



## **Annual General Meeting – 2015 Assemblée générale annuelle – 2015**

Thursday, May 14, 2015    Jeudi le 14 mai 2015  
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM    18h00 à 21h00  
Sandy Hill Community Centre    Centre communautaire Côte-de-Sable

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

#### **Welcoming Remarks by the Moderator (Leanne Moussa) and the President's Report (Chad Rollins)**

- The moderator called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with housekeeping remarks and thanked the organizers and those who had helped set up the room.
- Chad thanked St. Joseph's Supper Table for providing an astounding meal for the evening
- He remarked on what a busy year it had been for ASH with a variety of significant accomplishments including the enhancement of ASH's website, the tremendous success of the Save Sandy Hill fundraising efforts to support the neighbourhood view on Laurier/ Friel development at OMB. Unfortunately, ASH's and City Council's position on the development was not accepted.
- The City's Built Heritage Committee approved a new Heritage plan that proposed over 300 Sandy Hill Buildings be added to the Heritage list. If Council approves the Committee's recommendation the prospects for the preservation of the historic character of the neighbourhood would be enhanced.
- Chad reported on efforts spearheaded by Suneeta Millington to designate Laurier Avenue as Prime Ministers' Row. This would recognize the historic nature of the street and its former prime ministerial residents and to serve as a focus for contemporary political issues.
- Chad also noted the tremendous success of last year's winter carnival. He noted that these achievements could not be realised without the ideas and efforts of many dedicated volunteers and pleaded for continued support.
- Chad also called for more volunteers for ASH.

#### **Review of Agenda (Leanne Moussa)**

- The moderator asked the audience for any amendments to the agenda. A motion to add a Block Representatives Report approved unanimously (motion by Bob Forbes, seconded by Ben Belisle)

#### **Approval of the 2015 AGM Minutes**

- Minutes were approved unanimously (motion by Suneeta Millington and seconded by Judy Rinfret)

#### **Votes to Adopt Bylaw Changes (Marc Tremblay)**

Marc proposed a motion changing ASH Bylaw Article 4.18 as follows:

- "4.18.1 Notwithstanding section 4.18, a majority of the votes cast by the Officers of the Association is sufficient to approve expenses incurred in support of ASH purposes, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500)."
- Question from the floor as to why \$500. Answer was that it appeared to be a reasonable amount, not too large but giving the Executive more flexibility in small purchases.

- The motion was seconded by John Verbaas and passed by the assembly.

A second motion was proposed by Marc to allow Electronic Voting (moved by Marc, seconded by Judy passed)

- “4. 18. 2. Decisions of the Board can be taken by electronic means, including by e-mail. In order to be accepted, a decision taken by electronic means needs to have received the express support of a majority of Board members”.
- The motion was seconded by Judy Rinfret and passed by the assembly.

### **Call for Nominations from the Floor by the Elections Officer (Mark Salter)**

Mark indicated that the candidates for the 2015 ASH Board of Directors were (in alphabetic order):

- New candidates: Judith Rinfret, Willow Scobie and Susan Young.
- Returning candidates, whose terms were expiring, nominated themselves to continue to serve on the board: Robert Forbes, Sally Southey, John Verbaas
- A short biography for each candidate was circulated before the AGM and paper copies were posted in the hall.
- Mark called for candidates from the floor: Ian Anderson and Benoit Belisle nominated themselves at the meeting.

Mark declared that the eight candidates were voted in by acclamation and indicated that the new positions will become effective after the AGM has been adjourned. Note that the following members were not up for election and continue to serve on the Board until their terms expire in 2016:

- Chad Rollins (President)
- Pat Archer (Treasurer)
- Denis Forget
- Brian Murphy
- Jeremy Silburt
- Marc Tremblay

### **Speeches from our Elected Representatives**

(All three spoke in English and French but the notes are in English)

1. Hon. Mauril Bélanger, Member of the Federal Parliament

- The Honourable Mauril Bélanger thanked ASH for this invitation. He mentioned the solution that had been reached over the long-standing problem of noise emanating from the RCMP buildings just across the Rideau River and how he had worked with the community and RCMP until a solution was reached. He mentioned how he continued to work actively within the community to reduce substance abuse, two agencies receiving federal funding. He also discussed the controversy over the Memorial to the Victims of Communism and that he remained opposed to the location. Finally he mentioned the fine work that has been done on the Prime Minister's Row initiative which now includes Allan Rock as a supporter.

