

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
April 28, 2011
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Rencontre du Conseil d'administration d'Action Côte-de-Sable
Le 28 avril, 2011
www.ash-acsc.ca
Courriel: info@ash-acsc.ca

Present/Présents: Janice Bernstein, François Bregha, Judy Vincent, Sophie Beecher, Christopher Collmorgen.

Regrets/Absents: Robert Stehle, Joshua Zanin, Jane Gurr, Ted Horton, Jill McFarlane, Dave Bagler, John Verbaas,

1. Welcome and Introductions

Judy Vincent presented herself as Chair in Robert's absence and welcomed everyone. The meeting did not have a quorum.

2. Review and approval of the agenda

The agenda was accepted though not formally adopted due to the lack of quorum.

3. Review and approval of the minutes (March)

The minutes of the March and April Board meeting will need to be adopted at the May ASH meeting.

4. Councillor's report

The Councillor's report was presented by his staff person, Nathaniel Mullin.

Rideau St.

The redesign of Rideau Street will cover the whole street from Sussex to Cummings Bridge and will be implemented following the major works to be undertaken in 2012 and 2013. Sophie Beecher will participate in a walking tour next week to identify redesign issues.

Bus routes

The OC Transpo bus routes 5 and 16 have been maintained. Route 16, however, will no longer go to the hospital campus (as the med school students had petitioned).

Garbage and By-Laws

The Councillor is looking at strengthening the bylaw governing putting out garbage too early. The current bylaw does not apply to recycling boxes or the green bin and allows a 14-day period before fines can be imposed.

Support for Councillor initiatives

The Councillor would appreciate letters of support from ASH to remove the sale of water bottles from City property and in favour of the expedited construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Rideau River at the foot of Somerset St.

Centre 454

The Councillor hosted a public meeting on Centre 454 on April 18. The City does not believe it has any legal levers to prevent the Centre's move from its current location to the basement of St Alban's Church. The Councillor wants to convene a small meeting with local residents and the Centre in the next two weeks to determine whether further discussions could be worthwhile.

King Edward

The Councillor received several representations from citizens to keep the current 6 lanes open on King Edward north of Rideau who were concerned about the impact of restricting traffic on neighbouring streets and voted in favour of the status quo, recognizing the opposition of local community associations. The Councillor will work to improve pedestrian crossing of King Edward at various points.

5. Questions from the floor

Several residents expressed their unhappiness that ASH had not taken a position against Centre 454's move to Sandy Hill. They see the move as a negative for the neighbourhood and urged ASH to oppose it at its next Board meeting. They were also concerned that re-building the congregation at St Alban's might have a detrimental impact on the existing congregation at All Saints. They asked that the Councillor oppose the move at the next annual review of the City's funding of the Centre (the City contributes close to 50% of the Centre's budget in a contract expiring in 2013). One resident reported on the problems that had existed when Centre 454 was located at St Alban's a decade ago (i.e., public drunkenness, a knife fight, fighting in the Church garden, littering on properties neighbouring the Church) and worried that these same problems would re-occur.

ASH Board members agreed that they needed to become involved in discussions with the Centre, the Councillor's office and local residents as quickly as possible and explore the feasibility and acceptability of various mitigative strategies to address the concerns expressed by neighbours. ASH's position should then be informed by the outcome of these discussions.

6. Advocacy activities

Heritage

The Heritage Committee Chair will circulate information about the Heritage Planning Guidelines by email. She has worked with 2 Ottawa University students who have collected material to support walking tours of Sandy Hill.

Development

Some residents have expressed concerns about the proposed development on Robinson Ave. The developer has asked to make a presentation at the next meeting of the ASH Working group (May 9).

The developer proposing an extensive infill at 146 Russell, possibly involving additional buildings, underground parking and an alley way also wants to meet ASH to explain its project. We will try to schedule this meeting for May 9 also.

7. Community-building activities

The Bons voisins committee

The University would like to present its strategic plan to the community on May 9. Janice Bernstein will contact the University to discuss alternate dates.

Bettye Hyde nursery school

The Bettye Hyde nursery school will hold its annual Spring Fair on June 4 and is inviting local organizations, including ASH, to set up information booths. Janice Bernstein will represent ASH and recruit another Board member to assist her.

Commemorative bench in park

Michel Gauthier reported on the initiative to commemorate a WW2 veteran and former Sandy Hill resident, Maurice Leclerc, with a flower bed and bench in Sandy Hill park and asked for a letter of support from ASH and the allocation of money left over from the park renewal to the purchase and installation of a bench with a plaque (estimated at \$2500 to \$2800). Janice Bernstein will canvass the Board by email.

All-candidates debate

Sophie Beecher and François Bregha reported on the all candidates debate that ASH co-sponsored. The debate went well and ASH should use both the same format and work with the same partners in organizing an all-candidates debate for the provincial election this Fall.

Spring clean-up of the Capital

The Councillor is working with the City's By-law office to encourage it to be more proactive on litter and garbage issues. The Councillor will tour Sandy Hill next week to take photos of graffiti for removal. Sandy Hill residents at the meeting complained about the lack of enforcement of property standards. The Councillor's office will organize a meeting between Linda Anderson (head of by-laws) and ASH's Beautification Committee. ASH will organise the Spring clean-up on May 1 in Strathcona park and on main neighbourhood streets.

8. Organizational activities

AGM

François Bregha invited Board members to comment on the draft annual report, the draft AGM agenda and complete the tasks assigned to plan the AGM. The most important task is to recruit new Board members, an activity which Robert Stehle must lead.

9. Future meetings

May 9: Working group meeting to discuss development issues (Rideau St., Robinson ave,, Russell ave) and finish planning the AGM

May 26: AGM

May 30: next Board meeting

10. Other items

Christopher Collmorgen proposed that ASH investigate the possibility of hiring and paying a part-time administrative assistant to support the Chair in his duties. He will prepare a job description and share information about the cost other community associations are incurring for these services for presentation at the next Board meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.