



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, March 29, 2021

7:01 pm – 8:41 pm via video conference

MINUTES

Present: David Elden, Cathy Major, Megan Reilkoff, John Verbaas, Susan Young, Hilary Duff, Paula Tchen, Claude Jobin, Michael Barnes

Regrets: Yipeng Ge, Trina Cooper-Bolam

Guests: Jan Finlay, Erin Woods, Kathy Moyer, Patrick Cocklin, Marilyn Whitaker

1. The agenda was approved with no changes.
2. Review and approval of the February 22, 2021 minutes – Motion to approve moved by Michael Barnes, seconded by Hilary Duff, unanimous.
3. Block Reps: Jan Finlay
 - nothing to report.
 - Susan thanked Jan for sending out the update on the COVID-19 vaccines – Sandy Hill is now a priority neighbourhood and therefore people 70 and over can book an appointment through Ottawa Public Health.
4. Executive Report: Susan Young
 - ASH's Annual General Meeting will be held on May 27th. An ad for the AGM will appear in the April issue of Image. Sabrina Mathews will be the Elections Officer. Usually our elected officials are invited to speak at the AGM. Last year (the beginning of COVID and the first virtual AGM), the elected officials were not invited to speak in order to keep the meeting short. Susan asked whether we should invite them this year. Directors should send an email to Susan with their opinion.
 - The Chairs of each Committee should prepare their slides before the meeting and send them to Susan.
 - Dave Elden, Paula Tchen and Cathy Major are at the end of their term as ASH Board Directors. They should send an email to Susan to let her know whether they will stand again.
 - There are still vacant positions on the Board that can be filled. Anyone who wants to run must be a member in good standing.
 - There is an observer position for a member of the Ottawa U Students' Federation. Since the Federation appears to be stable, the Councillor suggested we approach the Federation to fill the vacancy.
4. Councillor's Report:
 - Capital Spring Clean-Up: The Councillor's office has some clean-up equipment available for any community projects. A call will have to be made to 311 for bag pick-up. The Councillor mentioned that Osgoode and Somerset Streets are problem areas. OttawaU has been

contacted to see if students could help. There is a call out in the newsletter for volunteers to clean up their blocks or join in the clean up of Strathcona Park.

- Debris under the Adawe Bridge: A resident called about people and a great deal of debris under the Adawe Bridge. The Councillor mentioned that calls about such issues should be made to 311 in order for the appropriate services to take action.
- 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.
- Official Plan (OP): The Councillor met with the OP team to discuss the issues raised by the three communities in the ward. The issues related to Sandy Hill include cycling, Chapel classified as a minor corridor and heritage. He plans to meet with Alain Miguez and then hold a meeting with ASH directors. The Councillor mentioned a March 30 meeting on the 15 minute neighbourhood which is open to all.
- City's Bike Parking Strategy: The City is finalizing the Bike Parking Strategy and is currently refining the draft outcomes and recommendations prior to going to Transportation Committee in April. Residents want more bike parking spaces around the City. The Councillor would like to hear from residents about what they think about the strategy. The conclusions from the study include more covered and secure bike parking spaces. Susan suggested that there should be more cargo bike delivery parking especially in commercial areas.
- Mann Ave. Landscaping Plan: The Councillor has received a draft landscaping plan for the area in front of the mini mall on Mann Ave. He will review it first and then pass it on to ASH for comment. ASH can expect to receive the draft plan in about 10 days.
- Town and Gown: Ottawa U provided an update on their residence plan at the March 23 meeting. Now we are aware of which residences are at the end of their life but the University was not clear on future residences. We must be vigilant as there is no reason why they cannot build residences and increase the number of beds on campus. (See ASH notes from the meeting in the T&G item below.)
- St Patrick's Day: There were two COVID infractions in the neighbourhood on March 17. The Councillor emphasized the City's zero noise tolerance policy. There are two ways that noise complaints can be handled: If Bylaw responds to a 311 call and hears the noise on-site, they will issue a fine, if they arrive afterwards for example, and don't hear any noise, then the neighbours who report the noise can submit a witness statement.
- 2 Robinson: The Councillor thanked the working group which submitted comments to the City planner on the proposed development. An on-site meeting will be held with the developer to discuss parking and connection issues. Dave and John will attend.
- 244 Fountain Place: Susan will send the Councillor the comments that have been submitted on the planned development. The LPAT appeal has been withdrawn. ASH wants the City to release TCU from the parking requirements which would end the planned opening of Besserer St and the reduction in area of the Besserer Street Park. The City has approved the proposed plan with conditions but no one seems to know what the conditions are.
- 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. This will be brought to the Committee of

Adjustment (CofA). ASH is making a submission to the CofA. ASH would like to talk to the City planners about what they will be presenting at the CofA.

