



SANDY HILL • CÔTE SABLE

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting

February 27, 2012

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

Le 27 février, 2012

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Courriel: info@ash-acs.ca

Present/Présents: Sam Almsaddi, Sophie Beecher, François Bregha, Christopher Collmorgen, Eric Crighton, Julie Crôteau, Liz Kessler, Claire MacDonald, Mona Frendo, Jane Gurr, John Verbaas.

Regrets/Absents: Marcia George, Kyle Simunovic,

1. Welcome and introductions

Christopher Collmorgen welcomed everyone and invited Board members and members of the public to introduce themselves.

2. Review and approval of the agenda

François moved (Sam seconded) that the agenda be approved, with the addition of items on 466 Nelson, sewage infrastructure and the AGM.

3. Approval of minutes

François moved (Sam supported) approval of the January minutes.

4. Councillor's report

- Mathieu Fleury is continuing to look for a solution to the reduction of bus service from Strathcona Heights to Rideau St and will report back.
- Mr. Fleury will support a renewed demand in next year's City budget for the Strathcona Community House.
- ASH should receive shortly a letter from Richcraft asking it not to oppose future development at Rideau-Charlotte that meets existing zoning regulations if existing houses are demolished and a temporary park created. Richcraft is committed to creating the park this Spring. The letter will be circulated to the Board for a vote.
- The City's Deputy Manager has agreed to participate in the Town and Gown Committee.
- The 1994 Area Traffic Management Plan had identified 65 possible traffic

calming measures in Sandy Hill. 25 of these will be implemented over the next two years, many as part of the Rideau St renewal. Mr. Fleury is asking ASH to review the remaining items to identify priorities.

ACTION:

Christopher will circulate the list to the Board. Board members should send their comments to John Verbaas who will collate the ASH response. Mr. Fleury would like ASH's response by March 2.

- Mr. Fleury explained the trade-off concerning the Rideau St. renewal between eliminating the left-hand turn lane on Rideau at Nelson and burying the overhead wires. As a policy matter, the City will not pay for burial and is only doing so on Rideau St because widening the outside traffic lanes is forcing the relocation of the posts anyway. However, eliminating the left turn lane at Nelson would leave enough room for both wider outside lanes and posts on the sidewalk. ASH is concerned that the City has not sufficiently explained the rationale for keeping the turn lane but will accept the proposed compromise of burying the wires and keeping the turn lane.

5. Questions from the floor

- In response to a question, Mr. Fleury indicated he would call the first meeting of the Northwest Sandy Hill committee shortly.
- A resident expressed the concern that development on Rideau St was effectively turning Besserer St into a back alley, robbing it of desirable characteristics. He invited ASH to strengthen its planning expertise to address these and other planning issues in the neighbourhood.
- Some residents noted that the amount of ice on sidewalks was making walking treacherous. They were invited to complain to 311 and then ask for the Councillor's intervention if the City was not acting on their complaint.

6. ASH By-law

Sophie explained the changes she made following the January Board meeting. For greater clarity, she will repeat "shall not" in Clause 4.4.

Sophie moved (Jane supported) adoption of the revised by-law. Carried.

The by-law will be distributed to the ASH membership in advance of the AGM for formal ratification at the AGM.

7. Planning and Development

Several community associations have expressed a concern that the City is moving too fast with its new electronic signage policy and, more specifically, oppose the proposed sign at the Convention Centre. They are asking ASH to sign on to two letters they have drafted. After discussion, it was agreed, that ASH would sign the two letters.

ACTION

Christopher to sign and send the letters.

The developer of 466 Nelson has appealed the Board of Adjustment's ruling denying his request for 2 additional units to the OMB. ASH has to decide whether to seek intervenor status. An intervention would represent a substantial time commitment when the Planning Committee already has many items on its plate. ASH also recognizes that no outcome of an OMB hearing is likely to be satisfactory. ASH will shed light instead on the flaws in the planning process that enabled the developer to achieve such a high density.

ACTION

Sophie to lead in organizing media coverage, either by briefing a Citizen columnist or drafting an op-ed. M. Fleury agrees to be quoted in support of our arguments.

8. By-laws and Environment

- ASH has received nominations in only 2 of the 3 categories for student awards so far. The deadline is March 1.
- ASH will write a letter asking the federal government to contribute to the sewer overflow storage facilities.

ACTION

François to draft the letter

9. Special events

François, Julie and Mona will organize the AGM. The AGM will be held on May 17. Jane will complete the minutes of the 2011 AGM.

10. Members and outreach

Kyle reported by email that he is continuing to develop the membership database and looking for web developers to revamp the ASH website

11. Future meetings

The Good Neighbours committee is meeting at 5 pm on February 28.

The Planning Committee will meet March 12.

The next ASH Board meeting will be March 26.

The AGM will be May 17.

The meeting adjourned at 9.30.