2. Thérèse Goneau representing Madeleine Meilleur, Member of the Provincial Parliament for Rideau-Vanier (attending a judicial investiture in Toronto)

- The Ontario government will be spending \$587 million to improve housing and reduce homelessness
- Will invest \$25 million over 3 years for cycling infrastructure in our cities
- Dedicated to reforming Bill 73 to give residents more say in how their communities grow, set out clearer rules for land use planning and give municipalities more independence to make decisions

3. Mat Genest representing Mathieu Fleury, Ward 12 Municipal Councillor (away on City business)

- The footbridge over the Rideau river will be completed by spring 2016 with a naming process to start
- He discussed completion of construction on eastern Rideau Street in 2015. Changes between Dalhousie and Sussex will be starting soon
- A successful year at Town and Gown with drops in calls for property standards and noise
- Council Priorities for the next few years will include investments in cycling, pedestrian plan, Downtown Truck Tunnel Feasibility Study and the Byward Market improvements.

### Questions from the Floor for Elected Representatives

Q: For Mat Genest: Nelson Street resident David Collister asked if residents of Sandy Hill should expect property standards to be enforced?

A: Will provide a written answer.

Q: For Mat Genest: What is the status with late night street noise?

A: This has been discussed. Street noise should be reported to the police.

Q: For Mat Genest: why have the benches on Besserer St around Shoppers Drug Mart been removed?

A: They were removed at the request of the owner after complaints from residents and police.

Q: Should the City Planning Department official who testified against the City at the OBM hearing regarding Laurier and Friel be fired?

A: No, he was acting consistently with the original Planning Department position

Q: For All: What is the situation with gangs operating in Strathcona Heights?

A: Mauril Belanger: will continue to help with connections to drugs and more funds are appearing to do so. Councillor will respond when available.

### Report from Sandy Hill Community Health Centre (Matt Garrett)

- Matt gave a presentation of the history of the Community Health Centre in 1973. It started as a co-operative movement with Action Sandy Hill and gradually evolved into the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre. He mentioned that funding for the centre is scarce but they are forging ahead with a variety of activities including being involved with the homework club for kids in Strathcona Heights. Of particular emphasis is their work with marginalized people and helping them to be successful in finding and staying in housing.

### Report of the Treasurer, Pat Archer, for the period May 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

- A deposit of \$10,000 from Homestead Developments (the owners of 85 Range) as their community benefit support, mandated by the OMB. Ideas are being solicited from the community on what projects these funds could be allocated to.

#### Desjardins Caisse Populaire

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Opening balance - Chequing Account 21,695.74 adjusted to 11,161.74 (SSH income/expenses 10,534)

#### Income

Memberships	1,260.25
Homestead Holdings	10,000.00
One & Only Craft Fair (net)	<u>820.85</u>
	<b>12,081.10</b>

#### Expenses

Donation to Save Sandy Hill	1,000.00
Sandy Hill Rink	407.50
Advertising	944.90
AGM	159.24
Storm Internet Services	40.44
Interpares Donation	100.00
All Candidates Meeting	146.91
Sandy Hill Halloween Party	150.00
Bank Fees	44.60
Street Painting to be reimbursed	<u>1,601.22</u>
	<b>4,594.81</b>

**Closing balance 18,648.03**

#### **Savings Account #1**

**Opening balance 6,819.74**

**Closing balance 6,822.02 (2.28 interest)**

#### **Save Sandy Hill Savings Account #2**

##### **Income**

ASH contribution	1,000.00
Donations (97 donors)	21,418.00
Stepping Out Dance (net)	7,307.08
Interest	<u>9.15</u>
	<b>29,734.23</b>

##### **Expenses**

Planner (Denis Jacobs)	2,373.00
Printing	574.04
Lawyer (Borden Ladner Gervais)	16,950.00
Bank fees	<u>5.85</u>
	<b>19,902.89</b>

**Closing balance 9,831.34**

## **Committee Reports**

### 1. By-law and Community Environment Committee (Sally Southey)

- Sally reminded the membership what a critical role the Bylaw Committee plays. It still appears that the onus is on the committee and individual community members to persuade city staff to enforce current rules. The city reports there are fewer by-law complaints; the Councillor has undertaken to present statistics to ASH every three months
- Sally reminded the Assembly that all complaints should be logged by calling 311. It is the only way to get action.
- The Eastern Ontario Landlord Organization (EOLO) is working to develop a system whereby residents, who file complaints with the city about rental properties, may also inform EOLO about complaints.
- The Sandy Hill Tree Group was formed this year: to increase Sandy Hill's tree canopy and has put together a report for the Councillor.

### 2. Communications, Membership and Outreach Committee (Denis Forget)

We have 380 active members. This year's initiatives include getting on line payments up and running.

### 3. Governance Committee (Marc Tremblay)

Marc said that we have a new system for resolving Conflicts of Interest. One member filled in the form indicating a potential conflict and the system worked well to resolve it. The Governance Committee looked at Electronic Voting and allotting a budget to the Executive for up to \$500. Both motions were passed earlier in the evening.

