**Sandy Hill Community Liaison Committee**

**Summary Notes from Meeting on March 19, 2024**

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| **Members Present:**  **Attendees: Alex, Rachel (Belong Ottawa), Scott, Kira, Sean, David H, David M, Wendy, Circle K, Michael, Courtney, Robert (Ottawa U), Melva, Calla, Kent, Paul Stam, Peter (Mission), Max, Andrew (BIA)**  **Online: Lynea, Tania (OPL)**  **Notes taken by: Kent Hugh**  **Circulated for approval on:** | | | |
| Agenda | Issues raised | Decision/Recommendations | Next Steps |
| Opening Remarks | *Hopes and expectations of the are varied, but it’s the entire committee that must focus on the problems. This includes focusing energies on the problem, and not our neighbours. There is a code of conduct, and we must adhere to this.* | None | None |
| Review of Membership | No new members have joined.  Morgan Smith from Theo, and Michael Sarwa from Bell were approached.  Steve’s Music, Bytown Theatre and Shoppers have also been mentioned in the recruitment process.  David stated that we must keep equal representation to all groups. | None | None |
| New Business | Starting tonight (19/03/2024) we will be reviewing minutes from previous meeting(s). | Rather than reviewing the previous meeting notes during the meeting, committee members are requested to review the notes prior to the next meeting and if there are any concerns or questions, to bring them up. | Members to review meeting notes for approval prior to following meetings consistently |
| Action Sandy Hill Update | ASH is holding AGM on May 30 to elect Board members. All residents of Sandy Hill, including students and people who stay at the mission are invited to join ASH as members and may choose to sit on the Board.  The ASH Community and Social Services Committee is working on position statements around the current situation in Sandy Hill, including the over concentration of social services in the community. | Calla expressed her intention to provide those position statements to the CLC for feedback. | None |
| Byward Market BDMA  (part of ASH update) | Byward Market BIA is now the BDMA (Byward Market District Authority), “a Municipal Services Corporation, independent in its own way, but is a corporation of the City of Ottawa”  [FAQ — ByWard Market District Authority | BMDA | Ottawa, ON Canada (byward-market.com)](https://www.byward-market.com/faq)  It appears that through the BMDA, funding has been provided to OICH’s Block Representatives Program and that they have been sent into Sandy Hill to help while the Oasis injection room is closed. However, their help was not requested by the services here. | The CLC should investigate whether the Block Leaders presence in Sandy Hill would be an asset. | 1. Consensus on inviting the Block Leaders program to present at the next CLC so that we may better understand it.  2. Calla suggested drafting a letter to the BMDA to understand their relationship with the Block Leaders program and ask questions about the funding process and the role they will play.  A. Committee members should send her questions they have for the BMDA so she can integrate them into the letter.  B. She will send a draft of the letter for feedback via email. |
| Synapcity Update | Strategic Priorities project results and report have been received from Synapcity.  Good Neighbours Policy has not yet been received from Synapcity, though they provided an excellent literature review. Not sure if they will receive any more documentation, but hopefully the report will come. | The Strategic Priorities output was not what was expected. It was suggested that the WG take a look to determine what is useful and present it, along with the initial work to the wider committee.  Follow-up with Synapcity if they don’t receive anything soon. | Calla will send the received output to the WG and schedule a meeting to work on it.  Wendy will follow-up with Synapcity and, when the final report is received, send it to the WG to determine next steps. |
| Trust/ SHCLC Social Event | Scott brought up that at the last meeting there were some contentious topics, including trust. Wondering if to put on the agenda that we do something more conducive to interactions on the personal level. Feels that this would benefit the community. | To be further discussed added to the April 16 agenda.  Rachel suggested holding a small BBQ for the committee in the yard at Centre 454. If that goes well, we could organize something larger and invite more community members. | The Chairs will add a potential social event for discussion on the April 16 agenda. |
