

**CENTRETOWN CITIZENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**Board Meeting – Minutes**

**Tuesday, 17 February, 2015**

**7 – 9 p.m., Ottawa City Hall, Honeywell Room**

**Attendance**

**Board:** Thomas McVeigh, Tim Abray, Rob Dekker, Paul Mennier, Charles Akben-Marchand, Maria Luisa Marti, Mitchell Kutney, Patricia Marsden-Dole, Tom Whillans, Graham Pressey

**Others:** Bonnie Mabee, Alice Nakanishi, J. P. Davis, Darin Cohen, Georgia Lay, Joan Spice, Margo Boire, Gail McGuire, Michel Adrien Sheppard.

**Regrets:**

**Recording Secretary: Graham Pressey**

**1. Call to Order, Welcome and Board Member Regrets**

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

**MOTION 1: *That the Board approve this draft agenda.***

Moved: M. L. Marti

Seconded: Paul Mennier

**Carried**

**3. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes and Business Arising**

**MOTION 2: *That the Board approve the minutes of its December 2014 meeting.***

Moved: P. Mennier

Seconded: M. L. Marti.

**Carried**

**4. Announcements**

G. Lay reports that there will be an emergency meeting regarding budget cuts to drop-in centres for homeless people held February 18, at 7:30 at the corner of Bank and Argyle.

T. McVeigh reports that there will be an Eco?? Meeting held at City Hall on Thu

**4.1 Call for announcements**

**5. Somerset Ward Councilor's Report (by Catherine McKenney )**

Verbal Report by D. Cohen, on behalf of Councillor McKenney . He reports the last meeting of the urban caucus was attended by over 90 people. The Human Scale film screening was attended by 600 people, and many local Ottawa groups. McKenney will be attending meetings regarding the funding cuts to drop-in centres, such as Centre 507.

**6. Advocating Safe and Appropriate placements at Brook Tower", presentation by Margo Boire.**

M. Boire, an Ottawa resident living at Brook Towers, an apartment building run by Ottawa Community Housing, gave a presentation to the CCCA Board Meeting. She reports that Brook Towers has had a history of allowing people that lack basic social living skills to move in the building. People move in that need support that the building is unable to provide. This results in problems such as violence, prostitution, drug use and alcoholism. The building's management has been unable and unwilling to consistently apply policies that will deal with the situation.

While Options Bytown is the social service provider for the area, it offers limited programs and services. She wants people to know that the City is using the building for homeless shelter overflow, and asks that we encourage Councillor McKenney to encourage the implementation of policies to resolve the problems, that is, better screening of tenants and more appropriate placement of tenants. The tenants of the building have formed the Coalition for Appropriate Safe Housing, so that these tenants are able to receive proper care and support.

## **7. Executive and Committee Reports**

### **7.1) President (by Thomas McVeigh)**

T. McVeigh presented a verbal report. The FCA is supporting a motion regarding campaign contributions, and is asking the CCCA to consider the motion in the following weeks. The

### **7.2) Corporate Secretary (by Graham Pressey )**

Verbal Report and Minutes from last meeting

### **7.3) Membership Secretary (by Maria-Luisa Marti)**

M.L. Marti presented a written report. In addition, she reports that current total of active members is 89.

#### **Membership Secretary February 17, 2015**

As part of Membership commitment to raise Centretown's presence in the community attended several community oriented meetings:

*McNibbs CA monthly coffee klatch concerns:* lack of information from the CCCA, suggestion welcome back letter for members after AGM.

*Friends of James and Bay:* wine and whine evening; concerns: Need to know what CCCA is working on, more info to community needed.

*FCA –* attended monthly meeting, I have been asked to participate in the of nominations committee for the June AGM elections.

*Community Spirit:* Snow angel's nominations see City of Ottawa site

<http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/social-services/seniors/get-help-clearing-snow>

*The Gotta Go (Friends of Dundonald Park)* a survey is in the works. Offered to send survey to our membership to help determine the needs for a toilet in Dundonald Park, next meeting March 25th at the CCHC

*The Urban Winter Gardens Tour.* Attended by 38 City Planners and 1 Community representative (me), Sponsored by the City of Chicago. Seven different cities

simultaneously participated in this tour Toronto, Halifax, Ottawa where the Canadian participants. Once again during a snow storm, great fun I have pictures.  
*The Human Scale, Film.* Sponsored by Sandy Hill CA. Cllr McKenney was part of the panel spoke eloquently on the need for public transport. We might want to consider sponsoring this type of event. Very well attended over 600 people showed up and this during a snow storm.