- 114-122 Russell Ave.: ASH submitted comments on this development and has not received a response from the City planner. The plans have been updated on the City's devapps site. 118 Russell has already been demolished.
- Japanese Knotweed: The ASH Tree and Greening Group will be submitting an application to the City's Community Environmental Projects Grant Program for funds to purchase materials to help in the removal of Japanese Knotweed from certain areas along the west side of the Rideau River in Strathcona Park. Susan requested a letter of support from the Councillor and Marilyn Whitaker was asked to send information on the application to Erin Wood in the Councillor's office.
- Questions for the Councillor:
 - Cathy Major received a call from a neighbour regarding the amount of dog feces along the east side of the Rideau River, south of the Rideau Sports Club. The neighbour, who is a runner also said that she was almost rear ended twice by bicyclists who failed to ring their bells to warn her. She wondered what could be done, signs perhaps? The Councillor suggested that the neighbour send him an email with the details since this was a complicated issue as the area is the property of the NCC, City Bylaw would issue tickets and Ottawa City Police are responsible for enforcement.
 - Michael Barnes wondered what more could be done about the garbage bin on the east side of the strip mall on Rideau and Wurtemberg. Despite the efforts of Bylaw, there is still a problem of garbage and rats. Michael went by the area on March 29 and found an empty 18L container of canola oil laying on its side by the garbage bin. Erin Wood asked Michael to send her copies of his communications with Bylaw.

5. Treasurer's Report: Megan Reilkoff

- The Treasurer's Report for February 2021 was circulated by email to the Board members.
- The payment for the Volunteer Canada Insurance renewal has been submitted and the cheque has been cashed.
- We are waiting for the third rink payment from the City. Looks like the rink operations were profitable for ASH this year.

6. ASH Vision Statement:

- There was a discussion on the wording of the vision statement. It was agreed that the statement should read:
 - Action Sandy Hill supports and defends Sandy Hill as a diverse, historic and green community within a vibrant neighbourhood which welcomes people from all walks of life.
- Dave will add this to the home page of the ASH website.

7. Committee Reports:

- Heritage: Trina Cooper-Bolam will ask François Bregha to write a letter to the Moroccan Embassy to recognize the great renovation project.
- Communications: Susan sent the Board a draft letter to Sandy Hill residents explaining the issues ASH had brought forward to the City Planners on the new Official Plan and Sandy Hill Secondary Plan and the disappointing reaction of the planners. The letter will be printed in the April issue of Image. Cathy Major suggested that the Councillor's upcoming meeting with the planners to discuss our issues should be added to the letter. Cathy also indicated that she had to make a change to the draft newsletter concerning a COVID-19 update. Hilary was asked to create information on the AGM for Twitter and Facebook. Hilary suggested that posters about the AGM be put about around the neighbourhood.

- Membership: Dave indicated that there are now 256 current and paid up members of ASH. This is a slight increase.
- Environment: The Sandy Hill Tree and Greening Group is sponsoring an application for a grant in the amount of \$2,984.00 for materials to be used in the removal of Japanese Knotweed in Strathcona Park.
- Town and Gown: Susan, John Verbaas, Claude Jobin and Paula Tchen attended the March 23 meeting. The University will be holding focus groups with students to find out what the campus must offer in order to encourage students to live in residence on campus. The University also wants a focus group composed of Sandy Hill residents to discuss student housing. The lease for the CO-OP Housing between Henderson and King Edward is up for renewal by the University, who owns the land. The residents of the Co-op are worried that the University will take the land, however, it seems the lease will be renewed. The University wants to maintain a minimum of 4,250 beds on campus and wants to increase this number to 6,250 beds. It is not clear when and how this will be accomplished. The University also owns smaller lots along Templeton. ASH representatives encouraged the University to use these homes for families with children. The University expects to have 50% of its students on campus in the fall. Michael Barnes asked if the University was planning to make it mandatory for students on campus to be vaccinated. There was no mention of this other than the University would follow all public health guidelines.
- Transportation: John Verbaas reported that in April, the NCC would be releasing a study containing some scenarios for the inter-provincial network for comment. Once these comments have been analyzed then the NCC would recommend a scenario. John has been collaborating with the Lowertown Community Association on this issue and is still 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. A professional traffic planner who is a resident of Sandy Hill, has indicated an interest in working on 2 Robinson. He will be included in the on site meeting.
- Strathcona Park Gazebo: Claude Jobin indicated that the pandemic has prevented the project from moving forward.

8. Old Business:

- After a short discussion on the subject of the One and Only Craft Fair, it was determined that no decision could be made about holding the event due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. Hilary suggested that perhaps some pop up markets could be held in the fall at some local parking lots e.g the tents at allSaints. However, this would involve a commitment to hold the event and probably some costs to reserve the space. No final decision was made.

9. New Business:

- Perhaps a fall gathering may be possible.
- Susan mentioned that there were only two people: John Verbaas and Dave Elden who had signed Non Disclosure Agreements which permit them to attend pre-consultation meetings with City Planners and developers. Susan will sign up and asked if Cathy Major would consider signing up also. If so, Cathy should notify Susan by email.

12. Next Meeting: April 26, 2021.