



Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, October 30, 2023  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm in person & virtual

**Present:** Louise Lapointe (Chair), Bryan Dewalt, Jerry Sabin, Marilyn Whitaker, Calla Barnett (Vice-Chair), Michael Barnes, Megan Reilkoff

**Regrets:** Kendra Eyben, Glenn Grignon, Fernando Melo, Jessica Silburt.

Guests: There were ten guests.

*Note: Quorum was not achieved until 7:30 pm. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes occurred following the Chair's and Councillor's remarks.*

## **1. Word from the Chair**

The Chair and Vice-Chair gave a presentation to the Board of Ottawa Public Health (OPH) on the community's experiences during the toxic-drug crisis. OPH will be tabling a report on their strategy in an upcoming meeting. The report will include a write-up about the Community Liaison Committee, which ASH supports.

Louise reported that Besserrer Street residents are still experiencing challenges. Wendy Stewart (Sandy Hill Community Health Centre) is adding resources, but there are still gaps. Funding to alleviate challenges in the neighbourhood is needed and a proposal may be in the works. Louise also mentioned that new LED lights installed by Swiss Hotel which light up St. Paul's Church and provide a safer environment on the corner of Daly and Cumberland.

There was an encampment in front of a house neighbouring Centre 454. Emergency and city services were slow to respond and questioned whether the homeowners wanted the encampment. Louise said that this response was deflating and will be meeting with Paul Stamp (Ottawa Police Service) about the issue.

Louise suggests that community members report broken streetlights to the City. Due to one of her reports, all the lights on Mackenzie King Bridge have been replaced. There was a brief discussion about also reporting trees that need to be trimmed to the City. These issues will be mentioned in the next ASH newsletter and shared among block reps.

Cathy asked Louise about who to approach about getting lights on her street. The Councillor responded that her office could look into adding streetlights.

Bryan asked question about the 311 app and why issues that had not been addressed would be marked closed. Jennifer Therkelsen (Bylaw Enforcement Service) responded that a request is

marked closed when it has been handed off to a contractor or another unit within the City. Jennifer also reported that a new 311 app will be launched by Q2 of 2024

Carina Pogoler asked Jennifer her opinion about ASH collecting streetlight outages. Jennifer suggested that ASH could crowd-source a list and to send it to Public Works.

## **2. Word from the Councillor**

The Councillor provided updates on her activities:

- The Councillor met with the group behind Prime Minister’s Row. They discussed a speaker series.
- The Councillor read the zebra sidewalks article in Image. She reached out to the author and will be going to see the sidewalks. She recognizes the accessibility issues related to sidewalk maintenance.
- 610 Rideau Street: The Councillor attended a meeting about a mural at the site. Residents have proposed a design with an Indigenous theme. She will approach the business owners to offset paint costs.
- Hare Krishna Temple: The Councillor attended a service at the temple located on Somerset at Henderson. They have bought the building next door. As such, the Temple will be applying for a permit for renovations and will do a consultation with the community.
- International Inuit Day will be marked on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Sandy Hill Community Centre (the actual date is November 7). Largest Inuit population outside the North is in Ward 12.
- The Councillor also made a presentation to the OPH Board about why we need to discuss community impacts from the opioid crisis. We need to take these issues into consideration and not just the needs/perspectives of users.
- The Councillor visited a shelter in Gatineau that focuses on good relations with neighbours and has local businesses on its Board. They use a 15/15 system (15 days in and then 15 days out). They recognize that a shelter is not a permanent solution to the housing crisis, but that rapid rehousing is the solution. They have a tent city (sanctioned encampment). The difference with the Ontario shelters is that shelters in Quebec answer to the province, rather than the municipality. This has depoliticized the placement of services. Unlike in Ottawa, where there is redlining (i.e., everything placed in Ward 12).
- Vacant unit tax: There are 345 vacant units – mostly condos – in Ward 12, and 3,100 units overall in Ottawa. Ward 12 has the second highest in vacant unit taxes, while Somerset Ward is #1.
  - Cathy asked about whether uOttawa is paying the vacant unit tax. The Councillor will be putting in inquiry.
- Dave asked about 2 Robinson. There is a plan to build a significant amount of housing. An encampment that was removed two weeks ago. The Councillor responded that the

developers have all the necessary permits to commence work. Stephanie check-in with the developer and report back.

