



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, February 22, 2021

7:03 pm – 8:47 pm via video conference

MINUTES

Present: David Elden, Cathy Major, Megan Reilkoff, John Verbaas, Susan Young, Hilary Duff, Paula Tchen, Yipeng Ge, Michael Barnes, Trina Cooper-Bolam

Regrets: Claude Jobin

Guests: Jan Finlay, Erin Woods, Kathy Moyer, Francine Schutzman, Marie-Pierre Lefebvre, Lena and Graham Creedy, Carina

1. The agenda was approved with no changes.
2. Review and approval of the January 25, 2021 minutes – Motion to approve moved by Cathy Major seconded by Michael Barnes, unanimous.
3. Executive Report: Susan – nothing to report.
4. Councillor's Report
 - Renaming of Sandy Hill Park: The renaming of Sandy Hill Park to Annie Pootoogook Park was approved by the City's Community and Protective Services Committee. Council will vote on the name change on March 10. There will be a permanent display of Ms Pootoogook's work in the Sandy Hill Community Centre. The Councillor is working with the Saw Gallery, the National Gallery and the Ottawa Gallery to install a virtual exhibit of her work in the Community Centre. There will a banner in the Park and a new name sign. Plans are underway for Inuit Art programming for schools and the community in the Park.
 - Residential Vacant Unit Tax: Residents are encouraged to fill in this Engage Ottawa survey found here: <https://engage.ottawa.ca/vut> – as vacant homes in Sandy Hill can be a blight and certainly remove residences from the rental market. In December 2020, City Council approved a motion which directed the City to study the power to impose an optional property tax on the assessment of vacant residential units and report back on the feasibility of such a tax. This survey found on Engage.ottawa.ca is designed to gather residents' opinions on the vacant unit tax and should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. For the purposes of this survey, a vacant residential unit is considered a home that has been unoccupied for 6 months.
 - Usage and Satisfaction with City of Ottawa Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey. As part of the development of the first ever Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, the City has opened a survey to determine the usage and satisfaction of City of Ottawa Parks and Outdoor recreation facilities. The Councillor indicated that there is a need to modernize the Sandy Hill arena and the Community Centre.
 - Osgoode Rooming House issues (diagonally across from Francojeunese). The owner, Smart Living, issued eviction notices along with offers for alternate housing options to 110 tenants. Of

the 110 tenants, 101 found other accommodation, 9 tenants remain in the building. Renovations have started in the buildings. Building Code Services prohibited occupancy because the building was deemed unsafe as propane heaters were found in the working area, near to where the remaining residents lived. Renovations are a City-wide problem and staff from various departments have been asked for a list of tools which are available to prevent them.

- Official Plan (OP): The Councillor intends to meet with OP staff to discuss several issues specific to Sandy Hill including the designation of Chapel as a minor corridor, inclusion of the relationship with uOttawa in the Sandy Hill Secondary Plan, and the reinstatement of the Sandy Hill rationale for Heritage.
- 2 Robinson: A core group remains active on this file, and has met with representatives of the developer. Among other issues, the proposed development plan for this site includes 900 parking spaces. Since the City is expected to improve sidewalks and bike lanes in this area as a result of the development, the group is exploring if it would be possible to require affordable housing units in place of these parking spaces. The additional height being requested is another lever.
- Town and Gown: Next meeting is March 23, 2021. Our Councillor is hosting an information session for the uOttawa planned development at 200 Lees Avenue on February 24, 2021. This is the site of the former Algonquin Campus site. The highest building in the development is 5 stories. There will be no residential buildings in this first phase. Michelle will send the documents the Councillor received to ASH prior to the session. The Councillor mentioned that since this is a TOD zone it could handle the same number of towers as planned for 2 Robinson.
- 66 Stewart St.: The Councillor described the home as a beautiful brick heritage building which needs to be protected. The owner plans to put an addition on the back for 2 apartments. A variance is required for a reduced back yard setback. The owner is working with a heritage person. The problem appears to be a lack of communication between the city heritage person and city planner. The Councillor will be meeting with the two groups on March 9th to resolve the variance issue.
- Multi-stream Waste Collection Bins: The City is behind in installing multi-stream waste collection bins on main streets and in parks. The Councillor asked that Strathcona Park be used as a pilot for the implementation of these bins.
- Free Trees: There are still 10 free trees available for residents to plant either in the front or back of their property. Susan suggested that a few trees could be planted in the planters at the southeast corner of Chapel and Rideau. Cathy will put an item in the March newsletter.
- Rideau Winter Trail: Through the generosity of local sponsors and the GoFundMe campaign, the Rideau Winter Trail now has purchased an ATV for packing down the trail for fat bikes and skate skiers. The GoFundMe page has been reopened and the goal is to purchase a track setter for classic skiing. John suggested that perhaps some of the development charges collected from developers be used to help the Rideau Winter Trail group purchase the track setter (see item 10, below).
- 244 Fountain Place: Susan will write a letter to the City regarding the loss of area from Besserer Park to be used for parking spaces for the development and will ask for compensation for this loss.
- 362 Stewart St.: The Councillor believes there is a disconnect between the warnings that are given to tenants for noise violations and actual fines. Erin Wood mentioned that the supervisor (Jen) of the bylaw officers has clarified with her staff that if there is a problem issuing a fine for noise complaints, then the complainants should be asked to give witness statements. There will be a meeting with Sean Kelly, a bylaw officer, Jen and the neighbours. A neighbour mentioned that there has been questionable behaviour from two of the bylaw officers who attended a noise complaint. The Councillor has offered to talk to the owner of the property

about the problems but the neighbour indicated she would be afraid of retaliation from the owner. The Councillor also indicated that there is an application into the City for some building work at this address.

