



## Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, August 30, 2021

7:03 pm – 9:08 pm via [video conference](#).

### MINUTES

Present Board Members: David Elden, Cathy Major, Megan Reilkoff, John Verbaas, Michael Barnes, Hilary Duff, Susan Khazaeli, William Milner, Jan Finlay and Peggy Ducharme.

Regrets: Yipeng Ge, Trina Cooper-Bolam .

Guests: Kathy Moyer, Bailee Johnson, Malika Séguin, Kendra Eyben, Arto Keklikian, Sabrina, Anay Fraser, Marilyn Whitaker

1. The agenda was changed to accommodate the Councillor's schedule.

2. Review and approval of the June 28, 2021 minutes – was deferred to the next Board meeting as the revised procedures for the ex-officio designation approved at the June 28, 2021 had been requested but not received in time to attach to the June 28, 2021 minutes. **Approval has been deferred until the September 27, 2021 meeting.**

3. President's Updates:

- Susan Khazaeli and Peggy DuCharme (alternate) were invited to join the Research Advisory Board (RAB) which was set up to study the effectiveness of Ottawa Police Services' Neighbourhood Resource Teams (NRTs) in the Byward Market, Lowertown and the north end of Sandy Hill and to make recommendations to improved the NRTs. It was found the the RAB was not set up to conduct this study. However, the RAB will regroup and try to make recommendations to improve the clean and safe conditions in these areas.
- Susan will attend a meeting at Centre 454 along with the new Pastor of St. Albans to discuss possible signage and fencing to reduce or eliminate unwanted behaviour in the area. The Rideau Street BIA's volunteer outreach group are encouraged to gently move people along to prevent loitering in the area around the Centre.
- CBC wrote an article on the significant increase in the number of calls to 311 from Sandy Hill residents reporting rats, garbage and noise.

4. New Addition to ASH Board:

Susan introduced Anya Fraser who is interested in joining the ASH Board as a Director. She lives on Daly and is very concerned about the amount of garbage and the increasing number of rats in the neighbourhood. Neighbours are uncertain when and how to report these issues to the City through the 311 system. She would like to liaise between ASH and the community to educated the community on the 311 system.

**Motion** to approve Anya Fraser as a Director on the ASH Board was moved by Peggy DuCharme, seconded by Dave Elden and unanimously approved.

## 5. Councillor's Updates:

- Nicholas/Waller Speed Limit: Sandy Hill is the first community in Ottawa to have a 30kph on all residential streets. He is glad to have discussion on 40kph on main streets. The speed on Nicholas/Waller (north of Laurier) is set at 50 kph. The Councillor noted that a motion going forward to Transportation Committee next week requesting Main Street be reduced to 40k from 50k. He believes that the motion will pass. The Councillor would be happy to discuss reducing this speed to 40 kph but pointed out he feels blindsided on the 40kph after having achieved a reduction to the 50kph. The Councillor warned that there is only one main street in Ottawa with a speed limit of 40kph and he believes that the likelihood of reducing the speed further on Nicholas/Waller is slim. If the Board gives the Councillor direction to study the reduction of the speed limit on main streets in Sandy Hill, then he is prepared to do so.
- Fall Meetings: The Councillor will meet with the Presidents of all three community associations in the ward in the fall to discuss issues in their respective communities. If the reduction of speed limits from 50 to 40 kph is a priority for all three communities then he is prepared to discuss this.
- Strathcona Park Improvements: The slide and swings located near the wading pool in Strathcona Park are at their end of life and will be replaced. The sand and grass located around the swings and slide do not meet the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). However, the Councillor is looking for a waiver from these requirements due to the fact that the pool is for children and the sand and grass was installed prior to the AODA and do not prevent people with disabilities from accessing the pool, swings or slide.
- Infrastructure: New sidewalks and asphalt have been poured on Russell Avenue. New landscaping plans for the strip mall on Mann Avenue have been approved and include new planters, bike loops and a waste receptacle. The old planters on this site have been relocated to the Ottawa Community Housing building across from the strip mall and beside the former Suds and Duds facility at the corner of Chapel and Somerset Streets. The intersection at the corner of Somerset E and Range Road will be raised to meet standards.
- Rideau Street: This street has been fully reopened. However there are still social issues with which the City must deal. The Councillor believes that the City must modernize its maintenance practices particularly for this area. If residents notice any cleanliness issues on streets, they should contact 311 or use the online reporting system and include pictures.
- Laurier/Nicholas Redo: The Councillor sent ASH the updated plans for the Laurier/Nicholas redo. AECON will begin work this fall to improve bike lanes, intersection crossings, road resurfacing and the former transit way at Laurier and Waller. Safety is of the utmost importance as this is one of the busiest intersections in the City. Construction timelines will be passed on to ASH as they become known.
- Annie Pooktoogook Park: The gallery featuring the work of Annie Pooktoogook is taking shape in the Sandy Hill Community Centre. An event will be held in the fall to officially recognize the Park's new name and the gallery. ASH is welcome to participate in the launch.
- St Germaine Park Improvements: (behind Viscount Elementary School): Tennis/pickle ball courts will be resurfaced.
- Riverain Park: Sections of the Park will reopen in the fall. Some sections of the Park erg. the splash pad and the play structure are already open.
- Fall Events:
  - September Walk-about: With the return of students to the uOttawa campus, the Councillor is again organizing a walk-about with representatives from Town and Gown (Will Milner and Jan Finlay), student representatives and City officials. The Councillor would like more representation from ASH and the community.
  - a BBQ and film night starting at 6pm in Annie Pootoogook Park co-hosted by the Councillor and ASH
  - The Panda game will take place at TD place in Landsdowne Park. There is a lot of work to be done to prevent a spill over on Russel Avenue and to make the tailgate party at the Sandy Hill Arena a success.