- Jeremy Silburt replied that interest rates are too high, so they are not moving forward currently. Same group owns the Theo. Calla said that they may still be pursuing their application.
- Michael asked the Councillor about the opioid crisis, class action suits, whether municipalities will be pursuing Purdue. Louise says money from those lawsuits will be used to offset costs to healthcare system.
- Halloween event: A Chartered bus brought about 250 kids to the Market for trick or treating among businesses. It was a very successful event.
- The Councillor will be hosting budget consultations with Ward residents. At least two have been scheduled.

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

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by Bryan. Seconded by Megan. **Carried.**

### **4. Approval of minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes.

Moved by Marilyn. Seconded by Bryan. **Carried.**

### **5. Committee reports**

#### *Treasurer's report*

The Treasurer paid the ASH's Zoom license.

Motion to adopt the Treasurer's report.

Moved by Jerry. Seconded by Marilyn. **Carried.**

#### *Committee reports*

Committee reports available in **Appendix A.**

*Executive Committee.* Meeting held on October 17, 2023. Megan and Louise will be developing a survey on the Homestead Fund. Spoke to Bryan and Marilyn about tiny forests. Stephanie is going to send information to Marilyn about that and tiny forest at York Street School.

*Environment Committee.* Motion: "Be it resolved that an amount of up to \$1750 in support of the EcoFair be approved, with the expectation that exhibitors will pay a sliding-scale exhibitor fee. The exhibitor fees are to be determined by the Environment Committee at a later date."

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

## **6. Round table / Varia**

Calla will be presenting an ASH letter regarding the Viscount Alexander School.

## **7. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn by Jerry. Seconded by Marilyn. **Carried.**

## **Appendix A**

### *Committee Reports*

#### *TREASURER'S REPORT (AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023)*

Chequing account \$ 8,189.99

Investments      GIC #1 (Homestead funds) \$27,920.95  
                         GIC #2 \$20,000.00  
                         Total \$56,110.94

#### *COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE*

##### **1. Community and Social Services Committee Paused**

The CSSC Chair have had to pause actual committee meetings and slow down ongoing work due to health issues. The CSSC Chair has an upcoming surgery to address these issues and she is hopeful that she will be able to start holding committee meetings in January 2024. The CSSC Chair had called the first meeting for September 24, 2023; however, her household experienced 2 weeks of illness, including on the planned committee meeting date. She will continue to consult committee members as related items arise for feedback.

##### **2. Community Liaison Committee**

This past month, the CSSC Chair has attended 2 Community Liaison Committee meetings - one virtually and one in person. That committee is taking shape nicely. There are some administrative and action updates for that committee.

##### **2.1 Administration**

- a draft Terms of Reference has been developed and distributed to CLC members for feedback on two separate occasions.
- the CLC is looking at who from among its members will act as Co-Chairs
- the CLC is looking for volunteers (whether they are committee members or not) who can develop a website to get the communications network up and running.
- The CSSC Chair had intended to provide updates to the community on the ASH website as well; however, that has fallen by the wayside as a result of the aforementioned illness.

##### **2.2 Actions**

- There is a pot of federal funding available at the moment under the Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) that could fund community-related activities. The proposal is due November 22, 2023.

The CLC has struck a working group to develop proposal ideas for this grant. That working group will meet on Nov. 9, 2023.

Those ideas will be provided to the CLC for consideration. If there is an idea that the committee can support, the volunteers with grant writing experience and other working group members will provide a full proposal to the committee for approval on Nov. 21 at our next meeting.

The CSSC and the ASH Board of Directors will be informed of any updates related to this grant proposal.

If it is approved, it will be submitted to the Ministry of Health.

- The CLC has begun a process of gathering and sorting ideas about how to address the impacts of the toxic drug supply, and safety and security for all stakeholders in Sandy Hill.
  - Brainstormed solutions have been sorted into some categories.
  - More ideas were added as the previous meeting.
  - Next steps will be to identify if those ideas are short, medium or long term solutions. At that point, we will focus on the short-term ideas to determine which ones could/would/will respond to the needs of all community stakeholders. This approach will be repeated for medium- and long-term solution ideas.
  - We will also work to determine if we act directly as a community or if there will be advocacy necessary (or both) and at which level(s) of government.
  - These solutions and ideas will give rise to a strategic plan to guide CLC work.
- The City of Ottawa Board of Health will be meeting on November 6. Ottawa Public Health will be tabling a report on their Overdose Response and an updated Overdose Strategy under the Community Safety and Wellbeing pillar. Louise sent a related email requesting input and approval.
- A list of CLC members is appended to this report.
- Upcoming events:
  - Working Group Meeting: Nov. 9, 2023
  - CLC meeting Nov. 21, 2023

