

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
September 26, 2011
www.ash-acs.ca
Email: info@ash-asc.ca

Rencontre du Conseil d'administration d'Action Côte-de-Sable
Le 26 septembre 2011
www.ash-acs.ca
Courriel: info@ash-acs.ca

Present/Présents: Sam Almsaddi, Dave Bagler, François Bregha, Sophie Beecher, Christopher Collmorgen, Eric Crighton, Julie Crôteau, Liz Kessler, Claire MacDonald, John Verbaas.

Regrets/Absente: Marcia George, Jane Gurr, Alice Kwong.

1. Welcome and introductions

Christopher Collmorgen chaired the meeting. The Board began its session by recognizing Robert Stehle's contribution as chair since 2006 and wished him well after he leaves the Board at the end of September.

2. Review and approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved with an amendment to add a discussion on Board recruitment.

3. Approval of minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the August meeting.

4. Councilor's report

Nathaniel Mullin reported in Mathieu Fleury's absence. He invited ASH to involve itself in the City's budget process and identify priorities. Mr. Fleury will host a budget forum soon in Lowertown.

Mr. Fleury met ASH representatives to discuss how to improve the coverage of bylaw services concerning noise and ensure a presence by bylaw officers around the clock.

John Verbaas gave Mr. Fleury a tour of the various routing options for the east-end bridge.

5. Concerns from the floor

Some Board members expressed concern about the state of internal communications at the City. There appears to be little communications between the solid waste staff and the property standards staff.

Concerns were also expressed about the state of the Nelson St. block between Somerset and Osgoode. The properties on that block are all rental and the block is unkempt.

A resident raised concerns about front yard parking and the construction of multiple-unit housing on the Nelson St block south of Somerset. Christopher will follow up directly with him about front yard parking but there is nothing ASH can do concerning the sub-division of a house into four units as long as the owner respects zoning.

Another resident urged ASH to approach CMHC and developers about the possibility of partnering with the University about student housing. Sam will contact CMHC for additional information. ASH will raise the issue at the Good Neighbours' Committee.

One Board member complained about the noise created by a tour plane operating from Rockcliffe. This nuisance falls outside the City's jurisdiction. Nathaniel will identify to whom a complaint could be directed.

6. Discussion of ASH by-laws

François and Sophie introduced the list of amendments they are proposing and focused discussion on 4 possible changes that raise important issues.

3.01 Number of directors. There was no consensus on whether the number of directors should be raised.

3.02 Qualification of directors. It was agreed to change the current requirement to one stating that at least three quarters of ASH directors must live in Sandy Hill. This would keep the organisation's community focus but would make it possible for owners of property or businesses in Sandy Hill who do not live in the neighbourhood to be members of the Board as well as other individuals who ASH may wish to attract (e.g., student representatives).

4.02 Election of officers. It was agreed to modify the current requirement to state that the membership will elect Board members and the President directly but that the Board itself will appoint its other officers.

8.01 Term of office. It was agreed to keep the current two-year term.

François and Sophie will draft a new set of bylaws in track change mode and will submit it for Board discussion and approval before the end of January.

Sam moved (François supported) that Christopher be appointed acting president. Christopher

noted that he would accept the nomination provided a vice-president could be identified.

François will conduct a Board vote by email.

François will also draft an invitation to ASH members to join the Board, along with a brief description of expected duties, to be circulated on our list serve.

7. Updates

The community BBQ was a great success, having served some 600 hot dogs and hamburgers. It was suggested that future BBQs start at 4 pm instead of 3 and that the food be served earlier.

ASH will lead the clean-up of Strathcona and Sandy Hill parks on October 4 as part of Clean the Capital program.

ASH co-sponsored and helped organise a debate among the candidates in the provincial election. The debate at the Community Centre attracted some 200 participants.

François has had discussions with the Councilor on how to get the discussions on Centre 454 going again.

On September 1, ASH led a walk-about of problem properties with the Councilor and representatives from Bylaws, the police and the University. This walk-about was very effective in putting a spotlight on our concerns. A second walk-about will take place on October 3.

ASH committees will send their proposed terms of reference to François who will circulate them to the Board. These terms will be edited for consistency and then posted on our website.

Christopher and Claire will seek a meeting with Alan Rock to persuade the University to create a position of community liaison officer to address the community concerns that the University's growth and presence create. They will also argue that the Good Neighbours Committee needs to be made more effective.

Community associations in the east end may ask ASH to join them in opposing the possible location of a new interprovincial bridge.

8. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm. Note that the next Board meeting will take place on Tuesday November 1 (so as not to conflict with Halloween) in a room to be booked by Liz at the University.