

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
Monday, September 27, 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 27 septembre 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, Sophie Beecher, Janice Bernstein, François Bregha, Christopher Collmorgen, Jane Gurr, Ted Horton, Ryan Kennery, Kyle Ric, Robert Stehle, John Verbaas Judy Vincent, Joshua Zanin.

Regrets/Absents:

Céline Heinbecker, Jill McFarland, Mona Staples.

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

François Bregha moved (Kyle Ric seconded) approval of the agenda. Carried

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

Ryan Kennery moved (Ted Horton seconded) adoption of the minutes of the August Board meeting. Carried

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

Mr. Bédard reported that much of Council's work was on hold because of the municipal election. In answer to a question that the deadline for public comment on allowing dogs in Sandy Hill Park had passed, Mr. Bédard said that City staff was preparing a recommendation but that no date had been set for its release yet.

A resident noted that the developer proposing to build a new tower at 85 Range Rd was examining the possibility of using part of Strathcona Park (the baseball diamond) as temporary parking during construction. The developer had not yet formally applied to the City but this proposal could be expected to raise substantial opposition.

5. Introduction of new District Staff Sergeant, Murray Knowles

Mr. Knowles introduced himself as an officer with over 20 years experience but new to community policing. He explained how the police set priorities among the 1400 calls they receive daily and why some calls are answered faster than others. He sees his job as one of problem-solving, working with various interested parties to reach solutions, a process that is often long.

6. Managing nuisance issues

Robert Stehle explained that the purpose of the discussion tonight would be to get the facts on the table by allowing the various parties, including residents, an opportunity to articulate their concerns. The meeting would not resolve the various nuisance issues concerning residents but would set the ground for a more focused meeting next week that would discuss the issues that have arisen around 357 Somerset St, a house rented to a university fraternity.

Mr. Stehle read the following statement: “to maintain our quality of life and to keep the public order, this residential community has the following expectations:

We expect the following groups to provide the appropriate actions which will produce a coordinated supportive response toward our community to the impact of very large social gatherings of university students where alcohol is in abundance:

- the involved landlord and tenant;
- the University of Ottawa (the university administration representatives, the student federation and the students);
- the municipal community support groups-our councillor's office, police and bylaw;
- the immediate neighbours and other residents of the community and Action Sandy Hill”.

Residents in attendance voiced the following concerns:

- Large parties with alcohol in a house created a lot of noise. When the house's bathrooms were overtaxed by the size of the crowd, parties urinated, defecated or vomited on neighbouring properties.
- If unacceptable behaviour was tolerated because bylaws were not enforced, it would spread.
- The problems caused by large student parties are getting worse.
- The City is not responding to the complaints of residents.
- The problems posed by excessive noise are not limited to a single address.
- The aftermath of large parties can include broken glass in the street, posing a hazard to small children.

- Some students are offering alcohol to underage children.

Other points made during the discussion included: that the university does not receive sufficient funding to build student residences; that the University's continued growth was increasing the pressures on Sandy Hill; that the issue was not so much house parties as large, advertised gatherings that should take place in a more suitable venue; ASH should request regular statistical breakdowns of 311 calls originating from Sandy Hill.

These issues will be discussed at the next meeting of the Bons Voisins Committee on October 4 at 7.30 in room 083 of Tabaret Hall at the University of Ottawa (550 Cumberland).

7. School Board elections

Lucille Collard, candidate to the French Public School Board (CEPEO) and Lorne Rachliss, candidate to the English Public Board (OCDSB) introduced themselves. More information on both candidates is available on their websites.

8. Advocacy activities

17 Robinson ave.

Mr. Stehle expressed his concern that ASH has not been contacted about this 24 unit condominium proposal until very late in the planning process. He will communicate with the developer to discuss the proposed landscaping. As a matter of course, ASH would like to be consulted about developments earlier so that it has an opportunity to influence building design.

Rideau/Augusta

ASH has held a preliminary meeting with the developer proposing a nine-storey building at this site. ASH stressed the need to include aesthetic considerations in the building design.

9. Community-building activities

Community BBQ

Board members thanked Janice Bernstein for her efforts in organizing and running the BBQ. 400 people attended the event. Loblaws donated \$200 in food, the University contributed financially and the SFUO provided the BBQ. Next year, ASH should combine the garage sale, the BBQ and the sale of vinyl records on the same day.

All-candidates debate

The debate will take place on October 5 at the Agora of the University of Ottawa and is being co-sponsored by 7 organisations, including ASH and SFUO. Three candidates have accepted the invitation to participate. The organizers are still looking for a moderator.

Door-to-door canvass

The canvass is starting slowly. Janice Bernstein reminded Board members to complete their door-to-door canvassing by October 31.

10. Additional items

ASH invites residents to participate in the clean-up of Strathcona and Sandy Hill Parks on Saturday October 2 at 1 pm.

11. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 9:10 pm.