- A cleanup of the community on October 3 sponsored by the Councillor.

All events are open and free to all and the Councillor's office will create posters for these events.

- Development:
  - The City has received an application to demolish the buildings at 326 - 330 Wilbrod Street. There are a number of outstanding charges against this property for building code violations. The Councillor supports the application and sees it as an opportunity to reset this part of Wilbrod Street.
  - There have been a number of conversations and walk-about around 2 Robinson to improve pedestrian connections from the Nicholas off ramp, missing links along Lees Ave, and establishing a multi-use path behind the Sandy Hill Arena. The Councillor expects the planning application for the project to be brought to Council for approval in the Fall.
- Official Plan: The City has released the revised Official Plan. The Councillor is reviewing the revised draft to determine whether the requests made by ASH have been included in the revision. He has developed a number of motions related to the asks which he is prepared to put forth if the revisions do not include these asks.
- Zoning Elements: The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) reviews applications for liquor, and cannabis licences. The Councillor is concerned about the concentration of cannabis outlets in communities. An application for a cannabis outlet at 312 Somerset Street has been received by the AGCO. The Councillor has submitted comments on this application pointing out that this is a small C commercial area located within a primarily residential neighbourhood.
- COVID Vaccinations: The University of Ottawa requires that all staff, students and visitors must be fully vaccinated by October 15 in order to access the campus this fall. Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) staff must also be fully vaccinated.
- Letter to the City: There has been a significant rise in complaints made to the City regarding used needles, crack pipes, aggressive behaviour etc in the areas of the Byward Market, Lowertown and Rideau Street. There are a number of reasons for this rise including, a large homeless population, a high concentration of social services, the opioid crisis and the COVID19 pandemic. These circumstances have had serious and worsening impacts on both the high-needs population as well as the broader community and businesses. The Councillor submitted an inquiry to the City Manager asking him to provide an overview of additional City resources and other community supports that could be mobilized to provide immediate and targeted assistance to support the ByWard Market, Lowertown and Rideau Street area. The City's response was minimal. The Councillor believes that programs for those experiencing homelessness and drug addiction should be located in other areas of the City, that there needs to be a more co-ordinated effort of the groups responsible for programing and that more safe supply funding is required from the province. Susan asked whether someone would be available to explain the Safe Supply program. The Councillor asked **ASH to send a request to the Councillor's office to have someone attend an ASH Board meeting to explain the Safe Supply program.**

## 6. Committee Reports:

### Communications:

Hilary Duff and Cathy Major worked together to redesign and relaunch the ASH newsletter using the Mail Chimp platform. Several positive comments have been received on the new look. As approved at the June meeting, the newsletter will be sent to those non-members who sign up to receive the newsletter. A Sign up form has been added to the ASH website. Events happening in the neighbourhood will be posted on social media as they occur. Cathy and Hilary will participate in the 15 Minute Neighbourhood Community Engagement Communications Project in September. They will work with Carleton University students to design a graphic locating all services e.g. medical services, food

outlets, hair and barber shops.

Transportation:

- John Verbaas reported that he and Peggy DuCharme met with City staff to discuss traffic calming measures on Waller/Nicholas as vehicles exit 417. The measure includes 60 kph flashing speed signs north bound on Nicholas on the approach to Laurier and 50 kph signs after the intersection of Waller and Laurier. Peggy expressed concern about the 50kph speed limit and believes that the speed limit should be 40 kph. She will attend Committee meetings with motions to reduce the speed limit from 50 to 40kph on other main streets. John hoped that we would slowly grind them down to 40Kph on Nicholas/Waller.
- The Councillor added that we are the first community to have 30 kph on all residential streets. He is glad to have discussions on a futher reduction of speed limits from 50 to 40 kph. He will be glad to discuss this futher if the Board gives direction that this is an issue.

