

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
Monday, January 31, 2011, 7 pm
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 le 31 janvier, 2011, 19 :00 h
Centre communautaire de la Côte-de-Sable
www.ash-accs.ca // (613) 241-4646
courriel: info@ash-accs.ca

Present/Présents:

Sam Almsaddi, Janice Bernstein, François Bregha, Christopher Collmorgen, Jane Gurr, Ted Horton, Robert Stehle, John Verbaas,.

Regrets/Absents:

Dave Bagler, Sophie Beecher, Céline Heinbecker, Jill McFarland, Judy Vincent Joshua Zanin.

1. Welcome

Robert Stehle welcomes community residents to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda

John Verbaas moved (Jane Gurr seconded) approval of the agenda. Carried

3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Janice Bernstein moved (Ted Horton seconded) adoption of the minutes of the November Board meeting. Carried

4. Councilor's report, Mathieu Fleury

Mr. Fleury reported as follows:

- He has met OCDSB officials about installing a secure crossing in front of Viscount Alexander.
- He has met Diane Deans about OC Transpo service and fares and invited ASH to indicate again its support for the student UPass.

ACTION

Robert to draft a letter with Ted's input to send to Diane Deans reiterating the reasons why ASH supports the student UPass.

The City is continuing its consultations on garbage pick-up. Mr. Fleury invited ASH to indicate its position.

- ACTION
Janice to draft a note to ASH members via our listserve, indicating our support for the City's proposal, to be circulated to the Board first and then our membership.
- Robert to send a letter to the City once we have heard from our members.

5. Questions from the floor

Q: does M. Fleury support the proposed University stadium at Nicholas-Mann?

A: Mr. Fleury is not familiar with the details of the proposal. He will support the residents' view.

Q: In light of the proposed 35-floor tower proposed on Preston, will Mr. Fleury support the construction of buildings that fit more closely with the scale of existing buildings?

A Yes

Comment: The City needs to be more transparent about the standards it uses to justify intensification in existing neighbourhoods.

Comment: The City's proposed budget includes money for the Alta Vista transportation corridor. Given that this project has already been subject to an environmental assessment, how can concerned citizens state their opposition to it?

ACTION

ASH will discuss the implications of the proposed road at its next Working group meeting.

6. Advocacy activities

Development

ASH signed the final site plans and landscaping for 85 Range Rd before Christmas, bringing to a close ASH's role in the developer's appeal of zoning to the Ontario Municipal Board. Final negotiations held before Christmas resulted in agreement by the developer to plant a selection of bigger trees at the front of the proposed new building.. Two issues remain outstanding: Temporary parking for Sandringham residents and construction workers during construction and the desire by the developer to use the southern end of Strathcona park for this purpose during winter months.

The amount to be paid by the developer as a community benefit, as cash-in-lieu of parkland. This may amount to \$30 to \$40,000 and could be used to improve Strathcona park. Construction of the building is to start in November.

Transportation

John Verbaas drafted a letter of support to City Council for the Laurier Ave bike lane. He will also address Council during its deliberation over the issue.

John reported on the community consultations over the proposed Rideau river pedestrian bridge. The favoured location is at the foot of Somerset St. The public is asked to comment on the bridge design.

Rideau St renewal. Some water mains and sewers will be replaced under Rideau St between Dalhousie and the Cummings Bridge starting in 2012. Construction will extend over 2 years. The City will publish a detailed design of the proposed streetscape in late Spring 2011.

Interprovincial bridge: Quebec, Ontario and the NCC have agreed to fund the next phase of the design work to select a preferred crossing option.

Good Neighbours' Committee

No meeting has been scheduled and ASH is anxious to hold the next meeting soon.

Meeting with Alan Rock

Robert reported on his meeting. ASH and the University have agreed to collaborate to protect Sandy Hill's architectural heritage. The University may be able to use some of its resources to help ASH produce audio-visual material that would showcase our built heritage.

ASH is ready to support the University in discussions with the Province concerning the impact of the University's growth on the neighbourhood. Robert has heard of several cases where students are living in overcrowded conditions with minimum privacy or of the conversion of single-family homes into rooming houses to take advantage of the growing university population.

CAFES

ASH will host the next meeting of the Community Associations Forum for Environmental Sustainability on February 5.

Lowertown

ASH will try to work more closely on planning and transportation issues with the Lowertown Community Association.

7. Community-building activities

Winter Carnival

The carnival was a success in spite of cold weather, with large attendance at the pot-luck dinner. The rink is in very good condition as a result of the work of many volunteers.

8. Organizational activities

Website update

Dave now has the website passwords but he is still waiting for the website hosting information from Ryan. He thinks that we could use the website to interact more with the community (e.g., maybe people could post their activities on the website on their own and all we would have to do is approve them).

Website

Our website is not generating much traffic. We need to update current information more frequently.

U of O Experiential Learning Program

One student is assisting ASH on heritage activities. Robert will invite the Program's director to a Working Group meeting to discuss closer collaboration. ASH needs to identify projects that ELP students could help with.

Board membership

There are currently two vacancies on the Board and the term of six members will end at the next AGM (Sophie, François, Céline, Ted, Josh, John). John has already announced his intention to seek another term. François, Céline and Ted will be leaving the Board.

Commemorative garden

A community resident, Michel Gauthier asked ASH to endorse the idea of a small commemorative garden in Sandy Hill Park in memory of Maurice Leclerc, a WW2 veteran and long-time Sandy Hill resident who recently passed away.

François moved (Sam seconded) that ASH support the creation of such a garden. Discussions will need to take place with the City about creating the garden. Some of the funds held in reserve from the park renewal could be used for this purpose.

9. Next working group meeting

The next meeting will be on February 9 at 7 pm.

10. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.