



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, September 27, 2021

6:30 pm – 8:28 pm via video conference.

[Click here](#) to hear a recording of the meeting.

MINUTES

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

Regrets: John Verbaas, Trina Cooper-Bolam and Hilary Duff.

Guests: There were a total of 32 people in attendance for the presentation by Tara Hall Manager of Communication and Community Engagement for the Shepherds of Good Hope.

1. Shepherds of Good Hope (SGH) Expansion:

The meeting started at 6:30 pm with a presentation by Tara Hall of the SGH's proposed construction of a 48 bed facility at 216 Murray Street. Tara is the Manager of Communications and Community Engagement for SGH. Tara provided an overview of the services provided by SGH in the City. She explained that the proposed facility would have 48 studio suites with a priority for indigenous and woman occupants. Using floor plans for the new facility, she explained how both residents of the new facility and drop-in visitors would be accommodated. There will also be outdoor space adjacent to the property with tables, chairs and umbrellas for visitors as well as a small amenity space at the back for staff. A security desk manned 24/7 will provide more eyes on the street as well as control who enters the facility. Those occupying the suites will have their own dining area as well as a private balcony on the second floor. Meals will also be served for those dropping into the facility. The drop-in hours will be 7am to 9pm, seven days a week. Tara mentioned that the proposed construction had been approved by the City but a group from Lowertown have objected to the plan and have appealed the decision to the LPAT (Local Planning Appeal Tribunal).

Questions from the floor:

- Louise Lapointe asked how many more people could be accommodated in the new facility since a recurring problem in the community is people with no where to go between meals hang out on public and private property. Tara answered that this facility would be open from 7 am to 9 pm and people could drop-in during those hours so they would have some place to go between meals. Louise asked if people would be able to consume on the premises. Tara said they did not want to see either drugs or alcohol openly consumed on the premises.
- David Hagesz asked what the homeless numbers are in Ottawa and how many people can the Shepherds serve at this time. He also asked if the Wabano Centre has been consulted on this project. Tara indicated this was a difficult question to answer. She did say that the Shepherds serve 60,000 meals per year. Tara also indicated that the SGH had worked with a group representing several indigenous groups on the project.
- Louise asked if the 48 suites would be occupied by 48 indigenous women. Tara clarified the first priority would be indigenous individuals (male and female) followed women.
- Keith Nutall asked why these services are concentrated downtown instead of being spread out across the City. He commented that with the concentration of these services downtown, there

has been an immediate rise in crime, drugs etc. Tara answered that the SGH have facilities across the City. This facility is planned for downtown as this is where the help is required..

1. Approval of minutes of Board meeting:

- **Motion:** Cathy Major moved that the minutes from the June 28 and August 30 meetings be approved. The motion was seconded by Megan Reilkoff and unanimously approved

2. Meeting Agenda:

- **Motion:** Jan Finlay moved that the meeting's agenda which was emailed to Board members prior to the meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Cathy Major and unanimously approved.

3. New Addition to ASH Board:

- Susan introduced Stéphanie Plante who is interested in joining the ASH Board as a Director. She lives on Henderson and was instrumental in the renaming of Somerset Street Park to Annie Pooktoogook Park. She has worked in the Councillor's Office and has an interest in planning and heritage issues.
- **Motion:** Cathy Major moved to approve Stephanie Plante as a Director on the ASH Board. The motion was seconded by Dave Elden and unanimously approved.

4. President's Update:

- Susan had drafted a letter supporting the renaming of Laurier Park to Cindy Mitchell Park in which she included the comments of Board members. Based on the comments she received, Susan will be amending and recirculating the letter for approval.
- Susan met with the new Pastor of St Albans Church regarding Centre 454. The Pastor is keen to be a good neighbour. A clean-up of Centre 454 is planned for September 30.
- Question from Christine Aubry who is interested in organizing a pumpkin carving contest which was very popular last year. Stéphanie Plante suggested that we could hold something during the day on Chapel Street for the children. More to follow.

