

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2010, 7:00
Sandy Hill Community Centre
www.ash-accs.ca // (613) 241-4646
email: info@ash-accs.ca

Rencontre du Conseil d'administration d'Action Côte-de-Sable
Lundi 25 janvier 2010, 19h
Centre communautaire de la Côte-de-Sable
www.ash-accs.ca // (613) 241-4646
courriel: info@ash-accs.ca

Present/Présents:

Janice Bernstein, Ted Horton, Robert Stehle, Judy Vincent, Sophie Beecher, Kyle Ric, John Verbaas, François Bregha, Céline Heinbecker, Ryan Kennery.

Regrets/Absents:

Didier Delahousse, Kathryn McCallion, Derek Reid, Joshua Zanin, Giulio Maffini, Susan Turansky.

1. Welcome / Mot de bienvenue

Robert Stehle welcomed participants to the meeting and noted that most of the meeting would be devoted to priority-setting.

2. Approval of Agenda / Approbation de l'ordre du jour

Moved by François Bregha, seconded by Kyle Ric.

3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting / Approbation du compte-rendu de la dernière réunion

Moved by Ted Horton, seconded by Kyle Ric.

4. Councillor's report / Compte-rendu de l'échevin

The developer at 85 Range Rd. is launching an appeal of the City's decision to restrict the building's height to 4 stories to the OMB.

The City is awaiting the federal contribution to the light rail project. While it is confident that this contribution will come, it may still need to make some cuts to the project to stay on budget.

The municipal budget now before Council is likely to lead to an increase in taxes of around 4% in 2010.

Parking on Nelson St between Laurier and Osgoode will be half on one side of the street and half on the other as a traffic-calming measure. Parking will remain as it currently is on the rest of Nelson.

The recent fire on Mann Ave has left a number of people homeless. Donations are accepted at 300 Goulburn Ave.

5. Priority Setting

François Bregha reported that earlier this month, the Executive met to discuss priorities for the Board of Directors and distribution of the workload. The goal of the priority setting exercise is to decide what we want to accomplish as an organization this year and how the work should be divided. In short, it is to align our resources with our priorities. This will have implications for the committee structure.

François Bregha invited all Board members who were present to explain what they thought should be priorities for ASH.

- Judy Vincent explained that student integration and bylaws were the most important aspects for her, and that the Community Relations Committee was key.
- Robert Stehle would like to see a door to door campaign organized to inform the community of our activities and improve membership. Such a campaign is feasible if we properly divide the neighbourhood between Board members and each do our part. Robert also explained that planning issues were numerous and needed to be triaged (we may not be able to get involved in all of them) and addressed. The number of persons working on these issues may need to grow.
- Kyle Rik thought that targeted recruitment is necessary so that we get representation from each demographic group in the community. He also placed emphasis on the recruitment of students and raising awareness of ASH and the Sandy Hill neighbourhood with the student population.
- John Verbaas stated that traffic management is a priority, as well as increasing cycling and walking options/paths in the neighbourhood.
- Janice Bernstein thought that getting more people involved is important, and expressed the opinion that creating a link with Strathcona Heights was a challenge that needed to be met.
- Ted Horton was interested in the door to door campaign idea and thought that we needed to focus on outreach. Liaison with the students and getting them to respect bylaws is key and Ted thought that this could potentially be done with a publication.
- Ryan Kennery opined that we needed a strategy for member recruitment and relationship building. He suggested that the website should be rebuilt and that the creation of a clear identity for ASH could go a long way.
- Céline Heinbecker placed emphasis on planning issues and thought that the slow encroachment of high rises on the area should be tackled. Céline stressed that the

beautification of the neighbourhood, including removal of garbage, and the protection of the heritage and integrity of the neighbourhood were both really important priorities. One way to profile Sandy Hill would be through the production of a documentary film in collaboration with Laurier House.

- Sophie Beecher stated that long term planning issues, such as the review of the secondary plan and the increased protection of the heritage character, were as important as short term planning files. She also stressed that relationship building with the students was essential, and suggested that setting overall goals for ASH (instead of separate ones according to topic or area) which could be met through the work of all committees would be useful.
- François Bregha placed emphasis on long term planning and community building activities (such as a carnival, craft fairs, BBQs, election debates, Christmas parties, etc).

There were other ideas expressed by various Board members and members of the public who were present:

- Improving collaboration and communications within the ASH Board of Directors and committees to better develop the team work on each project/issue
- Figuring out what we want to do as an organization (goals, purpose) so that we can accurately represent ourselves to the public
- Canvassing the public to know what the community wants, which would help us set our goals (both go hand in hand)
- Creating an ASH specific wish list for election periods, holding election debates more frequently and increasing the number of polling stations in the area
- Working on the specific Community Plans as well as the Secondary Plan and individual planning issues
- Designing a response plan and a management strategy for crisis or emergencies in the community (e.g., residents losing their home because of a fire)
- Improving communications with members, the public and the community at large with a better website, an expanded email list, block captains, and email distributions with event calendars.
- Identifying goals for Sandy Hill that we would encourage political candidates to sign on to.

The suggestions and priorities were divided into three major themes:

1. Building the organization (expanding membership, increasing awareness, and improving outreach and communications; working on student integration)
2. Advocacy (planning/transportation/heritage/beautification)
3. Community building

Based on these three themes, the following were suggested by Board Members as goals to be achieved in 2010:

1. Building the organization:
 - Door to door campaign (Deadline: June 30)
 - 1500 valid email addresses (Deadline: August 31)

- Prepared tailored information in a pamphlet (on ASH activities, role, mandate, work of committees)
 - Launch a new website (Deadline: April 30)
 - Launch the new Community Relations Committee with the University and make it work
2. Advocacy:
- Planning:
 - o Create a team and recruit new members for the committee
 - o Initiate a Secondary Plan review that takes into account the various Community Plans, and develop an ASH planning policy for Sandy Hill
 - Beautification:
 - o Create relationships with the community and businesses regarding beautification and litter removal
 - o Create block leaders to watch for litter removal and maintenance of buildings on their street
 - Heritage:
 - o Produce a documentary film with Laurier House
 - o Work on heritage walks
 - o Liaise with Heritage Ottawa, City of Ottawa Archives, etc.
 - o Enhance overall heritage protection
3. Community building:
- Have regular community building events (e.g., winter carnival, spring plant exchange, fall BBQ, winter craft fair). It is to be determined whether these activities should be monthly, every two months or seasonally)

The Board Members who were present were invited to express their interest in specific themes/activities so that the committees could be set up. Members who were not present will be asked to add their names to the lists by email.

1. Building the organization:

Ryan Kennery (co-chair)
 Robert Stehle (co-chair)
 Janice Bernstein
 Kyle Rik
 Judy Vincent
 Ted Horton

2. Advocacy:

- Planning:
 Robert Stehle (co-chair)
 John Verbaas
 Sophie Beecher
 François Bregha

- Transport:
John Verbaas

- Heritage:
Céline Heinbecker (co-chair)
Judy Vincent
Sophie Beecher

- Beautification/environment:
Céline Heinbecker (co-chair)
Judy Vincent (co-chair)
François Bregha

3. Community Building:

Janice Bernstein
Kyle Rik