



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, April 25, 2021

7:01 pm – 9:15 pm via video conference

MINUTES

Present: David Elden, Cathy Major, Megan Reilkoff, John Verbaas, Susan Young, Paula Tchen, Claude Jobin, Michael Barnes, Trina Cooper-Bolam

Regrets: Hilary Duff, Yipeng Ge

Guests: Constable Sébastien Lemay, Jan Finlay, Erin Woods, Kathy Moyer, François Bregha, Stephanie Plante, Maha Spek, William Milner, Marielle, Peggy DuCharme, Jeremy Silburt.

1. Ottawa Police Service Quarterly Stats: Constable Sébastien Lemay

	Q1 - 2020	Q1 - 2021
Break and Enter – non-residential – within parking garages	7	15
Theft from vehicles	3	8
Theft of mail or parcels	1	18

These statistics are reported occurrences only.

- With respect to Break and enters, this has predominantly been in condo or apartment buildings where the entrance is not necessarily well controlled. The police are asking the public to be vigilant and if possible be at home to receive parcels especially during the pandemic when home deliveries are on the rise. The Constable suggested that if residents have to leave their residence to go to work, they should have parcels delivered to the workplace where possible.
- The police conduct free environmental safety place-based audits and the Constable encouraged people to do these especially those living in condos or apartments.
- Constable Lemay also mentioned that there is an app (529 Garage) that can be downloaded upon which you can register the details of your bicycle so that if it is stolen you would report the theft to 311 but the serial number, colour, make would be known to police thereby making its recovery more probable. Residents can also sign up for the OPS news releases.
- The foregoing will be included in the May ASH newsletter.

2. The agenda was approved with no changes.

3. Review and approval of the March 29, 2021 minutes – Motion to approve moved by Cathy Major, seconded by Michael Barnes, unanimous.

4. Block Reps: Jan Finlay

- Jan gave a big thank you to all those who participated in straightening out the information related to COVID vaccinations which was transmitted to the residents, in particular Block rep Camille Ainslie.

5. Executive Report: Susan Young

- ASH's Annual General Meeting will be held on May 27th. An ad for the AGM appeared in the April issue of Image. Sabrina Mathews will once again be the Elections Officer. It was decided that our elected officials will not be invited to the meeting, given they have regular virtual public town halls.
- The Chairs of each Committee should prepare their slides and send them to Susan by May 15.
- Dave Elden, Paula Tchen, Michael Barnes and Cathy Major are at the end of their terms as ASH Board Directors. Michael Barnes and Cathy Major indicated they would return to the Board for another two-year term. Dave Elden indicated he would stay on for an additional 6 months until someone could be found to replace him. Cathy Major will send Paula an email to remind her to advise Susan if she intends to 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.
- Susan thanked Dave Elden for posting the ASH mission statement on the website.

6. Treasurer's Report: Megan Reilkoff

- The Treasurer's Report for March 2021 along with the rink report was circulated by email to the Board members, and is attached here.
- Megan stated that we did make about \$700 on the rink operation.

