

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
August 29, 2011
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Rencontre du Conseil d'administration d'Action Côte-de-Sable
Le 29 août 2011
www.ash-acs.ca
Courriel: info@ash-acs.ca

Present/Présents: Sam Almsaddi, Dave Bagler, Janice Bernstein, François Bregha, Sophie Beecher, Christopher Collmorgen, Eric Crighton, Marcia George, Jane Gurr, Liz Kessler, Claire MacDonald, , Robert Stehle, John Verbaas.

Regrets/Absente: Julie Crôteau, Alice Kwong, Louise Saint- André.

1. Welcome and introductions

Robert Stehle started the meeting by welcoming community residents in attendance and introducing ASH Board members.

2. Review and approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the June meetings.

4. Councilor's report

Mathieu Fleury reported that he had met with the Chief of Police and will soon meet the City's head of by-laws to discuss how to improve communications between the two organisations and follow-up to complaints. Another issue is that By-law officers currently stop responding to complaints at 1 am.

Changes to OC Transpo routes come into effect next week. Two Sandy Hill routes will be affected (300 and 316) and Mr. Fleury asked residents to report adverse impacts on service quality. Students will lose the most convenient bus route between the two Ottawa U campuses. ASH will post a link to the OC Transpo website in its next mailout to members.

This Thursday, Mr. Fleury will personally visit problem addresses in Sandy Hill with ASH, police and by-law representatives and will distribute information on property standards, garbage and noise.

5. Questions/comments from the floor

One resident tabled a proposal that the University partner with a private developer to build additional student housing on campus in order to relieve congestion in Sandy Hill. ASH will refer the proposal to the Good Neighbours' Committee for further discussion.

Another resident asked the Councilor to improve inadequate lighting on Daly St between Waller and Cumberland and address garbage issues and increased crime in the parking lot at Besserer and Cumberland.

Two residents from the Sandy Hill Housing Co-op asked for ASH's help to control noise from the restaurant La Maison. Robert Stehle assured the residents that ASH continued to support them in their efforts and asked Mr. Fleury to continue seeking a solution to the issue.

Several residents raised concerns about garbage issues at different Sandy Hill addresses. Here again, they reported inadequate follow-up to complaints.

6. Committee reports

Christopher Collmorgen asked all committees to circulate their draft terms of reference to the Board for comment.

Outreach and communications committee

The committee is adding membership to its responsibilities and will look at how it can promote both ASH and ASH events in the future. David Bagler invited residents to submit Sandy Hill photos for the website. The committee will also create a Twitter account.

Bylaws and Beautification

Eric Crighton reported that the tree-planting project had identified where new trees could be planted on City-owned front lawns and developed a brochure for residents explaining how they could apply to receive a free tree from the City. The next step is to recruit volunteers to go door-to-door.

Christopher encouraged all residents to continue registering complaints using 311 as it was important to build a database to support any remedial actions. He also explained how to prepare a witness statement. While it may appear that City follow-up to complaints is lack-lustre, Christopher cited examples of fines being imposed after noise complaints.

Marcia presented the proposal to create an annual awards program to reward student efforts to improve the community (see attachment). It was suggested that the Good Neighbours Committee judge nominations received that gift certificates used as rewards be with local businesses.

Marcia moved (Christopher seconded) that ASH create the awards program and match the \$600 given by the University. Motion carried.

The University will pay for the printing of 2000 ASH brochures (half in English, half in French).

Christopher invited community members to join the committee.

Planning and development

The committee had a productive meeting in mid-August and is working on the second draft of its terms of reference. The TORs will be circulated to the Board and tabled for approval at the September Board meeting. The committee is developing a tool to track development projects in the neighbourhood. Sam will give a tutorial to interested ASH Board members on how zoning has changed in the neighbourhood. Janice will advertise on our listserv the planning seminars the City will be holding in September. The committee is creating a database of resource people to call on as required. The Committee will meet on the second Monday of the month. One focus of the next meeting will be to take 'stock' of active planning/development issues and projects in Sandy Hill.

Special events

Janice reported on the BBQ which will take place on September 17 from 3 to 7 pm and the various activities that are being planned.

Janice moved (Jane supported) that ASH set aside \$400 to fund the BBQ, to be used as needed to complement current fund-raising efforts.

Along with other community organisations with which we have collaborated in the past, ASH will co-sponsor an all-candidates debate for the provincial election on September 22 at the Community Centre. ASH will be responsible for inviting the candidates and greeting them.

Community relations

ASH has participated in meetings chaired by the Councilor to develop a baseline and improve communications about Centre 454. The Police and By-laws will report back on what criteria could be used to establish a baseline.

7. Future meetings

The next ASH Board meeting will review proposed amendments to its by-laws, the terms of reference of the various committees and will receive a financial report from Marcia.

The zoning tutorial will take place in mid-November.

8. Adjournment

On behalf of all Board members, Robert thanked Janice, who will be leaving the Board, for her dedication to ASH, her hard work and her spirit of collaboration.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Annual Awards Program - Criteria

The three categories and criteria are:

1. Overall best off-campus student rental property

- The award will go to tenant(s) and landlord of one residential University of Ottawa off-campus student rental property in Sandy Hill
- Students must have valid University of Ottawa student identification
- Award recipients must provide proof of tenancy at award winning address

- A combination of at least two of the following criteria are required:
 - well presented property
 - no disturbances
 - no by-law violations
 - community involvement in Sandy Hill
 - has demonstrated significant improvement
 - good neighbourly attitude

- Reason for the nomination must be provided in writing to ASH by the nominee

2. Best kept off-campus student rental property garden

- Awarded to a student or students who are tending to their rental property garden in Sandy Hill
- The garden is well maintained and tended to by University of Ottawa students (not the landlord or a contractor)
- Award recipient(s) must have valid University of Ottawa student identification
- Reason for the nomination must be provided in writing to ASH by the nominee

3. Community involvement award

- The award will go to a University of Ottawa student whose participation in the community makes for a better Sandy Hill
- Recipient must be a Sandy Hill resident, living off-campus
- Recipient must be actively involved in the Sandy Hill Community
- Award recipient must have valid University of Ottawa student identification
- Reason for nomination must be provided in writing to ASH by nominee

For all three awards, nominations must be made in writing to Action Sandy Hill by March 1st annually. Reason and supporting material (where applicable) are required for each nomination.

Awards will be presented to recipients by April 15th annually.

Eligibility:

- In order to be eligible, award recipients must meet the aforementioned criteria for each award. Recipients may only receive one award annually. Recipients must live in Sandy Hill, off campus, and must have valid University of Ottawa student identification.

Funding:

- The University of Ottawa, via Alistair Mullin, will provide \$600 for prizes, which will be matched by Action Sandy Hill for an annual total of \$1200.

Media/Publicity:

- In fall, the Awards Program's three categories and criteria will be promoted through the ASH website and local media outlets (i.e., Image, UOzone, the Fulcrum, the Gazette, La Rotonde and possibly the Ottawa Citizen).
- Award recipients will also be published and promoted in spring via the aforementioned media outlets.
- The identity of nominees may be kept anonymous.