5. Councillor's Updates:

- Riverain Park: The official opening of Phase 1 of the new and improved Riverain Park was held last weekend. Phase 2 which has not yet been started, will involve a new field house, a skating rink at the baseball diamond, a dock in the Rideau River and a skate board park.
- Annie Pootoogook Park: The exhibit of Ms Pootoogook's work is coming along in the Sandy Hill Community Centre. A new banner is now posted in the Park. November 7 has been set as a tentative date for the official opening of the Park. Local Inuit organizations and arts groups will be involved. **There should be a representative from the ASH Board on the unveiling team.**
- Panda Game: The Panda Game will be held on October 2. The Councillor is satisfied that the 2019 measures including the tailgate party will apply to this year's Panda Game. The Councillor is in communication with Ottawa Police Services and Bylaw. OPS is less than clear on how it will protect us.
- Community Cleanup: A community cleanup with residents, the Councillor, students and the Ottawa U Gee Gees is scheduled for October 3 at 11 am starting at the Sandy Hill Community Centre.
- Town and Gown: Close to 200 addresses were visited during the Walk-about on September 14. The BBQ and movie night held on September 18 was attended by more than 100 families. Many thanks to Jan – without her the BBQ would not have happened.
- Infrastructure: Due to EMS and current traffic volumes, the City has moved work on Laurier and Nicholas to the spring of 2022. The University and ASH have received plans for the redesign of the Laurier/Nicholas intersection. The redo of the Range/Somerset intersection will take place in late fall 2021 or early spring of 2022. The new planters to be located in front of the Mann St. strip mall have been ordered and will be installed in the spring of 2022.

- Recreation Master Plan: This plan is basically a development plan. Sandy Hill is one of the oldest communities with some of the smallest recreation facilities. The Councillor is working hard to obtain up grades for existing facilities as well as new facilities.
- uOttawa Recreation Facilities: The University is in conversation with NCC and the City to move its gym, arena and pools closer to the Sandy Hill Arena on Mann Avenue.

Questions for the Councillor:

- David Hagesz asked what the City's direction is in terms of housing and homelessness. The Councillor responded that the City wants to continue its existing practices and will not invest in the new programs required to provide housing and ease the homeless situation. The City needs to move into the 21st century. The Shepherds of Good Hope's planned facility at 216 Murray Street which will provide permanent housing fits the model of how to end homelessness. However, it is not enough.
- Cathy Major asked who obtained the permit for the pre Panda tailgate party. The Councillor said it was the University.

6. Pollinator Garden in Strathcona Park:

Robin Duetta from Carefor Health and Care Services explained that in 2022 Carefor will celebrate its 125th anniversary and would like to commemorate this occasion with the installation of a pollinator garden in a honeycomb pattern. 2022 is also the year of the garden. The garden would be 20 feet in circumference. The project requires community support. The garden will be used for programs for people with dementia. Carefor will take care of maintenance and will work with specialists to plant the garden. **Robin will send ASH a package detailing the project.**

7. Treasurer's Report:

Megan Reilkoff emailed the Treasurer's Report for August 2021 prior to this evening's meeting. The Report was approved.

7. Committee Reports:

Communications:

- Hilary Duff, Chair, not in attendance.

Transportation:

- John Verbaas reported that he continues to work with the Councillor to tame the traffic on Nicholas.
- There are areas in the neighbourhood where there is a requirement for improvement in cycling and walking.

Membership:

- Dave Elden reported that we have 270 members.
- The One and Only Craft Fair which scheduled to take place in November 2021 has been cancelled because the restricted number of people allowed in the Sandy Hill Community Centre under COVID rules is not sufficient to hold the Fair. Dave will cancel the reservation at the Community Centre. The Fair Team will consider a Spring event in 2022.

Block Reps:

- Jan Finlay had nothing to report.

Clean & Safe Committee:

- Peggy DuCharme had nothing to report.

Town and Gown:

- Will Milner reported that:
 - October 2 – Panda Game
 - October 3 – Park Clean up
- **Motion:** Will moved that ASH sign the statement to create a safer Ottawa for Trans and 2SLGBTQ+ people, Stephanie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- As an aside, Dave mentioned that the founding President of ASH was a gay activist.

8. Update on Knotweed Project:

Bryan Dewalt of the Sandy Hill Tree and Greening Group, explained that the main part of the project to remove and control the Japanese Knotweed has been completed at 3 sites along the pathway by the Rideau River in Strathcona Park. The Group had obtained funding from the City for mulch and tarps. The Group has exceeded its budget by about \$170.00. The Councillor and Megan Reilkoff will discuss with Bryan how to cover the \$170.00 shortfall

9. Reclaiming Expenses:

- **Motion:** Michael Barnes presented a motion to reclaim a total of \$450.00 in expenses incurred for the LPAT appeal which he launched for the 244 Fountain Place development (\$400.00) and for printing costs for posters for the Besserer Park protest (\$50.00). Michael will absorb the bank draft fees. Megan Reilkoff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- Dave asked whether the neighbours in the vicinity of 244 Fountain Place had been asked to contribute to the cost of the LPAT appeal. Michael replied that due to the timing of the application for LPAT hearing and the deadline, the neighbors were not asked for a contribution.
- Michael will ask neighbours make a donation to ASH

10. Other Business:

Michael Barnes stated that over 700 people supporting the petition for Saving Besserer Park. He suggested that ASH should promote membership at all ASH events.

11. Adjournment:

Motion: Susan moved that the meeting should be adjourned. Cathy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8.28 pm.