

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
June 27, 2011
www.ash-acs.ca
Email: info@ash-asc.ca

Rencontre du Conseil d'administration d'Action Côte-de-Sable
Le 27 juin 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, Julie Crôteau, Marcia George, Jane Gurr, Liz Kessler, Alice Kwong, Claire MacDonald, , Robert Stehle, John Verbaas.

Regrets/Absente: Louise Saint- André.

1. Welcome and introductions

Robert started the meeting by recognizing the contribution made by ASH's former treasurer, Judy Vincent, and that being made by ASH's current Beatification Director, Claire MacDonald. He then proposed new meeting guidelines to structure Board discussions.

2. Review and approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of an item on the Sandy Hill survey.

3. Approval of minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the March, April and May meetings.

4. Questions from the floor

There were no questions from the floor.

5. Advocacy activities

Rideau St redesign

It was agreed that ASH should continue to support efforts to make the street more pedestrian friendly (including encouraging developers to provide retail space on the ground floor of new buildings) and advocate for the burial of hydro wires. As part of building a case for burial, Mathieu Fleury is seeking cost estimate and will call on ASH to voice its support in the next few weeks.

ASH's Planning Committee will meet shortly to develop a strategy on the issue and will report to the Board.

Development projects

Recent infill approvals have made it clear that current zoning regulations allow for greater density than many residents believe appropriate (e.g., construction of large house extensions in backyards). This density appears to go against the vision that was articulated in the Sandy Hill Community Plan in the 1990s. ASH may need to raise this issue with the City and lead a renewed vision exercise with residents to clarify what developments should be permissible.

Sam will find out what the zoning rules are for different sections of Sandy Hill and report back to the Board.

85 Range Rd.

Notwithstanding all the work done to date, the future of this development may now be in doubt because the cost of building the needed hydro transformer and providing cash in lieu of parkland have changed the project's anticipated rate of return.

Robinson Park development

An open house will take place at the Community Centre on June 30 at 7 pm.

Infill houses on Chapel St.

Two concerns were raised about several infill houses between Somerset and Templeton:

- the landscaping seems to make no provision for planting a tree at the front of the new houses.
- Building permits do not appear to be posted on the construction sites.

Sam will check whether these sites have received the needed City authorizations.

Planning Committee terms of reference

The Committee is developing terms of reference to guide its work.

Tree cover

Eric circulated a hand-out explaining this project. Sandy Hill's ash trees are dying as a result of an infestation of the Emerald Bore Beetle. This die-off could affect 12 to 15% of Sandy Hill's trees, including many large old trees. With the help of students, Eric is conducting an inventory of private front yards where the City could plant new trees on its easement. The second part of the projects will be to prepare a package for distribution to selected homeowners on the advantages of planting a tree, including how to apply to the City for a tree. The University, which stands to lose many trees, is a potential partner in this project as well as neighbourhood businesses which may be persuaded to provide incentives for tree planting.

The project will need volunteers to help knock on doors. ASH will approach participants at the AGM who expressed an interest in volunteering.

Sandy Hill survey

ASH will work with the University's GIS (geographical information systems) lab to plot census results for Sandy Hill on a series of overlapping maps showing the population mix and the

evolution of residence types over time. This tool will provide important information for planning purposes and also support other projects, such as the tree planting project. Christopher will lead the project for ASH and expects it to run for several months.

Centre 454

Robert, Christopher and François reported on the activities that took place since the last Board meeting. Some Board members expressed concern that they were not being kept sufficiently in the loop and asked for better communications. François will be responsible for providing more regular updates to the Board.

The Councillor is establishing 2 committees to develop a baseline and address communications issues. These committees should start meeting in the next couple of weeks. Board members interested in participating should inform Robert.

Police flyer

Claire circulated a copy of a flyer (“Meet your new neighbours”) that the Police intends to distribute in Sandy Hill over the summer. This flyer overlaps with ASH’s own flyer on being a good neighbour and other City initiatives to control disruptive behaviour. The Councillor’s office has agreed to coordinate various hand-out material to ensure a consistent message. Sources would include police, bylaw, university, ASH, Landlord and Tenant Association with input from all of these.

Charlotte-Rideau park

The creation of a temporary park at that location has been approved and should proceed in the next few months.

Strathcona Park gazebo

Barry Padolski has donated the architectural drawings for a new gazebo. This will make fund-raising or the gazebo easier.

6. Community-building activities

Janice, Dave and Alice will develop a plan for the September picnic and report back to the Board.

Janice will get the name of a Strathcona Heights resident who has organised a homework club for Somali students.

7. Councillor’s report

Mr. Fleury will need to recuse himself from any Council discussions of proposals by Claridge Development because of the appearance of a conflict of interest (his father works for the company).

Mr. Fleury encouraged ASH to continue identifying problem addresses in the neighbourhood (because of garbage, noise or property standards). Problem addresses relating to noise, nuisance

will be visited by the Councillor in early September along with police and bylaw. They'll hand out an information package relating to bylaws on noise and garbage and living in a community.

SFUO willing to help. They will include reminders to students including garbage information in their introduction email to students. It is also suggested that such information could be made available on the university's ufozone. That request could be followed up at the Good Neighbours' Committee with the university representative Alistair Mullin.

8. Organisational activities

It was agreed that Dave should create a default in the googlegroup protocol so that replies to emails are sent to the sender only rather than the full Board.

9. Future meetings

Bons voisins committee

Robert will seek a meeting in the next couple of weeks. Items for the agenda include:

- Collaboration with the University on the tree cover and survey projects;
- Role of the University in supporting the resolution of the problems posed by problem addresses.

The Board retreat will take place on July 16. François will circulate information in advance of the meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.