*Infill 2* - City and at large Community meetings.

Sent "dear neighbours" letter to the Buzz encouraging Centretowners to comment on the local commercial study and Infill 2

*Membership operational:* maintenance of membership database. Met and discussed process with Alice N. Thanks Alice.

Membership is using this account: centretownisforpeople@gmail.com to communicate with members until a more official email is created.

Created a Gdrive where all membership current and past will be stored. Accessible to Chairs and the Executive. Need to facilitate transition with Chairs and Exec. I will be contacting Chairs for needs assessment.

Review on how the community and City contacts the CCCA. New emails need to be created to have an archival of communication between committees, members and City.

Review how City communicates with Association where and who do emails go to.

To be able to assess the true situation with our membership a need to send all contacts in our present list letter reminding them to renew membership. Some help with the drafting of letter would be appreciated.

Participated and summarized raw data of the Board Survey for the Executive. Next steps with Robert Dekker and Exec.: Survey Monkey key questions to active membership.

As always membership rocks! ML

#### **7.4) Treasurer (by Paul Mennier)**

P. Mennier reported no material change in the CCCA's finances.

#### **7.5) Executive Committee (By Robert Dekker)**

R. Dekker reported the results of the Board survey. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held Tuesday March 10th 7pm.

### **CCCA Executive Committee Report February 2015**

The CCCA Executive Committee reviewed the results of the survey distributed to the Board for completion last month. We received 60% participation on the survey.

Results indicate that top issues that should be addressed are:

1. Increasing CCCA Membership 83%
2. CCCA Organizational Review 17%

The following the review of the results and replies received, the Executive agreed that a shorter survey will be distributed to all current CCCA members. The survey will be sent via Survey Monkey using the FCA Survey Monkey account.

A Ten question survey will be presented to the Board for approval.

**MOTION 3: That the CCCA Board approve the ten question survey to be distributed to all current CCCA Members via email, with amendments. (See appendix for draft survey questions)**

Moved: R. Dekker

Seconded: P. Mennier

**Carried**

**7.6) Heritage Committee (by Paul Mennier, champion)**

P. Mennier reports no change.

**7.7) Planning Committee (by Tim Abray)**

T. Abray reported on the planning committee meeting. Graeme Hussey of the CCOC attended, and presented on an initiative to increase the amount of affordable housing in Ottawa.

**CCCA Planning Committee Report  
Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

*Attendance:* Thomas McVeigh; Maria Luisa Marti; Jared Denison; Darrin Cohen; Joan Spice; Alice Nakanishi; Patricia Marsden-Dole; Valerie Blazeski; Judy Bernstein; Tim Abray (chair).

**Presentation and Q&A: Infill 2, Zoning Bylaw Review**

- Steve Gauthier, Planner, Policy Development and Urban Design Branch
- Steve provided us with an update on the status of Infill II and an opportunity to ask questions about the principles and the process.

*Recommendations:*

That the CCCA Board take a position on maximum height provisions and roofline treatments and send a letter to the City stating that position. A suggested letter is attached for consideration.

That CCCA continue to monitor this situation and remain engaged with the FCA as it negotiates changes to the proposed bylaw amendments.

**Presentation and Q&A: Broadening the Base**

- Graeme Hussey, Development Manager, Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation
- Graeme gave a general presentation about the BtB initiative, for information only. The project is a community-driven effort to assist the city in setting and reaching a goal for adding 1,500 units of affordable housing.

*Recommendation:*

- That CCCA send a letter of general support; and, seek a volunteer liaison(s) to remain engaged with the group, monitor its progress and assist CCCA in identifying opportunities for further involvement.

- Further Items:

**180 Metcalfe**

Still lacking a clear position on this matter. Councillor McKenney opposes hotel usage in this building and will be opposing the application, as it stands. Deadline for input is Feb. 20.

**Mainstreets proposal**

Recommendation: a generally supportive position letter to City Councillors should be drafted and circulated for board review/approval.