7. Councillor's Report:

- COVID Vaccines: Vaccines are available at Shoppers Drugmart and Rexall on Rideau Street as well as at the Bruyère Family Health Centre, for those who are patients there.
- Active Transportation Forum: Councillors Fleury and Rawlson will be holding a virtual active transportation forum on May 5 to gather input from residents on the improvement of pedestrian and cycling paths in their wards. The comments/suggestions will be passed on to the folks responsible for developing the City's Transportation Master Plan.
- 641 Rideau St: The City has received a proposal from Theberge Homes to demolish the 3 existing low rise apartment buildings and construct a 25-storey apartment building. A virtual consultation session will be held on Wednesday, April 28 at 6:30 pm. While the proposal is in Lowertown, it will have ramifications for Sandy Hill.
- Official Plan (OP): The Councillor met with the OP team to discuss the issues raised by the three communities in the ward. Trina emphasized the need to reclaim some of the heritage language from the existing Secondary Plan, include the area south of Osgoode in the heritage character area and to include the houses in this area on the Heritage Register. The issues related to Sandy Hill in the new Central and East Downtown Secondary Plan include: corrections to a schedule that has excluded a small area of R1 zoning, references changed with respect to the NW corner of Sandy Hill and heritage overall, Chapel classified as a minor corridor, the recognition of Sandy Hill heritage, including beyond the existing Heritage Conservation Areas, and the integration of university properties and plans as an important element to Sandy Hill. We are also seeking the reinstatement of language related to the truck traffic problem in the core OP document. The OP team has a better understanding of our requests for these issues. They are prepared to review the Chapel minor corridor issue and heritage. The Councillor will work with ASH to prepare motions related to the requested changes.
- 66 Stewart St: Susan pointed out that ASH's main concern was the decreased rear yard setback.
- Mann Ave. Landscaping Plan: The Councillor met with Mr. Frasier the project engineer, to discuss the landscaping plan. The current proposed plan is not much bigger than the previous planters. There are two issues in the area in front of the strip mall: a clear way is necessary directly in front of the shops and there must be sufficient space on the sidewalk to allow for

accessibility. The City will revise its proposal and send it back to the Councillor for comment. The revised plan will be forwarded to ASH for comment.

- Russell Ave and Mann road projects: Work will begin in the fall on Russell Avenue. Work has restarted along Mann Avenue and Range Road.
- Available Trees: There are still a number of free trees available through the Councillor's office. If anyone is interested they should contact his office.
- Pedestrian Crosswalks: The Councillor has requested a 3 way stop sign and crosswalk at the corner of Range Road and Laurier Avenue.
- Transportation Committee: At the next the Transportation Committee, the Councillor will present two motions:
 - to install stop signs at the corner of Osgoode and Sweetland.
 - Currently, the speed limit in Sandy Hill is 40 kph. The Councillor's second motion will propose that all residential streets in Sandy Hill have a posted speed limit of 30 kph. If the motion is passed, additional signs will be required in the northern part of Sandy Hill. If successful, the Councillor will bring a map of all the speed signs in Sandy Hill. With the lower speed limit, it will be easier to obtain funding for additional seasonal traffic calming measures.
- 2 Robinson: The Councillor continues to have concerns with the latest submission for this development. Currently there are 3 groups reviewing the development plans:
 - affordable housing – the developer is not open to community participation on this subject
 - community spaces and the park – there is agreement for indoor community spaces. There is a new proposal for the park which should be on DevApps. If not the Councillor will send one to ASH.
 - Connectivity - missing links to connect the site with crosswalks, cycling, transit

The Councillor questioned whether it is possible to move the plan forward without providing more specific information.

- 244 Fountain Place: The Councillor met with the new City planner on this file and discussed encroachment on the park, reopening of Besserer Street, compensation to the City for the reduction of the park and the removal of trees. Susan raised the issue of waiving the parking requirement thereby leaving the park as is.
- 114-122 Russell Ave.: Susan pointed out that the development application was approved with no apparent changes despite all the comments and suggestions from the community. It appears the City planner made no effort to persuade the developers to change their plans to reflect the community's concerns. Trina pointed out that these properties were not part of the heritage character area and therefore had no value to the City. Another reason to expand the heritage character study area. The Councillor wants to involve Michelle from his office in our Planning and Heritage discussions. He will organize a meeting with City planners, his office and ASH to discuss various planning issues.
- As Susan is stepping down as President, the Councillor thanked her for all her hard work on the various community issues.
- Questions for the Councillor:
 - Maha Spek asked why the bike lane on Rideau Street between Sussex Drive and William Street suddenly ended after the City spent so much money revitalizing this area. The Councillor indicated that the bike lane had to start somewhere and that there will be future links. Maha also mentioned that the bikes are mixed in with vehicular traffic on Montreal Road making it very dangerous for cyclists. The

Councillor indicated that due to construction on this road, bikes will be mixed in with the regular traffic until construction is complete.

