



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, January 25, 2021

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm via video conference

MINUTES

Present: David Elden, Cathy Major, Megan Reilkoff, John Verbaas, Susan Young, Hilary Duff, Paula Tchen, Yipeng Ge

Regrets: Trina Cooper-Bolam, Claude Jobin, Michael Barnes

Guests: Jan Finlay, Erin Woods (Councillor's office), Constable Sébastien Lemay, Jeremy Silburt, Stéphanie Laplante, Marilyn Whitaker, Marielle, Maha, Will, Kathy Moyer (Image newspaper), Fran, Marie-Pierre, John Cockburn

1. Stéphanie Laplante provided an update on the renaming of Sandy Hill Park to Annie Pootoogook Park. The renaming process is in its final stages; the City's Community and Protective Services Committee will vote on the name change on February 18, 2021. Stéphanie thanked all those who supported this renaming. She also mentioned that she has been working with the local Inuit community to send a delegation to the February 18, 2021 committee meeting. **Action:** Susan will resend ASH's letter of support to the City committee for consideration at the time of the vote.

2. Councillor's Report:

- Community consultation on the new draft Official Plan (OP) and Central and East Downtown Core Secondary Plan: The Councillor thanked ASH and its President Susan, who moderated the meeting. ASH will follow-up with the OP team on, among other items, changes in the text lifted from the former Sandy Hill Secondary Plan to the new Secondary Plan, including changing Chapel St. to a minor corridor, changing language around development in Sandy Hill West, the removal of Heritage references, and the obvious lack of a link between Sandy Hill and the University of Ottawa. The public has until February 17, 2021 to submit comments. ASH Planning Committee will be preparing a response to the OP team, beyond the first set of comments its submitted, and will copy the Councillor.
- Jail Hostel: There has been an COVID 19 outbreak at the Ottawa Mission. Those people using shelters who test positive for COVID 19 self-isolate at the Routhier and Patro Centres. The City has decided to sign a short-term lease with the Jail Hostel to set up a physically distancing shelter. The Councillor is not in favour of this as there is already a concentration of shelters in our adjacent to our community, and these should be more spread out between communities. The Mayor supports this shelter, and therefore the likelihood of stopping the short term lease is nil.
- Renaming of Sandy Hill Park: Two working groups have been established:
 - to select a physical space in the Sandy Hill Community Centre to showcase some of Annie Pootoogook's work and legacy.
 - Work with Saw Gallery, Ottawa Gallery to set up art in the park, a banner in the Park as well as a plaque to honour Annie Pootoogook.

- 2 Robinson: No plans for the development at 2 Robinson have been submitted to the City. A working group comprising representatives from the community, City staff, the developer and the Councillor will look at:
 - mobility and connectivity between the development and the community, and
 - the public park space design.
 - Susan mentioned that a community working group is looking at a community benefit agreement (CBA) for the site. The community is also advocating for affordable housing options, recycling, water management, energy efficiency and City services and programs to support the over 2,000 new residents who will live on the site.
- Town and Gown: Next meeting in March 2021. The Councillor has asked uOttawa for an update on its housing plan. Assurances must be received from the University that they will be building residences on campus and not relying on the community to fill the void for accommodation.
- Rideau Winter Trail: The Councillor thanked Sandy Hill volunteer Rob Sinclair for actively becoming involved in the Winter Trail and acting as a Board member. The Councillor is looking forward to expanding the Trail on both sides of the Rideau River. Currently, the trail is groomed on a weekly basis – usually on Thursday. The GoFundMe campaign has exceeded its goal. The group is now looking at a capital plan for equipment and more grooming.
- 362 Stewart St.: Susan mentioned that Fran and Marie-Pierre, neighbours of this address, were getting the runaround from City officials. It appears there are many departments are trying to resolve the issues at this address which include, noise, garbage, rats, building code violations, rooming house violations. However, nothing has been resolved. The neighbours have safety concerns as there are people milling about in front of the house and there is a constant change in tenants. The Councillor agreed that a meeting should be held to discuss what can be done. Constable Sébastien Lemay will attend the meeting as safety has become an issue.
- Question from Will: Is there something students can do to pressure the University to build more on-campus housing? Susan suggested that Will attend the next Town and Gown meeting to better understand the situation.
- The Gazebo project: The project is slowed due to COVID 19. It is hard to find contractors to provide pro bono work. This year a fundraising campaign will be initiated. The Gazebo Committee will report back to the Board with a fundraising plan.

3. The agenda was approved with the change in item #5. The month was changed from September to November.

4. Review and approval of the November 25, 2020 minutes – Motion to approve moved by Cathy Major seconded by Paula Tchen, unanimous.

5. Ottawa Police Services – Constable Sébastien Lemay reported things have been fairly quiet during COVID. He reported that the crime figures in most categories for the fourth quarter of 2020 were down from the same period in 2019. The pandemic was the main reason for this reduction. There was an increase in Break and Enters in 2020 involving businesses and apartments and condos. Individuals follow the condo owner or apartment tenant into the building and steal parcels. Constable Lemay reminded people living in condos and apartments to make sure they did not let people into the building. Through the use of video equipment, the perpetrators have been caught. There was also a slight increase in offences like breaches of curfew, due in fact to more policing.