CCCA Planning Committee Report - Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 6:00 – 9:10 p.m. - Billings Room, City Hall

**City Parking Study**

PC was supportive of participating in this study and suggested moving care of this file to a new parking subcommittee comprised of members from various interested CCCA committees, perhaps 2-3 members from each committee. Recommendation: strike a subcommittee to take carriage of the issue for CCCA.

**68 Cooper**

Application for office use, (DECLINED) deadline for responses was April 14, 2015.

**154 O'Connor**

Heading for Ottawa Planning Committee March 10, 2015.

**OMB appeal 486 McLeod**

Date set for OMB hearing, March 17. The neighbours are considering their options.

**Museum of Nature, Update on public meeting, January 29**

The committee heard from members who attended the meeting and about plans for landscaping around the Museum of Nature. Although the landscaping plans are a step in the right direction, the CCCA objective (as per our CDP/OPA) has been to find a way to eliminate ground level parking in order to convert both west and east lawns to greenspace.

Recommendation: That the matter be referred to the Transportation and/or Trees and Greenspace Committees for further monitoring

**Planning Committee, Mandate and Priorities**

Deferred from Jan 6 – to be deferred until a separate meeting can be organized).

***Motion 4: That CCCA send a letter of general support to Broadening the Base; and, seek a volunteer liaison(s) to remain engaged with the group, monitor its progress and assist CCCA in identifying opportunities for further involvement.***

**Moved:** T. Abrays

**Seconded:** P. Mennier

**Carried**

***Motion 5: That the CCCA Board takes the position that maximum heights are maximum heights, support the FCA position on roofline treatments, and send a letter to the City supporting that position.***

**Moved:** T. Abrays

**Seconded:** T. Whillans

**Opposed:** Paul

**Carried**

**Motion 6: That the CCCA Board strike a subcommittee to take carriage of the parking study issue on behalf of the CCCA, to be championed in the interim by Joan Spice.**

**Moved:** T. Abrays

**Seconded:** R. Dekker

**Carried**

**7.8) Seniors Committee (by Patricia Marsden-Dole, chair)**

P. Marsden-Dole reported to the board on the reception to an article published in the Centretown Buzz.

**Seniors Committee Report**

**February, 2015**

The challenge of providing on parking for seniors in Centretown was our topic for the BUZZ this month in light of the city's decision to undertake a parking study for the whole of Centretown. We anticipate that growing numbers of seniors coming into the centre of the city will be concerned with the increasing losses and restrictions in respect of on street parking spots; spots that are needed for seniors who use cars themselves or depend on parking spaces for their visitors whether family and friends or service providers that allow seniors to age in place.

**7.9) Transportation Committee (by Michel-Adrien Sheppard, chair)**

M-A. She

**Transportation Committee Meeting**

**February, 2015**

**Centretown parking study**

Joan Spice from the CCCA planning committee explained that the association has asked that the city undertake a study of parking needs in Centretown. The city has accepted and will conduct such a study in 2015 between Bronson and the Canal.

Joan explained that the idea for the CCCA is to have representatives from the planning, transportation and seniors committees come together to develop some guidelines in terms of what we want to see in the terms of reference of the city initiative.

Any members of the transportation committee who would be interested in being on this CCCA group should contact me.

Joan provided me with materials from the city's parking study in the Little Italy/Preston St. area and I have attached them. This will give you some idea of how the city approaches the issue, though the Centretown parking study might be very different.

**Elgin sidewalk patios**

The city finished a 2 year pilot project that allowed a number of Elgin St. bars/eateries to open summer patios on the sidewalk. The city will now determine a more permanent

policy. There were many criticisms of the patios, including some from the CCCA, in particular during our Elgin St. walkability audit in the summer of 2013 and later in the fall of 2014 when the public was invited to send in comments on the pilot project. One of the major complaints: the patios in many cases created big obstacles for pedestrians and did not respect the minimum 1.8 metre unencumbered sidewalk width for walkers as provided in city bylaws. There were many other criticisms, including from CCCA members.

The transportation committee decided not to favour any specific type or model or design or location for any future sidewalk patios. Instead, we agreed that we will insist on more than the 1.8 metre width and demand that any patios respect an unencumbered width of 2m at least. This is in keeping with the demand that the Lowertown Community Association is working on in the Bytowne Market area,

#### **Update on the O'Connor bicycle path project**

I reported on the most recent progress on this project. The City has decided that a bicycle facility will be built along O'Connor from Wellington to the Canal. The first phase would end at Glebe Ave. The lane is part of the official transportation plan and the official cycling plan. The planners will present their recommendation for a final route probably in the spring and the route will be built sometime between 2015 and 2019.

