



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, November 29, 2021

6:30 pm – 8:55 pm via video conference.

MINUTES

Present Board Members: David Elden, Cathy Major, Megan Reilkoff, John Verbaas, Michael Barnes, Susan Khazaeli, William Milner, Jan Finlay, Peggy Ducharme, Anya Fraser, Stéphanie Plante and Yipeng Ge.

Regrets: Trina Cooper-Bolam .

Guests: In total 39 guests including present Board members, Kathy Moyer, Bailee Johnson, Malika Séguin and Michael Allen.

1. The order of the agenda was changed to accommodate the presentations by Rob Boyd, Oasis Program Director at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre (SHCHC) and Donna Sarrazin, owner and operator of Recovery Care and a partner in Safe Supply Ottawa.
2. Approval of the minutes for the September 27 and October 25, 2021 meetings. Michael Barnes moved that the minutes for these two meeting be approved. Jan Finlay seconded the motion. The minutes for the September 27 meeting were unanimously approved. The majority of Board members approved the minutes for the October 25 meeting. Peggy DuCharme voted no for these minutes as she had not seen the revised minutes. She did make clear that the Clean and Safe Committee has been dissolved.
3. Rob Boyd explained the Oasis Program which is a safe consumption site located at the SHCHC. He explained that they started with 5 booths. This number has been reduced due to COVID restrictions. Over the last 2 years, COVID has resulted in a reduction of services provided by the Program, a decrease in the street drug supply as well as the a change in the makeup of the drugs on the street. People are having to increase injections to maintain their high. There has been an increase in overdoses. The SHCHC has increased staff and has engaged a new security company. Rob mentioned the causes of drug addiction which include poverty, and the housing crisis. To combat the drug additction and overdoses, he suggested that there needs to be more treatment options, more community based mental health programs, more safe spaces, drug policy reform and a bigger investment in housing.
4. Donna Sarrazin explained the work of Safe Supply Ottawa. The purpose of safe supply is to daily dispense drugs with wrap around services such as addiction specialists, mental health programs, etc. decrease the risk of accidental overdose, improve overall health and further connect people with various services. There is a 3 year pilot project (July 2020 – March 2023) now in progress. 25 indicators are being measured including reduction in overdoses. Currently there are 3 prescribing sites in Ottawa including the site on Rideau Street close to King Edward.

Questions from the floor:

- Stephanie Plante asked if the Safe Supply program in Ottawa was developed in collaboration with other Canadian cities. Donna responded that there are currently 17 programs across Canada including Toronto, Victoria and Vancouver. These cities were consulted. Funding for each site across Canada is project specific.
- Graham Creedy described Besserer Street close to the SHCHC as looking like a garbage dump. He suggested that perhaps one of the clients from the SHCH could clean-up. It would only take 10 minutes. Rob responded that he is looking for more resources to remedy the problem.
- Anya Fraser agreed with Graham's comment and mentioned that clients are pooping in the yards of neighbouring properties. Could the SHCHC provide porta potties in the SHCHC's parking lot. Rob indicated that porta potties provide places for overdoses and therefore monitoring would be necessary. Rob Boyd stated, due to staff shortages, this would not be possible at this time. He is hopeful that with more places opening up this problem will be resolved.
- Anya, who lives close to SHCHC, mentioned that the neighbours were not pleased with the slow response from SHCHC and 311 to problems caused by the clients of SHCHC. She suggested that a nurse or councillor should be outside along with security. Rob Boyd stated that SHCHC's first priority for staff is overdoses which occur on SHCHC's property. They cannot address anything which occurs off property.
- Peggy DuCharme asked whether there was any opportunity to establish a tiny house program in the City. Rob Boyd responded that people who use drugs would be well suited to the tiny house program.
- Michael Allen suggested that the SHCHC should consider drawing up some guidelines for the community to approach people in distress. Donna Sarrazin mentioned that there is overdose training available.
- Stephanie Plante asked whether it was possible to expand the Safe Supply pilot to other areas of the City. Donna responded that they have already started to move people away from the downtown core.

Susan thanked Rob and Donna for their presentations and asked if they would provide a copy of the slides to be posted on the ASH website.