Block Reps:

- Jan Finlay had nothing to report.

Membership:

- Dave Elden reported that we have 262 members.

Clean & Safe Committee:

- Peggy DuCharme had emailed the draft Terms and Conditions of the Clean and Safe Committee to the Board members prior to the meeting. She explained the contents of the Terms. Peggy indicated that the stakeholders e.g. the Police, Bylaw and the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre have agreed to be part of the Advisory Group. She is preparing a letter to the Mayor regarding the status of the old Ottawa Jail and has met with Public Health regarding what appears to be pop up safe injection sites in the neighbourhood. A petition has been launched to open up the western end of Daly Avenue at Waller.

**Motion:** Peggy DuCharme moved that the Terms of Reference for the Clean and Safe Committee be approved, Dave Elden seconded the motion on condition that the Board properly discuss the Terms of Reference. After much discussion among Board members, comments from the Councillor who noted the ambitious nature of the Committee and the possible overlap with other Committees such as Town and Gown and the comment from Malika, representative from the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre(SHCHC) who clarified that SHCHC would be willing to provide stats and information to an Advisory Group but was reluctant to commit to being a member of the Group. It was decided to defer the approval of the Terms of Reference until September when the Board can meet to discuss the Terms of Reference outside of the regular Board meeting

- Malika reported that there was a meeting attended by Peggy to discuss a possible virtual all candidates meeting to be held tentatively on September 13 from 7pm to 9pm. Peggy advised that ASH would collect questions from the community, promote the event and post the questions on the ASH website. They do not have confirmation from all parties as to attendance. Once the date has been formalized, posters will be sent out. Peggy hoped that there could be a portal to collect questions from the community on the ASH website. Hilary asked if there would be an email address to which residents can submit their questions directly to Malika. Malika provided her email address. Hilary will promote the event on social media once the poster is available.

**Motion:** Hilary moved that a Board retreat be held in early November with the intent to develop strategic priorities for the Board and its Committees as well as to discuss such matters as free membership and the Clean and Safe Committee Terms of Reference. Peggy seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

- Hilary will send out a doodle poll to determine a date for the Retreat and do more research on facilitating the event.

#### Town and Gown:

- Will Milner has been in meetings for planning events in the community. and asked if people had incite into any events that they share them with him. Will listed the dates and events:
  - September 14 – The annual Walk-about
  - September 18 – BBQ and film
  - October 2 – Panda Game
  - October 3 – Park Clean up
- Cathy Major asked what addresses would be visited during the walk-about. Bailee Johnson clarified that she had a list of addresses from Bylaw which received a higher than normal number of 311 calls. Jan asked how many packages where available for distribution. Bailee indicated there are 200 packages. Will mentioned that if residents are interested in getting involved with Town and Gown or other activities, they should contact him. Cathy also asked about Panda and the tailgate party. Will indicated that the tailgate party would be held at the Sandy Hill arena. He mentioned that more ID checkers might be needed to reduce the lineups.

#### 244 Fountain Place:

- Prior to the Board meeting, Michael Barnes emailed a draft letter to addressed to the Mayor and Council with a copy to the media expressing ASH's disapproval of the City's plan to reopen the west end of Besserer Street to allow a portion of Besserer Park to be given to the Developer at 244 Fountain Place in order to allow residents to access 3 parking spaces. Michael indicated both the Sandy Hill Secondary Plan and the Uptown Rideau Secondary Plan which protects park space in the area were ignored in the Planning Committee report. Site plan and road opening have not yet been approved. Michael suggested that we should send the letter before approvals have been rendered. John Verbaas questioned how the letter fits in with the planning process. Michael indicated the road opening has not been dealt with and the site plan has been approved. Hilary asked Bailey whether the Councillor supported the planned road opening. Bailee indicated that planning was the responsibility of another person in the office. Michael stated that the Councillor voted against the road opening.

Hilary suggested that in addition to the letter, we hold a gathering in the Park later this week for 2 hours after work with a few speakers, snacks and signs. Posters would be put up close to the event and put in mailboxes. Planning for the event will continue in the days to come.

**Motion:** Will put forward a motion to send the proposed letter to the Mayor, Council and those responsible for the file. Peggy added the letter should also be sent to the City Manager and Solicitor. Peggy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### 7. Treasurer's Report:

- Megan sent out the Treasurer's report in advance of the meeting.

**Motion:** Peggy moved that the Treasurer's report be approved. Jan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### 8. Additional Items:

- Jan asked whether there would be a Sandy Hill Community Garage Sale. Cathy indicated not this year.
- Dave will send a note to the Board regarding the preconsultation process.

8. Adjournment:

**Motion:** Susan moved that the meeting should be adjourned. Peggy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9.08 pm.