- Regarding 244 Fountain Place, Michael Barnes wondered why City planners did not consider that removing part of Besserer Park was a violation of the Uptown Rideau and Sandy Hill Secondary Plans. He commented that the City should be protecting parks not carving them up. The Councillor agreed. The planner has asked the City's legal department for a legal opinion. Michael also pointed out that with the increase in apartment units along Rideau Street which will add thousands of people in this area, the City must show how they will provide green space and other infrastructure to ensure a healthy living situation for residents.
- Susan mentioned that she had asked for a Board member to participate in the Growth Management Strategy session hosted by the City on May 11.

8. Committee Reports:

- Planning and Heritage: Trina outlined a project she introduced at the last Planning Committee meeting whereby architects would be engaged to come up with design examples which would be compatible with existing heritage characters for sites where a building would be demolished converted, or added on to. The designs would be offered to developers and would offer various housing typologies including more family-friendly accommodation. Three architects have been contacted to determine the viability and usefulness of such designs. Once responses have been received from these architects, she will report back to the Board to see if there is any interest in funding this project. The City would have to be persuaded to reduce development application fees.
- Michael asked Trina what the cost of developing these designs might be. She did not know.
- Another heritage meeting is planned with the City. Trina wants to write an article for Image on the City's heritage restoration funding program for residents, and the purpose of maintaining heritage buildings and heritage salvage.
- Communications: Jen Cox who was the ASH social media guru is stepping down as the birth of her child is imminent. Susan expressed the Board's sincere thanks to Jen for all her work.
- Environment: Susan mentioned that the application for a grant in the amount of \$2,984.00 for materials to be used in the removal of Japanese Knotweed along the river in Strathcona Park has been submitted. A message will be sent out to ASH members from the Sandy Hill Tree and Greening Group asking for volunteers to help with bed maintenance and Knotweed control 2 evenings each month starting in June.
- Membership: Dave Elden indicated that there are now 255 current and paid-up members.
- Transportation: A news release sponsored by a coalition of interested parties which want to preserve the Alexandra Bridge was sent to Board members. The news release indicates that the bridge could be saved if the bridge is dedicated to active transportation (pedestrians and cyclists). John Verbaas indicated the majority of the vehicle traffic would be diverted to other bridges. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that ASH would support the news release.
- Michael asked John what volume of car traffic would be diverted if the Alexandra Bridge was closed to car traffic. John said that the daily volume across all bridges was about 75,000 cars (in each direction each day) so at 9% of ttl traffic that means about 7000 cars per day use the Alexandra bridge in each direction. Most of those 7,000 would have to be divert to the Macdonald-Cartier bridge which currently carries about 45,000 cars per day per direction.
- John mentioned that he finally had a meeting with the Chair of the Transportation Committee regarding the NCC Study on Interprovincial transportation. A representative from the Lowertown Community Association also attended. John told the Chair that it was imperative that the City tell the NCC that the trucks must be removed from the downtown core and the recommendations to do so had to be viable and acceptable. The City was quiet on the subject and mentioned that normally the NCC would send a draft of their report to the City before releasing it to the public. Apparently the City has not received a draft, so we should not expect to see the projects proposed scenarios in April.

- Strathcona Park Gazebo: Claude Jobin indicated that the pandemic has prevented the project from moving forward.

9. Old Business:

- The One and Only Craft Fair Committee met to discuss whether the Fair could be held this year. It was agreed that there was value in running a modified Craft Fair assuming that vendors would be interested. Due to the pandemic, the Craft Fair would be operated with half the number of vendors and half the attendees. Minimal plans could be made in terms of volunteers, money, etc. Money would not be spent until about two months before the proposed date of the Craft Fair. A review of the situation will be made at the end of the current stay at home order.

10. Next Meeting: May 31, 2021.

An in camera meeting was held after the regular ASH Board meeting to choose ASH's Volunteer of the Year.