



## **Minutes**

Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, September 25, 2023  
7:00 pm – 8:15 pm in person & virtual

Present: Brayn Dewalt, Fernando Melo, Jerry Sabin, Kendra Eyben, Louise Lapointe, Marilyn Whitaker, Megan Reilkoff

Regrets: Michael Barnes, Calla Barnett

Guests: There were 10 guests.

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

Motion to approve the agenda.

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

### **2. Approval of minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes.

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

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

The Chair participated in meetings and wrote letters related to the opioid crisis and social services in Sandy Hill. Louise wrote to Minister Sylvia Jones requesting that residents and businesses be able to participate in the review of all three supervised consumption and treatment sites (CTS) in Sandy Hill and Lowertown. She met with Lucille Couillard about the province's review. She asked Lucille to advocate for the inclusion of residents and businesses in this process and for the adoption of key recommendations such as a Good Neighbour Policy.

Louise participated in the September board meeting of Ottawa Public Health (OPH). She shared resident perspectives on the impact of CTS on the neighbourhood and corrected the misconception that all activity is confined to the sites. She advocated for several policy changes, including an end to the over concentration of services downtown and creating a minimum distance between such sites. Louise noted that treatment was absent from OPH's position on safer consumption and the opioid crisis.

Louise received notes from her meeting with Mayor Mark Sutcliffe in August. Next steps are being determined. Louise feels that things are moving in the right direction with the Mayor's office. There is an acknowledgement that residents need to be

involved. This is in contrast to the approach of many service providers who fear resident participation and work to exclude residents as NIMBYs (Not In My Back Yard), rather than as partners.

Cathy asked about how the Chair's work parallels with Calla's committee. Louise said that are all rowing in the same direction. Louise is working at higher levels of government, while Calla is engaging at the community or street-level. Wendy Stewart, director of the Oasis Program, represents the best effort in last five years to engage community and improve the situation/relations. However, these efforts are not funded right now.

Louise took notes at the Community and Social Services Committee meeting. Powerful stories from all individuals, but especially from one street-involved person, who shared stories about the increasing violence, fear, and danger on the streets.

In addition, Louise met with Robin McAndrew and Wendy Stewart. Robin asked Louise to comment on their strategic plan. Louise expressed that for many community members, they have felt betrayed and abandoned by the community health centre. Louise asked them to think about how they want to be part of the community. It was a very positive conversation.

Centre 454 was shut down temporarily by plumbing challenges. This diverted folks into the neighbourhood. Wendy Stewart has been highly responsive and engaged with individuals requiring assistance.

### **Update from the Community Engagement Team**

The Board heard a presentation from Kent Hugh. The Community Engagement Team (CET) is now under the City's housing portfolio. They had been under the Human Needs Taskforce. The CET now has a team of around ten outreach workers, including a program coordinator. Their goal is to find and identify people who need to connect to services (i.e. housing, help acquiring identification, etc.). The CET was created during the COVID-19 pandemic when many of those services were closed. Kent noted that their outreach work had moved east along Rideau Street as conditions in the Market have changed.

### **6. Panda Update**

The Panda Game between the University of Ottawa and Carleton University is scheduled for October 1, 2023. Following advocacy by ASH and the Councillor, the pre- and post-game events have been moved onto the uOttawa campus. There remain community concerns about safety throughout the neighbourhood during the rest of the weekend.

The Board heard about the Ottawa Police Service's plan over the weekend. This includes additional police officers and by-law throughout downtown. On Saturday and Sunday, public order officers and quick response teams will be on standby should the situation warrant. The *public order team* is what used to be called the riot police and has the capacity to be deployed in all their gear. The *quick response teams* are regular officers who are mobilized in teams, 4-6 officers, which can be quickly deployed. Social media is being monitored.

The Councillor asked what residents should do if they need to report something during the Panda Game weekend. Residents can email Officer Stam ([stamp@ottawapolice.ca](mailto:stamp@ottawapolice.ca)). He will be out on the ground on Sunday.

The Board also heard from Lisa Petch with the City of Ottawa about the permitted event. She shared logistics around the pre- and post-game parties, the event and Lansdowne, transportation, and by-law and regulatory services. The cost of these extra services is being paid by the universities.

## **7. Word from the Councillor**

Le Conseillère a souhaité à tous une joyeuse Journée franco-ontarienne. The Councillor then provided several updates:

- Food Truck festival. There were only two food trucks. There were many cancellations, but there was a silver lining: long lines at the trucks that did come. uOttawa was a great partner. The Councillor's office will book trucks earlier next year.
- The Councillor and Calla were interviewed on The Recovery Connection podcast. You can access the episode here: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/39QK4YHJ95MEevmfDev2Nv?si=kWWrdbadT5OuFMYWYIsuTw>
- Ottawa Public Health. Dr. Vera Etches willing to meet with residents about Good Neighbour Policy. By-law is engaged. If CTS and similar services are going to be expanded across the city, we need to share lessons learned with other neighbourhoods.
- Community clean-up on October 2 following the Panda Game. The Councillor is Volunteering with uOttawa students.
- The Councillor will be doing a ride-along with either OPS or By-law during the Panda Game.
- The Councillor is seeking clarification on the various City actors dealing with the opioid crisis and social dysfunction downtown. She will be seeking answers for

the following questions: Who is calling the shots on homelessness, opioids, etc. We need to map responsibilities and who is in charge. Who has the money? How will community engagement happen in these processes?

- Councillors in other communities who are dealing with similar issues get together regularly. One idea is a vacant storefront tax or incentivizing the use of these spaces for temporary uses, such as pop-up shops. Bryan says it doesn't need to be an either/or. Plow the tax revenues back into the community from where it is being collected. The Councillor is asking legal departments for opinions from City of Ottawa and Windsor.

## **8. Committee reports**

Committee reports available in writing.

*Treasurer's report:* Only one transaction this month of \$52.00. Total assets: \$56,341.89.

Motion to adopt the treasurer's report. Moved by Marilyn, seconded by Glenn.  
**Carried.**

## **10. Round table / Varia**

*Garage sale.* Cathy reported on a successful Sandy Hill Garage Sale, held on Saturday, September 16. There were over 50 tables. Blackburn Avenue had the greatest number of tables. Cathy will be seeking feedback from residents in the next newsletter.

*Sandy Hill clean-up.* Marilyn put something together for Cleaning the Capital. The clean-up will be held on October 14. Volunteers will be meeting at the Adawe Crossing.

## **11. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn. Moved by Louise. **Carried.**