

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

AGENDA / ORDRE DU JOUR – 9 MARCH 2015 / 9 MARS 2015
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7-9 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER, 19-21h

- **Board Members Present:** Liz Bernstein (President), Jan-François Grabowiecki (Vice President), Nathalie Vallieres (Director, Membership and Volunteers), Donna Kearns (Director, Business Outreach), John Chenier (Director, Community Outreach), Sylvie Grenier (Director, Planning), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary)
 - **Liaisons Present:** Nancy Miller-Chenier (Co-Chair, Heritage Committee), Sandra Pilote (Lowertown East Resident's Committee Liaison), Michelle Ramsay-Borg (Brand and Communications Liaison), Norman Moyer (Safety and Security Liaison)
 - **Community Members Present:** 17
1. **Welcome and Introductions / Mots de bienvenue et introductions (Liz Bernstein)**
 - Welcome and roundtable introductions
 - Thank you to Michelle Ramsay Borg for developing the new LCA website.
 2. **Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Liz Bernstein)**
 - March agenda and February meeting notes approved.
 3. **Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du conseiller**
 - **Present from the Councillor's Office:** Nathaniel Mullin, Councillor Mathieu Fleury
 - **Budget 2015:** Will be approved on Wednesday and then City moves into "term of council priority", which will include King Edward Avenue truck route and ByWard Market renewal. Not expecting level of services to decrease so let the Councillor's Office know if changes are noticed.
 - **Sussex Renewal:** Emergency water main replacement on Cathcart planned for this summer, with community consultation in late March or early April. Portion to be changed is from Dalhousie to Sussex.
 - **Truck Route:** In study phase. Parsons engineering is studying feasibility of connecting tunnel with Macdonald Cartier Bridge. To be completed in 2015. Looking at land from the Rideau Canal to Rideau River for the tunnel. Keeping it under King Edward Avenue is the goal.
 - **ByWard Market Renewal:** Will be a not-for-profit arm managing building and vendors. Looking at streetscaping priorities. Management and lifecycle of building are priority. Councillor Fleury asked that community support request to Council for funding. Main market building lease expires in 2017 but new governance model will be in place by 2016. Need to realign the building life cycle maintenance with the governance launch. Need to renovate building before it is turned over. Councillor Fleury looking for ideas to attract new businesses and address empty storefronts.
 - **Walkability Audit:** Noticed general progress from last year but also negative impact of construction on pedestrian accessibility. Issues have been flagged to see what can be done to better protect pedestrian right of way and sidewalk accessibility.
 - **Questions:**
 - Crime statistics: effort to get data to better understand what is happening in community. Would like to work with Councillor's office to see what can be done to find funding and partnerships to obtain data. Councillor Fleury is willing to work with LCA on the issue.
 - Basketball parking: plan to address that spaces are used by DFAIT instead of basketball players? Suggestion from Councillor Fleury to have pay and display during work hours but free parking evenings and weekends. Wants to know if community supports plan. Suggestion to put skateboard park in the parking area. Councillor Fleury open to suggestion but would want skateboarders to contact his office.
 - Why is City initiating change to zoning that would permit more commercial space if there are empty storefronts and some existing businesses are struggling? Concern that City is already rezoning more

blocks on Dalhousie and King Edward Avenue as Traditional Main Streets, which is for commercial businesses.

- Local commercial study is about saving businesses with non-conforming rights. Not meant for large commercial enterprises. Businesses cannot be more than 100 square metres. Not growing commercial footprint but just permitting continuation of existing commercial.