5. Ottawa Police Service Quarterly Updates: Constable Sébastien Lemay

	Quarter 3 - 2020	Quarter 3 - 2021
Break & Enter (parking garages or condo entrances)	9	18
Mischief to Property e.g. breaking a window, graffiti	12	24
Theft of Bikes	24	30
Trespass to Property Act Violation – no breakdown between commercial and residential	23	30
Calls for Vagrancy	30	68

- Constable Lemay stressed that the numbers he provided were based on incidents which had been reported. He stressed that if a bike is stolen, it should be reported. There is a free app (529 garage) on the OPS website where you can register your bike.
- On November 7, there was a significant police presence involving a tactical unit and an ambulance on the 200 block of Daly Avenue. The incident was contained in the residence and there was no threat to the public.

Questions for Constable Lemay:

- Michael Allen asked how vagrancy was defined. Constable Lemay stated that there was no definition for vagrancy. Officers do a thorough evaluation of the situation to determine exactly what the nature of the issue is.
- Anya Fraser asked whether complaints are mapped. Constable Lemay answered that there is a crime mapping tool available. However, the system has crashed and is being evaluated to determine whether to retain this system.

6. Councillor's Updates:

- Rideau Winter Trail: The Trail begins at the Rideau Sports Club and ends at Bank Street. The goal is to extend the Trail to Mooney's Bay.
- Downtown Truck Route: The Councillor indicated this issue was complex and involved many levels of government as well as the NCC. The NCC is just completing a study on the inter-provincial transportation system. The report and its findings and recommendations will be submitted to the NCC Board of Directors in January 2022.
- Infrastructure: Planter boxes to be installed on the north side of Mann in front of the strip mall will be built in the summer of 2022. The elevated intersection at Range Road and Somerset Street East will be installed in the spring of 2022.
- Vaccinations: Bailee Johnson stated that Sandy Hill had a lower uptake for the vaccine in the summer. Currently, in Sandy Hill, 89.2% of those 12 years and older have received one dose of the vaccine compared to 90% in Ottawa as a whole. 84% of Sandy Hillers are fully vaccinated compared to 89% in Ottawa as a whole.
- Panda Debrief: The Councillor mentioned that reviews of the October 3 riot were being undertaken by the University, OPS, Bylaw and the City's Special Events Team. Once the reviews were complete and each group had developed a strategy for this year's Panda Game, then the Town and Gown Committee would be convened to discuss the strategies.

Questions for the Councillor:

- Michael Allen asked what had happened to the October 21 letter which he sent to Donna Gray. Michael indicated he has left phone messages for Ms Gray. The Councillor asked Michael to send him a copy of the letter for follow-up.
- Peggy DuCharme asked whether the Special Events Team contacted ASH individually or through the Town and Gown Committee. The Councillor indicated that if an event occurred in Sandy Hill, the Team would ask ASH to comment. The Tailgate Party was initiated by Town and Gown, it did not go through the Special Events Team.

6. Committee Reports:

Transportation:

- John Verbaas sent an email to the Board members in which he proposed an ASH position on the downtown truck problem. The email would be sent to the NCC Board of Directors prior to their meeting at which they would be approving the recommendations coming from the NCC's Inter-provincial Crossing Study. John presented the following motion:
 - The draft letter should include:
 - The significance of the truck problem must be acknowledged and the truck problem must be given appropriate weighting when developing recommendations in the NCC Study.
 - There must be an acknowledgement that there is poor connectivity and all options including a tunnel must be examined in order to develop the best solution.
- Stephanie seconded the motion. Seven members of the Board voted in favour of the motion. Anya and Will indicated they would not vote on this motion. Peggy would support the motion motion if an interim solution was included in the letter.

Town and Gown:

- Jan attended the Post Panda Debrief along with Cathy Major and Peggy DuCharme. Cathy gave a short summary of the Debriefing.

Block Reps – Jan Finlay:

- The Block Reps were canvassed to see if there was any interest in helping with the Winter Carnival. There were no takers.

7. Additional Items:

- **Motion:** Cathy Major moved that the Board support the Pollinator Garden project which was presented by a representative of Carefor at the September 27, 2021 Board Meeting. Stephanie seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- Next Steps after the Retreat: Susan and Trina will draft the minutes and will send the draft along with areas to be addressed to the Board.

8. Adjournment:

Motion: Susan moved that the meeting should be adjourned. Anya seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.