

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
Monday, February 28, 2011, 7 pm
Sandy Hill Community Centre
www.ash-acs.ca // (613) 241-4646
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Rencontre du Conseil d'administration d'Action Côte-de-Sable
Lundi le 28 février, 2011, 19 :00 h
Centre communautaire de la Côte-de-Sable
www.ash-acs.ca // (613) 241-4646
courriel: info@ash-acs.ca

Present/Présents:

Sam Almsaddi, Dave Bagler, Sophie Beecher, Janice Bernstein, François Bregha, Jane Gurr, Céline Heinbecker, Ted Horton, Robert Stehle, John Verbaas, Judy Vincent.

Regrets/Absents:

Christopher Collmorgen, Jill McFarland, Joshua Zanin.

1. Welcome

Robert Stehle welcomed the many community residents to the meeting and proposed to bring up the discussion of Centre 454 in the agenda.

2. Approval of Agenda

Ted Horton moved (Janice Bernstein seconded) approval of the agenda. Carried

3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting

John Verbaas moved (Jane Gurr seconded) adoption of the minutes of the January Board meeting. Carried.

4. Centre 454

Robert Stehle started the discussion by noting that ASH was scheduling a special public meeting on Wednesday at 7 to discuss the issues surrounding the Centre that Councilor Fleury would attend. Mr. Stehle invited representatives from the Centre to describe what the Centre was about and then opened the floor for comments from the public.

Presentation by the Anglican Church and Centre 454

- Centre officials distributed a press release and a description of the centre's services.

- Centre 454 had been located at St Alban's Church for 24 years before it moved to Murray St in 2000 because the parishioners at the time wanted to use the space for other purposes.
- The Centre served some 250 clients daily in 2010, a number that may drop as the Centre is relocated.
- The Centre employs 28 staff on a full or part time basis and operates to high safety and service standards.

Concerns expressed by community residents

- Sandy Hill is being presented with a fait accompli and there is no opportunity for real dialogue with the Centre about whether it should move back to St Alban's or not.
- Community residents are concerned that the presence of the Centre will encourage a back and forth between it and the Mission. The presence of vulnerable people will lead to drug traffic and prostitution as well as other objectionable behaviour (e.g., public urination). These problems occurred when St Paul's Inner City Ministry was located nearby.
- The centre will not be able to control the behaviour of its clients once they leave its premises.
- The neighbourhood has changed significantly since 454 re-located to Murray St. with the construction of several condo towers and St Alban's is no longer an appropriate location for the Centre.
- There already is a concentration of services for street people in the area.
- The issues include the number of clients being served, the extent of supervision being offered and the percentage of clients with mental illnesses.
- Similar centres should be located on major arterial roads, not residential streets.

Robert Stehle invited community residents to nominate 4 representatives to help plan the public meeting on Wednesday.

5. Councilor's report, Mathieu Fleury

Mr. Fleury reported as follows:

- Centre 454 is within its bylaw and zoning rights. The City and the community therefore have to work with it.
- The City Budget has kept the student UPass. There will be a public consultation on OC Transpo service in Sandy Hill.
- He will vote against the cancellation of the Election Contribution Rebate Program.
- Given that Rideau St will be re-landscaped from Dalhousie to Cummings starting in 2012, he is trying to get the work extended to Sussex to ensure a common look for the whole of the street.
- He is concerned that the City is promoting intensification downtown without providing additional recreational and other services.

6. Advocacy activities

Development

Robinson Village

The developer is proposing a 6-story structure with about 40 condominiums. He has met many of the neighbours and is meeting their concerns. There will be a public briefing on the development on March 3 at 7 pm at the Community Centre.

City infill policy

Sam and Sophie attended the City public consultation that focused on the impact of infill development on the streetscape and the mix of regulatory and educational measures the City could take to integrate infills better into existing neighbourhoods.

496 Rideau

Sophie will meet the developer on March 3 to present ASH's suggestions for the building design.

Transportation

John Verbaas (Janice Bernstein seconded) presented the following motion:

Whereas ASH has in the past actively opposed the City's planned Alta Vista Corridor and whereas in the 2011 budget the City is asking for 5m\$ to begin construction on Phase 1 of this road (The Hospital Link) with an intention to ask for a further 50m\$ in 2012 to complete its construction;

and whereas the Phase 1 Hospital Link with its excessively costly overpasses of the Transitway and Riverside Drive to us are clearly intended to serve as a foundation for later Phases of the roadway

Be it resolved that ASH wishes to reaffirm its continuing opposition to this road project as a whole and to the Phase 1 Hospital Link project as current defined.

And be it further resolved that ASH calls on Transportation Committee and council to revisit the planning assumptions regarding the need for a "Hospital Link" and if it is confirmed such a link is required then to investigate alternative and more reasonable cost designs which are targeted specifically to address that need (with emphasis on improved public transit), before proceeding any further with this project.

Motion carried.

John will write a letter to Councillors informing them of ASH's position.

Good Neighbours' Committee

The next meeting will be on March 1 at 5 pm at the University.

Alastair Mullin reported that Michelle Ferland, Director of Student Off-campus Housing welcomed an opportunity to work with ASH to discuss student housing issues in Sandy Hill. Her office provides a site where landlords can advertise apartments. The site is currently used primarily by Sandy Hill landlords and should recruit landlords from other neighbourhoods to reduce the pressure on Sandy Hill.

The staff preparing the University Strategic Plan is also prepared to meet ASH to discuss how to manage the University's growth.

Heritage

2 university students are working with ASH as part of their Experiential learning program, to develop information on heritage walking tours that could be mounted on our website.

ASH is also working with students under the same program to lay the groundwork to designate a wall that is prone to graffiti into a mural.

Beautification

ASH is concerned about the accumulation of garbage at some addresses and the apparent inability of by-law officials to enforce rules. Mathieu Fleury will set up a meeting between ASH and relevant City officials to discuss the issue.

7. Organizational activities

Website update

Dave is working with our host provider to set up separate domains that ASH committees would be able to populate directly rather than always through him. This should ultimately lead to a richer website.

AGM

Robert has reserved May 19 or 26 for our AGM and will set up a planning committee to organize the AGM.

8. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 9:10 pm.