

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
March 28, 2011
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Rencontre du Conseil d'administration d'Action Côte-de-Sable
Le 28 mars, 2011
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Courriel: info@ash-acsc.ca

Present/Présents: Janice Bernstein, Judy Vincent, Jane Gurr, Sophie Beecher, John Verbaas, Christopher Collmorgen and Ted Horton.

Regrets/Absents: Robert Stehle, Joshua Zanin, François Bregha, Celine Heinbecker, Jill McFarlane, Dave Bagler

1. Welcome and Introductions

Judy Vincent presented herself as Chair in Robert's absence and welcomed everyone. The meeting did not have quorum.

2. Review and approval of the agenda

The agenda was accepted though not formally adopted due to the lack of quorum.

3. Review and approval of the minutes (February)

No comments were made about the minutes of the last board meeting.

4. Councillor's report

The Councillor's report was presented by his staff person, Nathaniel Mullin.

Centre 454

The next public meeting will be held on April 18th. ASH will be notified of the details.

Bus route changes

Those interested in commenting on proposed changes to the bus routes can do so tomorrow night at 5:30 at City Hall. The public can also comment at the OC Transpo website. All comments are logged and recorded. When commenting it is important to note the stop number that you are referring to.

Noise/party issues

Bylaw officers will soon receive special training at Algonquin College in how to approach and deal with people who are partying and causing a disturbance in the community. With this training the officers will be better equipped to issue notices and fines. The first step is to knock on the door and issue a warning notice. If the people do not comply then a fine can be issued automatically.

Janice asked if additional bylaw staff will be assigned to work toward the end of April as this tends to be a more intense period for parties. Nathaniel did not have answer for her, he said he would look into this.

Meeting with a developer

The councillor recently met with a developer regarding a property in Sandy Hill. Someone from the Councillor's office will be in touch with ASH to provide more information.

Discussion:

Garbage

Christopher Collmorgen reported that he had received a note from the City about his garbage cans being located at the front of his house. He would like to encourage the City to do more of this type of educational action.

Nathaniel reported that Celine Heinbecker approached the Councillor's office to talk about the garbage issue in the neighbourhood. Mathieu Fleury subsequently walked around the community with Claire MacDonald who showed him the problem addresses. He then met the head of bylaw for the eastern part of Ottawa and a sweep of the community was done by Bylaw and garbage notices were issued to 100 properties.

Infill housing

Christopher Collmorgen reported that he attended the recent City-sponsored consultation about infill housing. He asked if it would be possible to place a city-wide moratorium on infill development until the study of infills has been completed. Nathaniel Mullin requested that Christopher follow-up with an email and said the Councillor will respond.

5. Questions from the floor

Viscount Alexander school addition

Michael Barnes introduced himself as a community representative of Viscount Alexander School and reported that he contacted Madeleine Meilleur to request her support for the building of a permanent addition to the school. The school has a window of 1 to 2.5 years to prepare for increasing its space to accommodate early French immersion and daycare services and would like to work with the community and ASH toward this objective. Michael agreed to attend the next meeting of ASH to make a short presentation about the project.

Public nuisance by-law

A board member asked about the status of the public nuisance by-law which former Councillor

Georges Bedard was working on and whether Mathieu Fleury will carry the initiative forward. Nathaniel Mullin indicated that the initiative is not going forward at the moment. Issues have arisen about the wording of the by-law, it is seen as a crackdown on civil liberties. Also, he suggested that the new training that by-law officers are receiving may help the effectiveness of efforts using the existing by-law to reduce disruptions in the neighbourhood. Nathaniel indicated that the councillor's office can look into the by-law proposed by Georges.

Demolition

Christopher Collmorgen asked if property owners can be compelled to maintain their properties, especially when the properties are vacant. This would avoid the phenomenon that he has observed whereby buildings are purposely neglected so that over time demolition can be justified because of their derelict condition. Nathaniel will take Christopher's question to Councillor Fleury.

6. Advocacy activities

Development

Sophie Beecher reported that two members of ASH's planning committee met with Mr. Ahmed owner of 496 Rideau (corner of Augusta) who wishes to build a 9-story building. Mr. Ahmed requested the meeting to begin discussions with the community about his plans for the property. It was a good meeting, Mr. Ahmed was receptive to the comments of the planning committee. Sophie will continue to update the Board.

Transportation – Rideau Street Redevelopment

John Verbaas reported that he has been attending meetings about the redevelopment of Rideau Street. Discussion at the first meeting focussed on how to establish bike lanes on Rideau Street and concerns that the sidewalks be sufficiently wide. John prepared a letter (covering broader issues of Rideau Street development) and will, with the support of a majority of the Board, send the letter on behalf of ASH. Some members of the Board had not yet responded. John will contact them and seek their support.

Transportation – Bus route changes in Sandy Hill

John Verbaas summarized the proposed changes to bus routes in Sandy Hill and encouraged everyone to attend a community consultation to be held the next day, or online. Major changes include the elimination of the 316 bus, the redirection of the 16 on its northerly route to Chapel Street and a change to the route of the 5 that will take it out of Sandy Hill. John highlighted a drawback to the proposed changes in that Sandy Hill residents would no longer have direct bus access to Rideau Street from the neighbourhood. This could make it difficult for residents who use the bus to access shopping on Rideau Street.

John explained that the changes will be recommended by OC Transpo to the City's transportation committee and will be approved by City Council. The changes will take effect in September 2011.

Sandy Hill Survey

Christopher Collmorgen reported on the initiative underway by ASH, in collaboration with Ottawa U to gain greater understanding of housing in Sandy Hill. The university is expanding, there are approximately 40,000 students at present and it's anticipated that this will increase to 45,000 by 2015. Many questions are being raised about the impact that increasing numbers of students seeking accommodation will have on Sandy Hill. Housing available and quality of housing are important issues to be considered. Christopher is exploring a range of tools to develop a profile of housing use in the neighbourhood, including City of Ottawa tax records, University of Ottawa records and census data.

7. Community-building activities

Garbage and By-Laws

Celine Heinbecker was not present, it was noted that Celine had offered to give an update on this item by email.

Donate, Don't Dump Initiative

Judy reminded the Board about two dates, April 15th and May 2nd, when the community members can drop off electronics and clothing/household goods that would otherwise be discarded. This is part of a re-use program offered by the City. Physical resources staff of the City can also be called to pick up items, for dropping at the community centre.

Spring clean-up of the Capital

Once again this year the City will offer its clean-up program from April 15th to May 15th. All communities are encouraged to organize volunteers to clean up garbage in their area. The City can provide gloves and garbage bags. More information about the initiative is available on the City's website.

8. Organizational activities

Website Update

Dave Bagler was not present so this item was skipped.

Planning AGM

Possible dates for the AGM are May 19th or 26th and ASH will need to establish an organizing committee. François Bregha will be asked to sit on the AGM committee. Janice Bernstein will check and see which dates are available for the community room and will look after the memberships at the AGM.

9. Future meetings

Working Group Meeting

A working group meeting will be held on Monday, April 11th and will address organizing the AGM.

Good Neighbours Committee Meeting
No meetings have been scheduled.

ASH Board Meeting

The next ASH Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 28, given that the Community Centre is closed on Monday April 25 due to the Easter long weekend..

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.