### **3. Upcoming City of Ottawa Board and Committee Budget Meetings**

The CSSC Chair attended a Ward 12 community meeting with Councillor Plante Wednesday October 25, 2023. At least one other CSSC member was there. It was related to strategizing for the budget meetings of different Boards and Committees of the City of Ottawa. She shared her plans with us, and we asked questions. Her office will be providing a write up of their positions related to the different budgets and based on that, we will try to streamline messaging or address any incongruence directly with her office. The CSSC Chair will share the document she receives with CSSC members and the ASH Board of Directors when she receives it.

### **4. Other Issues**

The work related to the CSSC, the CLC and other items is too much work for one Board Member. The CSSC Chair believes that a Co-Chair or Vice Chair for this committee is needed. Please consider whether or not you can participate.

There are a number of website updates that need to be made; however, the CSSC Chair is finding it difficult to do that work at this time given their health status. There is no intentional

withholding of information related to the CSSC or the CLC. Information requested can be provided upon request.

## **5. Safe Supply Advocacy**

CSSC members are currently particularly concerned with what is called "safe supply." It is funded by the federal government. The structure of it is very complex and there is a lot of work to be done to prepare to advocate for a change. Based on some very in-depth research executed by CSSC members, the CSSC Chair is working to develop a document (with supporting material) that will help clarify the structure and how/what to advocate for.

## **6. Updates from September 2023**

The CSSC Chair missed the September Board Meeting due to illness. She was unable to provide a report for the same reasons. Additional updates from September 2023 are:

### **6.1 Board of Health**

The CSSC Chair participated in the September 18, 2023, Board of Health meeting, where the Carr motion passed, and a report was presented by Dr. Vera Etches to the Board. She expressed her disappointment that the projects they had undertaken did not include any community consultation or engagement. She expressed additional disappointment that the CLC was not included in the report presented by OPH, even though an OPH representative is a CLC member. She also highlighted many of the issues residents and other community stakeholders have brought up in official and unofficial conversations.

### **6.2 Jericho Road Podcast**

As you know, the CSSC Chair was interviewed for an episode of the podcast Jericho Road alongside Councillor Plante. The podcast episode was released on September 9. These are the public links provided to me:

[jerichoroad.ca/podcast](http://jerichoroad.ca/podcast)

<https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/NwuCvu2ZVCb>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0ep8HPSIVlwfRcpppuJvuZ?si=8a2ddf9d81464fc6>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-recovery-connection/id1590452406>

### **6.3 Community Liaison Committee**

Many September 2023 updates included the steps taken to coordinate the CLC. They were included in the overall CLC update under point 2.

## ***BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE***

No report.

## ***ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE***

A Cleaning the Capital project was held on October 14/23 with 15 people turning out. After doing a clean-up in Strathcona Park from Laurier to Mann, people extended the clean-up to include parts of Osgoode, Somerset, Blackburn and around the Sandy Hill Community Centre.

Committee met on October 11/23. There was further discussion of plans for an EcoFair in 2024. It was agreed that a draft budget would be prepared, and dates proposed for discussion at the October Board in preparation for a park permit application. To assess how readily information might be prepared to guide tree planting priorities, Bryan has started to analyze

tree canopy coverage information. This will be assessed further in the coming months. Other topics included miniforest initiatives.

Bryan has written to the coordinator for the Environment and Climate Change Committee and other city staff asking about the city's tree planting strategy and proactive tree planting and inquiring how ASH and the general public may provide input to this new strategy.

An article by Bryan was in the latest *Image* concerning the Zoning Bylaw process, responses by ASH on the discussion papers on climate change and trees, and opportunities for people to send comments to city officials.

CAFES held a Trees and Greenspace Caucus on October 25<sup>th</sup> which Marilyn attended. Much of this was a round-table discussion of activities by various neighbourhood groups, Ecology Ottawa, Fletcher Gardens and others. There was a proposal for work on planning, zoning, and trees to be submitted to the city in early 2024. Marilyn said that people from ASH would be prepared to be involved.

Also, the Sandy Hill Tree and Greening Group did a final clean-up of the season on a drizzly Saturday morning in the beds along Somerset at Chapel and Russell.

*OUTREACH AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (DORMANT)*

No report.

*PLANNING AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE*

The Committee did not meet in October.

*TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE*

No report.