



Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, January 31, 2022

6:30 pm – 8:51 pm via video conference.

MINUTES

Present Board Members: David Elden, Cathy Major, Megan Reilkoff, John Verbaas, Michael Barnes, Susan Khazaeli, Will Milner, Jan Finlay, Peggy DuCharme, Anya Fraser, Stéphanie Plante and Trina Cooper-Bolam.

Regrets: Yipeng Ge

Guests: In total, 27 guests including present Board members.

1. President's Update:

- Susan mentioned that Dave Elden has been working to make the ASH website more current and informative for the community.
- A new needle box has been installed in front of the Mission for a total of 3 boxes in the neighbourhood.
- The City's Public Works will install waste bins at 4 new locations in Sandy Hill.
- A community engagement team head by Kent Hughes has been organized by the City to handle community issues in the ByWard Market, Lowertown and Sandy Hill.
- The City has hired cleanup crews to work in the north west section of Sandy Hill.

2. Approval of the minutes: Cathy Major moved that the minutes for the November 29, 2021 meeting be approved. Stephanie Plante seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all Board members.

3. Treasurer's Report: Megan emailed the Treasurer's report for November and December 2021 to Board Members, prior to the January Board meeting. She mentioned that the first payment for the community rink maintenance team had been received from the City. The Reports were accepted.

4. Committee Reports:

Planning and Heritage:

- 535 Chapel Street: Cathy Major reported on the proposed development which involves adding one storey to the existing 2.5 storey building. This would increase the total number of bachelor apartments by 5. Several neighbours had sent letters opposing the development for a number of reasons including the increase in the number of bachelor apartments in an area with an already high concentration of this type of housing and the significant deviation in lot size, set backs etc. as set out in the current Zoning Bylaw. The ASH Planning Committee showed no interest in commenting on the application.
- 641 Rideau Street: Michael Barnes reported on the proposed development to construct a 25 storey apartment building with 311 apartments and 4 floors of underground parking. Despite comments made by several community associations the proponent made no concessions nor did the Planning Committee ask that the proponent make any changes to its proposal. The

Planning Committee did approve the development. This will be the poster child for spot zoning in the downtown core.

- Heritage: Trina Cooper-Bolam reported on her meeting with Susan Peterson and a number of community associations to change certain parts of the new Official Plan related to heritage. City staff have made it clear that heritage can't be a shield against intensification. The group has drafted a letter to the province asking for changes to the OP as it relates to heritage. Susan agreed with Trina that ASH should be a signatory to the letter. Michael noted that no photos of the heritage row of buildings across from the 641 Rideau site were included in the proponents application package.
- Transportation: John Verbaas reported that the NCC presented its report on the Inter provincial Crossing Study to its Board of Directors who approved the study recommendations. The study did little to provide solutions to the current truck problem in the downtown core. John asked about the possibility of inviting the NCC to present its findings at the City of Ottawa's Transportation Committee. Perhaps affected community associations could send letters requesting the NCC presence. Louise Lapointe wondered if we could capitalize on the Freedom Convoy's presence to remove trucks off of King Edward. John also mentioned that the City has posted a document outlining its high level vision for walking, cycling and transit. Deadline for comments is February 18. The City also posted a concrete plan for cycling and walking over the next 25 years. John posted slides on the ASH website showing a cycling lane on the Lees Avenue overpass. If funding is available, there could be an extension of the cycling lane on Somerset Street, bike lanes on Nicholas between Rideau and Laurier. John also presented the results of the Daly improvement survey. He posed the questions as to whether we have 52 responses were enough to ask the Councillor to set up a meeting with City staff to request the reopening of Daly at Nicholas. Dave Elden thought we did have enough information and Trina agreed.
- Bylaw: Anya had nothing to report. Jeremy Silburt mentioned that the abandoned car on Chapel had been removed. He said he would send the supporting emails to Anya who was unaware of the situation.
- Membership: Dave Elden reported that there was no change to membership since his last report in November. He will be sending out an email to those who haven't renewed their membership. Dave has made numerous changes to the ASH website to make it more informative and user friendly. Susan Khazeli mentioned that the University of Ottawa has a volunteer program and perhaps we could use a volunteer to help out Dave in making changes.
- Block Reps: Jan Finlay had nothing to report.
- Town and Gown: Will Milner had nothing to report. However, he would be making a report following the February 17 Town and Gown meeting.

6. Councillor's Updates:

- Truck Convoy: The Councillor talked about the residents in our area who are feeling unsafe and under siege and who have demanded that the convoy be stopped.
- 70 Nicholas Street Development: The planned community consultation for this project has been postponed due to the Truck Convoy.
- NCC Inter provincial Crossing Study: The Councillor thanked John for his work on this file. Work on a Tunnel to divert truck traffic is on hold for the moment. A bridge at Kettle Island is not feasible.
- Questions for the Councillor:
 - Michael Allen asked whether the police had any plans to enforce law and bylaw infractions by the people participating in the Truck Convoy. The Councillor directed Michael to the Police Chief's press conference and to keep reporting if he sees infractions.
 - Louise saw about 20 small snowplows that had been redirected onto Cumberland by Police and questioned why. The Councillor suggested taking pictures of such a situation and reporting it to 311.
 - Anya stated that people are afraid to leave their homes and the noise goes beyond the bylaw standards. She questioned why the RCMP and OPP have not been called out. The

Councillor replied that Parliament has its own security force. Other municipalities are sending reinforcements.

- Stephanie Plante asked whether there would be a co-ordinated statement from Councillors whose wards have been most affected by the protest. The Councillor has been in contact with those Councillors on a regular basis. The Councillor released his own statement over which he has received threats. His social media has been suspended.
- Trina was worried that first responders would not be able to attend to emergencies on Wellington Street. The numerous fuel tanks was a major safety issue. The Councillor indicated that emergency services are also worried about the situation.

6. Rideau Winter Trail: Peter Nor and Rob Sinclair presented a history of the Rideau Winter Trail including plans to extend the trail to Bank Street, purchase of new equipment, grooming practices and the number of people using the trail.

7. Update on the LPAT Hearing – Shepherds of Good Hope planned multipurpose building at 216 Murray Street: Liz Mackenzie and the the Lowertown Community Association (LCA) and several other parties are opposing the construction of a multipurpose building at 216 Murray Street by the Shepherds of Good Hope. The LCA has launched an appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). Both the City and lawyers for the Shepherds have tried to block the opposition. Both parties are awaiting the judge's decision.

8. Update on the Carefor Pollinator Garden in Strathcona Park:

Robin, Carefor's representative asked for ASH's support to install a caregivers' garden in Strathcona Park close to the site of the planned Gazebo. With ASH's support, the garden could be started in May 2022 and completed by late summer or fall. Trina is worried that the construction of the gazebo would destroy the garden. **Robin and Trina will discuss this issue at a later date.**

9. Old Business:

Statement on the City's planned Vacant Unit Tax:

Will presented a draft letter to the City supporting such a tax with a recommendation to increase the proposed 1% tax rate and to add the following additional penalties should the property remain vacant:

- 2 or more years, but less than 5 years, a levy of 100%, (i.e. a charge of 200%)
- 5 or more years, but less than 10 years, a levy of 200%, (i.e. a charge of 300%)
- 10 or more years, a levy of 300% (i.e. a charge of 400%) and,

Dave suggested that the mandatory declaration model should be retained rather than the suggested Vacant Unit declaration.

Will presented the motion that the Board approve the draft letter with the changes recommended by Dave. Anya seconded the motion and it was passed.

10. Adjournment:

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