- Questions for the Councillor:

- Michael Barnes commented on the difference between daily COVID 19 stats presented by the provincial government and Ottawa Public Health. The Councillor noted that the weekly stats were a more reliable indicator of trends, and that the dashboard on the OPH website was the most reliable source.
- Louise Lapointe had emailed a question about an owner paving a backyard to allow for parking when this is not allowed under the bylaw. The Councillor asked for the address of the property. This information will be provided to the Councillor's office.

5. Treasurer's Report: Megan

- The Treasurer's Report for January 2021 was circulated by email to the Board members. The second rink payment was received and will be used to pay for rink keepers and other expenses.
- Susan mentioned that a letter supporting the Rideau Winter Trail's application for funds from the Community Foundation had been sent. The Trail was also asking for a donation from ASH.

6. Block Reps Report: Jan

- An email was received by Jan from a resident of the CO-OP suggesting a petition for a fire pit in Strathcona Park. This is popular in Calgary where the City puts in the pit and individuals bring the firewood. An open fire permit is required when operating the fire pit. Jan will suggest submitting this idea to the City's Park and Recreation Survey.

7. Committee Reports:

- Communications: Hilary was thanked for preparing the 2 Robinson survey which is on the ASH website. Image is already being circulated in the community and the ASH newsletter was sent out.
- Environment: Bryan DeWalt is organizing a group of residents to work along the Rideau River removing invasive species such as dog-strangling vine, buckthorn and Japanese knotweed. Cathy will put an item in the March newsletter calling for volunteers for this project. Michael Barnes mentioned that a resident at 454 Daly has a video of a coyote which appeared last week.
- Membership: Dave sent a mass email out to those members whose membership expired in 2020. He received a few renewals for his effort.
- Planning and Heritage: Trina - The Planning Committee met on Thursday, February 18, 2021. The new Sandy Hill Secondary Plan has been reviewed and comments have been submitted to the City. Consolidated notes have been sent to the Councillor's office. The City has requested more information. Now that the timeline for the Official Plan has been extended, ASH has more time to develop a strategy for the new Official Plan, R4 issues and the Sandy Hill Secondary Plan. 515 Chapel St: The plan for this address is to demolish the front of the building and construct a building which integrates with the back of the building. The developer submitted plans to the ASH Planning Committee for comments which were provided to the developer. The developer made changes to its original plan based on these comments. ASH has sent additional comments on the revised design to the developer. Moon Dog Café: Smart Living, the owner of the building, will be making exterior cosmetic changes to the existing building. Smart Living is looking for a commercial tenant for this site. ASH has provided comments to Smart Living. 2 Robinson: The working group is developing a strategy to have affordable housing included in this development. Heritage: There is a new heritage planner at the City. There will be a meeting between ASH Heritage and the new planner to discuss among other things how to extend the Heritage character area to south of Osgoode.

- Transportation: John reported that the NCC is continuing to work on the study on interprovincial traffic up to 2050. He is keeping a close eye on this study to ensure the recommendations resulting from the study include solutions to the downtown truck issue. John has been collaborating with the Lowertown Community Association on this issue. The group is trying to set up a meeting with the Chair of the Transportation Committee to find out what the City's thoughts are on the truck issue. John mentioned that the new Official Plan has changed its wording on trucks and he thinks the working should be stronger.

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business: None.

10. Motion:

- John Verbaas moved that ASH donate \$1,500.00 to the Rideau Winter Trail (RWT). Michael Barnes seconded the motion. Unanimous. Susan will send a letter with the donation and the ASH logo to be used liberally by the Trail. An email has been sent. ASH will be recognized as an RWT Supporter. Our logo will be added to the RWT website, mentioned in the newsletter and shout-outs on social media.

11. Questions/Comments from the floor:

- Michael Barnes commented on the lack of meaning of the word "transect" in the Official Plan. He wondered if there was a more user-friendly word that could be used. Susan mentioned that many community groups including the Federation of Community Associations have made similar comments and more on the complexity of the proposed Official Plan, and are asking that the OP be delayed for as much as 2 years.
- Paula Tchen asked if ASH had a mission statement. Trina found statements which might serve as a mission in the ASH bylaws (Article 1, Section 5) and the welcome to Sandy Hill letter found on the ASH website.

12. Next Meeting: March 29, 2021.