des Relations commerciales (Donna Kearns)**

- Waiting to hear from City what plan is for Byward Market. Looking at options for future activities.
- Stew cook off revenues to be provided to Lowertown Community Resource Centre. Twenty youth sent to summer camp with revenues last year.

#### **5. Community Interest and Events / Intérêt communautaire et Événements:**

- **Updating the LCA Bylaws and Constitution / Mise à jour des règlements de l'ACBV et de sa Constitution (Sarah Bonesteel)**
  - Amendments to ONCA are expected in Springs so currently waiting to see how this will change legislation. Suggestions for changes to Constitution can be sent to [info@lowertown-basseville.ca](mailto:info@lowertown-basseville.ca).
- **Winterfest 2015 (Katherine VanMeyl, Lowertown Community Resource Centre)**
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Winterfest will be held Feb 16, 1-4pm. Event includes bouncy castle and carriage rides.
  - More volunteers are welcome.