In late November 2014, the planners met with a public consultation group comprised of people from interested associations.

The planners are looking at close to a dozen scenarios that take into account many dimensions: traffic patterns, parking spaces, safety, residences, business needs, etc. Scenarios include: bidirectional bike lane (two traffic directions) all on the East side or all on the West side, unidirectional lanes on each side of O'Connor, one unidirectional lane on O'Connor twinned with a unidirectional lane in the opposite direction on Metcalfe, bidirectional lanes from Wellington to Isabella, followed by other configurations in the Glebe, bike lanes of either sort with or without a parking lane between the bikes and traffic, etc. etc. etc. They are examining all the variables and permutations, the pluses and minuses of each scenario. Lots of data crunching goin' on.

#### **Follow-up on walkability audits**

As you know, the CCCA has completed 3 audits since 2013 (Elgin area, Bank, West Centretown) and we have many outstanding recommendations.

I will be contacting the city councillor to meet with her after next week's CCCA board meeting and we want to "package" our main points in a way that is strategic so we can get as much support from the councillor as we can

We will focus on:

dangerous intersections: we have identified the loop at the Museum of Nature, Catherine St and Lyon, and Bay and Somerset  
pedestrian safety/narrow sidewalks in a number of locations

Bank St parklets, benches, greenery and beautification: I bumped into the councillor last week and she seemed interested in discussing what the city can do and what the BIA can do

In addition, there is follow-up that we can carry out on our own. Georgia Lay, one of the transportation committee members, has written the following ideas:

"Sidewalk deficiencies and problematic road markings and signage will be dealt with through Service Ottawa. Karen [Hawley - from Ecology Ottawa] and Georgia will mobilize a group of volunteers in early April to retrace the audit route and document the specifics (address, intersection, discontinuity depths) for service requests. City staff prepare plans for summer road work by mid-June so the service requests should be forwarded to the city by Victoria Day."

"Further greening of Centretown streets (...) 'Parks and Streetscape Tree Planting'. This is aimed at community groups and again, involves planting trees on city-owned property. The onus is on the community group (such as the CCCA) to identify, in general terms, where more trees are desirable and then work with city Forestry Services to determine appropriate sites for tree planting. Forestry Services takes care of coordination with other city staff, species selection, utility clearances and the plan for tree maintenance. This is the program the CCCA, as a community organization, can use to get trees planted on streets in Centretown. The CCCA has a Trees and Greenspace Committee and I have been in touch with one of its members (Bonnie Mabee) about getting more trees planted in Centretown West. I will come up with a list of locations identified during the audit and we will tour them with one of the city foresters next month. This is a job for the CCCA Trees and Greenspace Committee (not the Transportation Committee) to handle to completion. I will stay involved until the planting sites have been identified."

Michel-Adrien Sheppard  
Chair, CCCA Transportation Committee

**Motion 7: That the CCCA Board receive the Walkability Report Audit for West Centretown and endorse its recommendations.**

**Moved:** P. Mennier

**Seconded:** P. Marsden Dole

**Carried**

**7.10) Trees and Greenspace Committee (by Tomas Whillans)**

T. Whillans presented a verbal report. The Trees and Greenspace Committee decided to donate \$500 out of the Trees Fund to the Glashan Greening project, and requests board approval. The T&G Committee was requested to submit two names as candidates to be jurors on St. Luke's board to decide on contemporary artwork for the site. The Committee is also planning a film screening of Growing Cities in the spring.

**Motion 8: That the CCCA Board approve the donation of \$500 from the Tree Fund to the Glashan Greening Project.**

**Moved:** T. Whillans

**Seconded:** R. Dekker

**Carried**

**2 Abstentions**



**7.11) Communication and Promotion Committee (by Mitchell Kutney**

M. Kutney will be hosting a Committee meeting February 19, 7:00, at 327 Somerset Street.

**8. Other Reports and Business**

**9. Question Period**

**10. Forward Agenda Items**

**11. Adjournment at 9:30 PM**

**Moved** P. Mennier.

**Seconded** T. Whillans

**Carried.**

**Next Board meeting:** · Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 7pm to 9pm, Billings Room, City Hall