



## **Minutes**

Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, August 28, 2023  
7:00 pm – 8:15 pm in person & virtual

Present: Brayn Dewalt, Calla Barnett, Fernando Melo, Jerry Sabin, Kendra Eyben, Louise Lapointe, Marilyn Whitaker, Michael Barnes, and Megan Reilkoff.

Regrets: Glenn Grignon, Jessica Silbert.

Guests: There were 5 guests.

### **1. Review and approval of agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by Calla, seconded by Bryan. **Carried.**

### **2. Review and approval of the minutes**

Motion to approve June 26, 2023 minutes.

Moved by Calla, seconded by Marilyn. **Carried.**

### **3. Word from the Chair**

Louise attended several meetings over the Summer break, including with Wendy Stewart (Oasis Program) and Peter Tilley (The Ottawa Mission). Louise also met with Mayor Mark Sutcliffe during a visit to the Theo student residence.

The Theo visit provided an opportunity for businesses and residents to tell the Mayor about the deteriorating situation on Rideau Street. Businesses shared with the Mayor that they are losing customers because clients are too afraid to come downtown. Louise said the overall message was that Rideau Street businesses and residents feel abandoned by every level of government.

Louise sent a letter to Ontario minister of Health, Sylvia Jones, about the review of Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) in the province, as well as the distribution of safe supply. She also discussed the slow response to community requests, such as the trimming of the trees in front of Dollarama at the corner of Rideau and King Edward.

Finally, Louise shared a series of news stories by Radio-Canada journalist Thomas Gerbet about the social dysfunction in Lowertown and Rideau Street. The story is

available here: <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/recit-numerique/6385/itinerance-toxicomanie-ottawa-droque-basse-ville>

### *Survey*

Louise presentation of the results of an ASH survey on community safety. The survey was distributed to 500 people and received 126 responses (72% residents, 15% worked in the area, 6% business owners). Louise will continue analyzing the data, but presented a brief overview. This included highlighting the main areas of concern: Rideau Street, Besserrer Street, and Daly Avenue. The survey showed that 39% of respondents do not feel safe in the neighbourhood and that 55% of respondents said they had called the police in the past month.

Louise will share the preliminary analysis by email and on the ASH website. Results will be used to inform future advocacy and ASH policy positions.

### **4. CSSC Presentation**

The Board heard a presentation from the Community and Social Services Committee's (CSSC) Calla Barnett and Wendy Stewart. They provided a brief history of the committee and its consensus-based structure. It currently has participants drawn from residents, businesses, street-involved persons, service providers, and other services, including the Ottawa Public Library. Their first meeting will be held on September 12 and an update on the meeting will be circulated.

The Committee's mandate is to find solutions and common ground for addressing the social dysfunction and health crisis affecting all parts of the community. The terms of reference have not been predetermined, but will be determined by consensus. This process will be facilitated by a professional mediator with the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution at St. Paul's University.

Wendy Stewart provided an introduction to the new management of the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre (SHCHC). She discussed the deteriorating situation around the SHCHC and emphasized that "none of this is ok." She is seeking solutions to change the environment around the SHCHC. This includes building better relations with nearby residents and communities.

There were several questions from the Board. Bryan asked about the politicization of harm reduction and safe supply at the national political level. Other questions included more information about the Respect Rx and Recovery Rx and its operations on Rideau Street. Michael commented that many clients had left the SHCHC because they no longer felt safe entering the building because of the social dysfunction related to the Oasis Program.

## **5. Word from the Councillor**

Councillor Plante provided a number of updates on her work and the Sandy Hill community. She has a new person in her office, Cameron, who is working on community relations.

The Councillor is organizing a Food Truck Festival on September 16 that coincides with the Sandy Hill Garage Sale. The Festival will take place on Osgoode Street

The Councillor and Calla participated in a podcast conversation with Capital City Mission. There has been a lot of media coverage about the situation in Ward 12. These stories are available on the Councillor's Twitter/X account.

The Councillor informed the board about the opening of the Caregiver Garden – a pollinator garden that acknowledges the work of frontline caregivers. It will be opened by the Mayor. The date is TBD. There is also a new mural project on building at Rideau/Wurtenburg and efforts to beautify the parkette.

Rentrée is Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at Francojeunesse and other French-language schools. Flag any issues to the Councillor's office.

PandaGame. Before and after tailgate at the Sandy Hill Arena. Hoping to move the event onto campus. The Councillor's office suggested the plaza in front of the Social Sciences building.

Marilyn asked about the zoning bylaw discussion papers. The Councillor said it could take a couple of months for the staff to go through them. No timeline has been announced.

Finally, the Councillor discussed By-law fines and timelines. These are set by provincial legislation. The Councillor is closely watching changes at the City of Hamilton, which is setting stricter timelines and higher fines. This will likely be challenged.

## **7. Varia**

Treasurer's report was circulated.

Nomination of Richard Gervais, owner of the Auberge King-Edward. He was treasurer and president of ASH for 7 years. Nominated for his heritage work and tremendous garden. Appropriate to put forward his name. The nominating committee received beautiful testimonials. The Board expressed gratitude for celebrating and recognizing the work of Sandy Hill residents.

Louise will follow up about the tree motion with the city. Present motion at the environmental committee on or about September 15.

The City is considering its list of heritage properties due to changes in provincial legislation. Only two in Sandy Hill, while the majority are in other parts of Ward 12. Sandy Hill is at greater risk of losing properties in this neighborhood. There is no information about the criteria used to select heritage properties.

Update on tree planting in honour of Francois. A site has been selected.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn. Moved by Marilyn, seconded by Megan. **Carried.**