



**Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting**

October 29, 2012

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**Rencontre du Conseil d'administration d'Action Côte-de-Sable**

Le 29 octobre, 2012

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Present/Présents: Eric Audet, Sophie Beecher, François Bregha, Christopher Collmorgen, Claire MacDonald, John Verbaas.

Regrets/Absents: Sam Almsaddi, Eric Crighton, Julie Crêteau, Jane Gurr, Liz Kessler, Elaine Koren, Alice Kwong, Jawad Quereshi, Kyle Simunovic.

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Christopher Collmorgen welcomed Board members and members of the community in attendance and invited those interested to become involved in ASH activities.

**2. Review and approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved with some additions.

**3. Approval of minutes**

This item was deferred given the absence of a quorum.

**4. Report from the Councilor**

In Mathieu Fleury's absence, Nathaniel Mullin made the following report:

- The garbage schedule changed this week. The City will allow residents time to make the transition before enforcing by-laws on garbage.
- The City is holding public consultations on next year's budget. The next session will be on November 1 from 4 to 6 pm at City Hall.
- Mathieu Fleury is trying to get funding for the Stathcona Community House into the Budget.
- Funding for the design of the Somerset St bridge across the Rideau River is provided for in the budget but no decision has been made about the timing of construction. ASH expressed concern that funding for the bridge may compete with the Fifth Ave bridge whose design will also be completed next year.
- Demolition of the derelict houses at Rideau and Charlotte has begun and the construction of the new temporary park will start shortly.

## **5. Comments from the floor**

Leanne Moussa made a presentation about the proposal to purchase the former carriage house at 43 Blackburn and convert it into a childhood wellness centre (with the Bettye Hyde co-op as a prime tenant). A corporation has been set up to attract investors, apply for the needed zoning change and make modifications to the inside of the building. If all goes well, the new Centre could open in September 2013.

Some residents asked for advice on how to deal with a noisy neighbouring restaurant. Christopher explained the process for registering a noise complaint and following up with City officials.

Gerri Blinick, of the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, introduced the City's Better Neighbourhood Initiative. The City will contribute up to \$30,000 to 4 projects designed to improve neighbourhoods. The deadline for applications is November 27 and program information appears on the City's website. Gerri noted the SHCHC's willingness to partner with Sandy Hill residents on such projects.

Several residents also had questions:

Q: When will the Hurdman pedestrian bridge re-open?

A: No one had the answer. It was suggested that the City or Ministry of Transport websites would have the information.

Q: What can residents do about a large condominium building being proposed for Robinson Ave.?

A: The developer had made a presentation to ASH last year. If residents have concerns, they need to organize to make their views heard at the appropriate City committee. ASH is prepared to offer advice.

Q: What is happening to the house at 45 Blackburn?

A: The new owner is gutting the previous single-family house to add an extension and convert it to a four-apartment building. While no zoning change is required, a new by-law, applying only to Sandy Hill on a pilot basis, requires any building conversion to more than three units to receive a site plan approval. This has not happened and the property appears to have slipped through the cracks as a result of miscommunications within the City. There was also concern expressed that the new owner was abusing the City planning process by not applying for the necessary construction permits. Christopher asked that Mathieu Fleury's office call him right away and make the resolution of this issue a priority.

## **6. Planning, development and transportation**

Sophie attended a visioning exercise on how to revitalize the By-town Market. ASH would like to undertake a similar planning exercise for Sandy Hill soon but there is no money in the City budget to support it at this time.

John reported that the City would like to create a continuous bike lane from Westboro to Manor Park, building on the current Laurier ave bike lane. In Sandy Hill, this would involve making improvements to the existing bike lanes on Stewart and Wilbrod streets as well as creating a connection along Cumberland from Laurier ave.

Sophie asked ASH to support a petition being circulated by the Hintonburg Community Association to improve the transparency of the planning process and avoid conflicts of interest. ASH Board members agreed.

## **7. By-laws and environment**

The by-law committee would like to examine best practices in other cities concerning waste management to

see what improvements it could recommend for Ottawa. This might involve having the City create neighbourhood-specific rules on where to keep garbage and recycling containers.

Claire asked whether the City was now notifying landlords when one of their tenants was charged with a by-law infraction. Nathaniel will check but believes that the City is still working out the procedure for doing so.

Board members asked to be informed on a regular basis on by-law infractions in the neighbourhood. The difficulty is that this information is collected on a ward, not neighbourhood basis and may be difficult to disaggregate. This issue is likely to be taken up by the Town and Gown committee.

#### **8. Special events**

Claire noted that the Community centre was expecting between 4 and 500 children to the haunted house this Halloween.

Christopher invited everyone to attend the One and Only Craft fair on November 18 at the Community Centre.

The Open House for Centre 454 is being rescheduled for the end of November.

#### **9. Community relations**

The Town and Gown committee will hold its formal launch on November 5 at 5pm at Tabaret Hall. Christopher invited community participants to join one of the Working Groups that will be established. More information will be available on the ASH website after the meeting.

#### **10. Membership and outreach**

Discussion of this item was deferred because there were not enough Board members in attendance.

The session adjourned at 9.15.