4. Areas of Interest – Updates / Sujets d'intérêts particuliers– Mises à jour:

- **Planning Update / Mise à jour du Comité de planification (Sylvie Grenier)**
 - **Re-zoning of non-conforming properties in residential areas:** The LCA opposed this because there are already commercial areas on streets such as Dalhousie, King Edward Avenue, ByWard Market. Want to protect residential areas, which are being lost, and enhance existing commercial areas. Met with the City staff but they indicated LCA's comments were not considered favourably. The policy is City-wide within the green belt and the LCA was asking for a tailored approach because of the unique circumstances in our neighbourhood, which already has many commercial areas.
 - **Uptown Rideau Community Design Plan:** City made initial recommendations to a working group and the LCA provided comments. Draft design plan to be released in the spring, with a presentation to the community. The LCA is investigating the possibility of a joint meeting with Action Sandy Hill.
 - **Basilica Parking Lot:** Church has made application for permanent parking. LCA and Councillor Fleury did not support application. Church has received letter to that effect. Expected that they will apply for another temporary parking permit. Currently do not have parking permit because it has expired.
 - Resident indicated that neighbours are in favour of approving a temporary parking lot until a plan for permanent construction of a building is made. Neighbours would like to see parking removed on one side of Guigues Street because it is too crowded, especially in the winter.
- **Environment Update / Mise à jour environnementale (Liz Bernstein)**
 - **Tall Trees and Boulevards Event:** Tuesday March 10, 7:30pm, 2 Monk Street. Discussion of urban tree issues with City staff (Felix).
 - **Walkability and Active Transportation:** Did walkability audit with Councillor Fleury's office to look at pedestrian accessibility on snow clearing. In general, improvements since last year. Issues identified were snow plows dumping snow in crosswalk at some intersections, some snow sculptures on sidewalk, and construction at William Street and Rideau (delivery trucks make it hard for pedestrians to pass because of restricted areas). Suggestion for Highlander to move their patio fence. Nathaniel to verify status of request.
 - **CAFES (Community Association Forum on Environmental Sustainability):** Meeting March 28 at Hintonburg Community Centre. David Chernushenko and Yasir Naqvi are invited. Issues for discussion are trees, air quality and City's climate change plan.
 - **Energy East Pipeline:** City agreed to send letter regarding citizen health and safety concerns and participate in National Energy Board hearing. Premiers meeting in Quebec City on April 11 and communities concerned about Energy East Pipeline are planning demonstrations.
- **Business Outreach Update / Mise à jour des Relations commerciales (Donna Kearns)**
 - Last meeting was post-poned and next meeting is later this week. Will make an update at the April meeting.
- **Communications Update / Mise à jour des communications (Communications Team)**
 - Merle and Giulia meeting to discuss the next edition of the Echo. Expecting to have revenue similar to last edition. Michelle and Giulia working on revisions to the masthead.
 - 600 people visited new website. Facebook "likes" increased by 50 people over the past month.
 - Michelle received congratulations on new brand and website from other organizations.
 - People on Bolton, Boteler, 179 George, and Guigues west of King Edward Avenue reported not receiving the last Echo through Canada Post delivery.

- Next deadline for Echo articles is March 10 to Giulia.
- Nathalie: looking at options for cost effective and comprehensive delivery.
- Thank you to Merle, Giulia and Michelle for all of their work on the Echo.

5. Special Presentation / Présentation en vedette:

- **Lowertown East Resident's Committee Safety Survey (Sandra Pilote, Lowertown East Resident's Committee)**
 - In August/September 2014, volunteers went door-to-door to survey residents. Positive responses: most feel they strongly belong to community, it is a great place to live, believe that parks are safe for kids, neighbours help one another, and neighbourhood is safer now than last year.
 - Residents also indicated there is too much vandalism and graffiti, theft, robbery, break-ins, illegal drugs, gangs, and that they don't feel safe walking at night.
 - Question: what is overall most important message? Perception is important. Need to be careful not to pre-judge (e.g. what we call a gang) and try to focus on what is positive.
- **Gang Strategy and Crime Prevention Measures for Neighbourhoods (Sharaarke Abdulla, Crime Prevention Ottawa)**
 - Developed toolkit (available online) for gang strategy. Takes a multi-faceted approach with four pillars: prevention, intervention, neighbourhood cohesion, and enforcement/suppression.
 - **Neighbourhood Cohesion:** help immigrant communities understand criminal justice system and system to understand challenges of immigrant communities. Helps parents recognize signs of problems and intervene early. Also post-incident protocol for police/community leader communication after shooting incidents.
 - **Prevention:** working with schools to prevent gangs through risk identification but with asset-based approach; family-based approach to helping high risk youth (project with 32 families focused in Lowertown); and hosting shared training for youth workers in closed facilities and in community.
 - **Intervention:** feeding information to provincial gang strategy and inter-mapping tool, and gang exit service (mayor's priority) in partnership with other community organizations. Well supported by business community. Waiting to see City budget allocation for this project.
 - **Enforcement/suppression:** lead by OPS Guns and Gangs Unit. Working with them to get a better idea of how many gang members in City, etc. About 500 known gang members and associates.
 - **Neighbourhood Toolkit:** available on Crime Prevention Ottawa website.
 - Beautification Forum: takes an asset-based approach to addressing crime in neighbourhood.
 - Working with community partners to address "home takeovers", often done to vulnerable people (elderly, special needs).
 - Question about programs for women in gangs but also to address sexual violence: Violence against women is a priority for Crime Prevention Ottawa. "We Expect Better" is a project in the west end that is holding young men accountable and letting them know expectations for behaviour. Another school has "Man Up" campaign to raise awareness and shift behaviour.
 - Question about whether Crime Prevention Ottawa can help LCA to access long-term crime data. Crime Prevention Ottawa uses Ottawa Neighbourhood Study to understand issues across the City. Suggests not waiting for data. Go year-by-year and build on what we have over time.
- **Safety and Security Update / Mise à jour de sûreté et de sécurité (Norman Moyer)**
 - Received invitation to consult with Councillor Fleury about next steps on data request. Will raise issue at BIA safety and security meeting to see if they support the request.
 - Would be beneficial for all communities in Ottawa to have access to the level of detailed data that the LCA is requesting to better understand crime trends in their neighbourhood.