### 4. Planning, Development and Transportation Committee

#### Planning (Judy Rinfret)

- The ASH Planning Committee put in about 1000 hours of work dealing with official plan amendments.
- There were a few successes including 59 Russell where a heritage building will be repurposed rather than demolished.
- ASH raised more than \$25 000 for a lawyer and planner to fight the Laurier and Friel development at the OMB, on the side of the City. Unfortunately the OMB overturned council's decision and approved.
- ASH lobbied to have one third of Sandy Hill designated a Cultural Heritage Character Area to help strengthen preservation of these area.
- Infill Phase 1 was finalized and Phase II is expected to be finalized in the next few months.
- ASH has been actively participating in the review of the Uptown Rideau Community Design Plan, including having a representative on the City's working group. Work is expected to be completed by this fall.

#### Transportation

- 2014 Transportation initiatives included the start of construction for the footbridge across the Rideau R. and the completion of short sections of bike lanes both on Laurier between Waller and Cumberland, on Cumberland to Wilbrod & Stewart, and of an additional counter flow (southbound) bike lane on Cumberland between Rideau St and Besserer which provides a needed cycling connection from Lowertown back to Sandy Hill/UofO.
- The road opening at Chapel and Beausoleil was finally closed to car traffic and a stop sign added on Beausoleil to create a safer crosswalk to the adjacent schools.
- The LRT tunnelling from the Sandy Hill side apparently has now reached Rideau St.
- A consulting firm (Parsons) was hired and began working on the promised technical feasibility study for a tunnel under Lowertown/Sandy Hill to connect trucks and traffic between the 417 and the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge. We can expect the results from this tunnel study to be made available late in 2015 with a debate at council happening in early 2016.
- Other topics: funding for more winter maintenance for bike lanes including Sandy Hill, details related to City commitment to Complete Streets, and the remodelling of Rideau St near the Rideau centre.

### 5. Vision Sandy Hill (Suneeta Millington)

Suneeta described the results of the Vision Sandy Hill Survey which took the pulse of the neighbourhood and set out ideas on place-making, better dialogue with stakeholders in Sandy Hill. The results of a 23 question visioning survey responded to by over 175 residents is available on the Ash website. She also mentioned the Paint the Pavement initiative which had done a decorative design on York Street in Lowertown.

Suneeta was also one of the organizers of a presentation at the Bytowne theatre where 600 attendees braved a snowstorm to view and discuss The Human Scale, a film on innovative urban design that puts people first.

## 6. Special Housing Committee / Town and Gown (Bob Forbes)

Dialogue with the University of Ottawa and calls for more on-campus residences has been somewhat successful. Despite there being no new on-campus residences, as called for by residents of Sandy Hill, there are several new off campus residences including Henderson, Rideau and Friel. The Quality Inn at Rideau and King Edward is being converted to another, adding 800 student beds, taking pressure off other parts of Sandy Hill.

In March the UofO announced their new Master Plan which sets out the next twenty years of development. The thrust of this development will be along the new LRT and not east into the community, with substantial expansion of the former Algonquin campus. However it also envisions the demolition of virtually all the old buildings on King Edward south of Laurier. Surely more imaginative solutions are possible!

The Town and Gown group met 4 times last year to deal with regular events such as University move-in and move-out, walkabouts and special events. There was also a session with “problem landlords” in August 2014. Some poor landlords have apparently “improved” but some have continued to expand their holdings in Sandy Hill while seemingly oblivious to community complaints about poor property standards. ASH has asked the T&G put more measurable goals in place and adopt best practices from other near-campus neighbourhoods in Canada and outside.

## 7. Block Representatives (Camille Ainslie)

Bob Forbes spoke for Camille and summarized Block Representatives activities since the last AGM. This included gathering input from blocks on areas of concern, distributing information for ASH such as the Vision Sandy Hill Survey and Sandy Hill events such as the garage sale, craft fair, Winter Carnival etc..

Block reps have also presented the Councillor with a ‘tree report’ on the felled trees in the neighbourhood. They worked with bylaw services and met with Sandy Hill’s Community Police Officer to discuss issues of concern. They also went on a demonstration in support of better heritage protection in Sandy Hill.

### **Questions from the Floor to the Board**

Q: Why do we have to raise money to defend our community from bad development?

A: Therese Goneau: Bill C-73 has a Working Group which applies to Ottawa. It could make a positive impact on how development takes place.

### **Presentation of ASH Volunteer of the Year Award (Chad Rollins)**

Chad was delighted to present this award. He mentioned how difficult the choice was again this year and announced the list of runners up with a short description of their contributions to the community: Christine Aubry, Francois Bregha, Gabrielle and Bryan Dewalt and Susan Young.

He announced the 2014 winner was Claire MacDonald. For two years Claire led the Bylaw Committee for the ASH board and she continues to put in many hours for that committee, liaising with the City’s Bylaw Enforcement office, Heritage department and the councillor’s office over property standards, garbage and illegal parking. She is also involved in rink maintenance, contributes to IMAGE and has led the Strathcona Park Clean-up for several years.

### **Adjournment of the AGM**

- Leanne Moussa brought forward a motion to adjourn the AGM at 20:55p.m., seconded by Robert Forbes.