

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
Monday, October 25, 2010, 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 25 octobre 2010, 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, Jill McFarland, Robert Stehle, John Verbaas, Joshua Zanin.

Regrets/Absents:

Sophie Beecher, Céline Heinbecker, Ted Horton, Ryan Kennery, Kyle Ric, Mona Staples, Judy Vincent.

1. Welcome / Mot de bienvenue

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

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

John Verbaas moved (Christopher Collmorgen seconded) approval of the agenda. Carried

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

Christopher Collmorgen moved (John Verbaas seconded) adoption of the minutes of the September Board meeting. Carried

4. Open File

Nick Taylor-Vaisey presented the concept of Openfile, a community-driven, collaborative, news site through which community residents recommend news stories to Openfile which then assigns reporters to cover them. Openfile was launched in Toronto in May and will launch formally in Ottawa in November. More information is available at <http://www.openfile.ca/>

5. Issues from the floor

Joyce Harpel, from Wilbrod Watch, announced that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario will hold a hearing on November 4 concerning the liquor license application by the restaurant Giggling Jerks on Wilbrod St. The current zoning permits a restaurant and imposes several restrictions on the sale of alcohol. The restaurant owners are asking for a relaxation of these restrictions. Some local residents are opposing the application, fearing that the restaurant will be turned into a lounge or sports bar, and will argue that a more permissive alcohol license is incompatible with the residential nature of the neighbourhood and the presence of a school across the street (Francojeunesse will occupy the building that the Waldorf school had rented at 339 Wilbrod starting in January).

David Baggler asked whether ASH would be interested in creating a Facebook page for Sandy Hill.

ACTION:

Ryan Kennery to consider the proposal and make a recommendation to the Board.

6. Managing nuisance issues

Robert Stehle reported on the meeting of the Bons Voisins Committee held on October 4 which attracted some 30 residents. He is encouraged by the progress being made in addressing nuisance issues, in particular the willingness of Bylaw services and the Police to allocate additional staff on days when large parties are expected in the neighbourhood. He congratulated the Students Federation and the University Administration for their proactive approach in contacting problem addresses.

However, he also noted concerns that the 311 City service to register complaints is not working as intended. It appears that some complaints are not registered or passed on to the appropriate authorities or, as one resident in attendance recounted, managed by the By-Law Officer in a manner that discourages civic involvement. As a result, residents will be encouraged to copy their complaints to Robert so that we can compare our records with 311.

ACTION:

Robert to review a form that could be used as a witness statement in the case of bylaw infractions.

Board member Josh Zanin will receive a Crime Prevention Community Safety Award on November 8 for his work on these issues.

7. Advocacy activities

85 Range Rd.

The City's Parks Department opposes the proposal to convert the south end of Strathcona Park into a temporary parking area during the construction of the new building at 85 Range Rd.

Residents are advocating the planting of larger trees in front of the building. The presence of the underground garage, however, may limit the size of trees that could survive at that site.

Michael's

The owner has received approval to build a three-story building on the site of the current convenience store (corner of Somerset and Russell).

Ayoub's

The owner is reporting difficulties in obtaining permits to rebuild the store that burned a year and a half ago (corner of Blackburn and Somerset).

Bicycling

ASH will be represented at a City meeting on November 23 discussing the creation of bicycle lanes on Laurier Ave.

East End Bridge

The coalition of community organizations that is fighting to remove heavy truck traffic from King Edward (and to which ASH belongs) has created a website with information about the issues, including the East End bridge. (<http://www.ssd-ottawa.ca/home>).

The NCC is developing the terms of reference for the next phase.

8. Community-building activities

All-candidates debate

The debate took on October 5 at the Agora of the University of Ottawa and was being co-sponsored by 7 organisations, including ASH and SFUO. This was the only all-candidates debate in the Ward. While the collaboration among the 7 organisations was fruitful and attendance satisfactory, the location (at the University) may have discouraged more residents from attending.

Community rink

ASH will sign a contract with the City to maintain the community rink. Residents are organizing a meeting on October 27 to allocate responsibilities for rink maintenance. The meeting will also discuss reviving the winter festival in February.

9. Organisational activities

Door-to-door canvass

Janice Bernstein reminded Board members to complete their door-to-door canvassing by October 31.

10. Working group meeting

There will not be a working group meeting this month.

Robert Stehle will be away from November 4 to the end of the month.

11. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:35 pm.