Constable Lemay committed to driving by 362 Stewart to familiarize himself with the property and provide a sense of security to the neighbours.

5. Block Reps Report: Jan had nothing to report. Susan described the block rep system for the residents at the meeting.

6. Executive Report: Susan spoke with the presidents of the Vanier and Lowertown Community Associations to update each other on the issues in their respective communities. Lowertown issues

included the construction of supportive housing on St. Patrick St. by the Shephers of Good Hope – further concentrating shelter clients in the area, the Byward Market Public Realm Plan which seems to be driven by bar and restaurant owners, the interprovincial crossing study and the dismantling of the Alexandra Bridge which they are against. Vanier is trying to influence the Salvation Army shelter even though they lost their case at the LPAT hearing, the officers on the Neighbourhood Resource Team seem to change frequently making it difficult to build a relationship with the officers, the community is actively lobbying for a vaccination site, is preparing a visioning exercise to reflect the new large development projects at the corner of Montreal Road and North River Road (the City seems to be dragging its feet on this exercise), the development of a community benefit agreement and fund so that money can be used in community programming, develop a cultural strategy for the neighbourhood

7. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Reports for November and December 2020 were circulated by email to the Board members. Motion to approve by Megan Reilkoff was seconded by Cathy Major, unanimous. Megan indicated that the first rink payment should arrive this month.

8. Committee Reports:

- a) Planning and Heritage: The Planning Committee, chaired by Trina Bolam met on Sunday, January 24 to discuss the Official Plan meeting held on January 19, 2021. We will be sending a note to the City Planners asking:
- i. for a visioning exercise to be included in the new Sandy Hill Secondary Plan (SP) which is included in a schedule of the new Official Plan.
 - ii. for a definition of good housing to be included in the SP. The definition would include livable space, bicycle storage, etc.
 - iii. why West Sandy Hill has suddenly appeared in the SP.
 - iv. that heritage remain in the SP especially the Sandy Hill Rationale.
 - v. why Chapel Street has become a minor corridor and the implications of adding commercial entities and intensified housing on the street.

Susan is proposing to develop a timeline of City planning decisions and how they have affected Sandy Hill.

515 Chapel St: the developer sent advance drawings to the Planning Committee for review. Our comments which are design related have been sent to the developer.

Moon Dog Café at 238 Laurier Avenue: Smart Living has asked ASH to comment on how to improve the existing site. The City wants the architectural features of the building to be restored. Smart Living is looking for a commercial tenant for this site. If anyone knows of a tenant they should let ASH know.

244 Fountain Place: Michael Barnes has reached an agreement with TCU on this site. **Action:** Michael will update the Board.

2 Robinson: the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre will survey the community to determine the needs and wants in the community.

Heritage: There is a new heritage planner at the City. Susan encouraged us to look at the Heritage Register as there are about 200 houses in Sandy Hill which appear on the Register. Susan also mentioned that a new map showing current development application sites can be found on the ASH website.

- b) Communications: Hilary thanked the 60 + people who participated in the Official Plan presentation by the City. She also thanked the ASH Board members who helped prepare the posters advertising the meeting, as well as those who put up the posters. Cathy, editor of the ASH newsletter, asked for suggestions or comments on improvements that could be made to the newsletter.
- c) Membership: Dave noted that there was very little change to the membership numbers from the last meeting.
- d) Engagement with the University of Ottawa: Susan indicated that on-campus housing would be a focus at the March Town and Gown Meeting. Two residences on campus are at the end of life and are slated for demolition. The Brooks residences have been closed due to mould. It will be important for the University to replace these residences on campus.

e) Transportation: John reported that the City is reviewing its winter snow clearing policy. Public consultation will take place until mid-February via a questionnaire on the city website at engage.ottawa.ca. John has been collaborating with the Lowertown Community Association on the downtown truck issue. The group is trying to set up a meeting with the Chair of the Transportation Committee to find out what the City is thinking about this issue. The Chair has agreed to a meeting but the group is having difficulties pinning the Chair down with a date.

9. Old Business: None.

10. New Business: Possibility of a Spring Party was discussed. However, this is dependent on COVID.

11. Questions/Comments from the floor:

- Hilary asked where the blocks of snow for snow sculptures come from. Jan indicated the NCC. Hilary is thinking it would be nice to have a snow sculpture competition in Sandy Hill in lieu of the Winter Carnival. Paula Tchen mentioned that Mitchell Webster of the Worldview Studio on Blackburn might be a good resource as he is an artist.
- Paula suggested that local leaders from the black community who live in Sandy Hill or black business owners could possibly be featured in IMAGE or the ASH website. Hilary invited Paula to send in any names to Image. (Hilary is guest editing the February edition of Image.)
- Paula thanked the individuals responsible for the rink saying it was really great. Susan mentioned that next year, a system would have to be implemented to ensure that everyone had access to the rink and not just the students.

12. Next meeting: February 22, 2021.