| CTS (Oasis/SWCHC) closure | All services at SHCHC are open except the injection room, which was closed on February 27th due to staff experiences health impacts from the fumes when the substances were being prepared for use.  Somerset West has received a temporary exemption to use their outside space as an injection site.  There are potential options for opening a temporary injection space outside at Oasis, but it will depend on how quickly the changes to the injection room can be made.  If the injection room will be closed for a significant amount of time, Wendy will revisit opening a temporary space outside with the SHCLC.  Wendy was clear that any changes being made to the injection room would be insufficient for a safe inhalation space in the future, as would any usage of the outside space under a temporary exemption. Safe inhalation spaces are not being approved at the provincial level right now.  OPH has been doing increased community correspondence/surveillance during this period on the effects of the closure of the CTS’s.  There have been two weekly summaries which indicates that there has been an increase of outdoor usage.  There has been an increase of people using drugs in the library, and the washrooms in particular. As well OPL has and will continue to offer online Naloxone training to residents. This has increased due to demand. | The Chairs of ASH and LCA have received the reporting mechanism. Any observations and feedback from residents about neighbourhood changes can be sent through the community associations.  Businesses and service providers have also received the reporting mechanism from OPH.  PWLLE can access the reporting mechanism through the service providers as well.  Kira indicated she would send the reporting mechanism to the SHCLC.  Wendy will follow-up with Tania to make sure OPL has the support needed to manage the situation.  SHCHC will continue to update the Liaison committee as the situation progresses. | OPH will continue to provide weekly surveillance reports until all of the sites have re-opened.  Updates on the situation will be provided at the next meeting. |
| OPS Presentation (no PPS, notes included) | Downtown crime statistics are 300% higher in the Byward Market than the rest of the City.  Crimes are monitored on the Crime Severity Index. The Index helps target where crime is occurring by neighbourhood, and even more specifically. A high score in the Crime Severity Index indicates either some high severity crimes (3-5, usually) or a multitude of petty crimes.  In Byward Market, Sandy Hill and Lowertown it is predominantly petty crimes driving the high score on the Index.  What is fundamentally driving this public health and social disorder issues in the Byward Market area who have substance use disorders and potentially mental health difficulties.  As a result, OPS recognizes that people are turning to petty crime as a way to support their needs.  The OPS is understaffed and is working to strategically re-deploy police officers based on indications in the Crime Severity Index.  Objectives:  1. Reduce crime in the downtown core.  2. For people to feel safe.  Less than half of the people living in the area do not feel safe leaving their homes after dark. This includes people who are PWLLE.  Three things are needed for a crime to occur. These are offender, location and victims.   * Places: Where are the hot spots? Where are the crimes happening? * People: Speaking to the residents about their concerns in specific parts of the neighbourhood and community. This also involves people who are committing crimes.   Solutions:  1. Police will continue to arrest and charge dangerous people in the market who are committing violent crimes.  But there are others who commit crimes that aren’t violent and don’t pose an immediate threat to safety. These people are often PWLLE and entering into the justice system simply re-traumatizes them, which compounds the issues they face.  There hasn’t been a process to support these people.  2. Paul, Kent, Wendy and other health and support professionals have created The Situation Table.  It is comprised of more than 33 social and health professionals to support the most at risk. These folks will come together to identify PWLLE who are in need of complex care and treat, then devise a global plan for each individual identified.  3. There will be new Crime Strategy in the Byward Market that will be rolled out by June 30th that implements the approach based on the targeted Criminal Activity Index and the Situation Table. | None | None |
| Wendy (Oasis) | Wendy provided a presentation about Oasis, its programs, and how it fits into the SHCHC.  The presentation is included. | None | None |
| Agenda-Building | The Co-Chair asked invited committee members to propose ideas for the agenda for the next meeting. | A presentation from the Block Captains program is desired by all.  We need to get back to action planning, making decisions, and moving forward.  Calla suggested picking up work on the two items that were prioritized and had been under discussion. | A presentation from the Block Captains program will be added to the agenda if they are willing to present.  Committee members should send the Co-Chairs ideas for the next agenda, if they have anything they would like to add.  The Planning Committee will consider all of the agenda items in two weeks at their regular planning meeting. |
| Next Meeting | April 16, 2024 – 5:30pm-730PM | **Location:** Sandy Hill Community Health Centre; | |