

Bay Ward Council

Meeting Notes

October 7, 2009

Attendees: Werner and Marjorie Daechsel, Joel Côté Selig, Bert Foulds, Dave Grosvenor, Judy Patterson, Julia Goodman, Ruth Tremblay, Naini Cloutier, Barry Spratt, Rich Nelson, Inta Zobs, Will Murray, Rosalyn Stevens, Dan O'Hagan, Councillor Alex Cullen.

Associations in Attendance: Britannia Village Association, Regina School Recreation Association, Crystal Beach-Lakeview Community Association, Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre, Lincoln Heights-Parkway Community Association, Glabar Park Community Alliance, Woodroffe North Community Association.

Police Services Report

Cst. Maria Keen was unable to attend the meeting because of other duties. She will resume her regular reports next month.

Recent crime and policing statistics, including recent activity reports, are available on the Ottawa Police Services website.

Each month since 2004, the STEP program (Selective Traffic Enforcement Program), part of the Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP), has been profiling and enforcing two initiatives that target specific traffic safety priorities.

The STEP program chooses a different priority each month. STEP priorities for the month of October are those who fail to buckle up or comply with child car seat requirements, as well as drivers who are distracted and careless.

In Ottawa, from 2004 to 2008, 24 people were killed, 57 suffered life-threatening injuries and another 346 were injured as a result of not wearing vehicle occupant restraints. Of the 24 people that were killed, 19 were male.

At different times in the month, Ottawa Public Health nurses and the Ottawa Police will be setting up spot-checks at locations in the city to ensure that motor vehicle occupants are wearing their seatbelts, and that child car seats and booster seats are suitable and properly installed.

Distracted driving is also a serious issue on Ottawa roads. Between 2006 and 2008, driver inattention was, at least in part, the cause of 5,490 traffic collisions, 1,938 injuries and 8 deaths.

Distracted driving will also be the focus of the IRSP's next major public awareness campaign, entitled Distractions Impair! Driving requires your full attention, which is set to run from October 19 to November 27.

Additional information about the reports referred to above, and other information, can be found on the OPS website. Crime statistics can be analyzed using the new Google based crime analysis tool available to the public through the OPS website (www.ottawapolice.ca). This tool uses the crime statistics compiled by OPS and allows anyone to do an analysis of the crime statistics in their part of Ottawa. This tool is now available for use, and will be updated as new statistics are available.

Community Associations Update:

Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre – Naini Cloutier

Naini Cloutier gave a short description of a new program on Falls Protection, now being offered in partnership with other community health centres in the West End of Ottawa. More information on this program aimed at seniors can be had by going to the Centre's website at www.pqchc.com or by phoning 613-820-4922.

She also outlined the flu protection measures currently underway through the Centre and other associated agencies. Seasonal flu shots for those 65 and over can be obtained through a family doctor or at clinics held throughout the City starting October 10 and running through to early November. Seasonal flu shots for those below this age, as well as remaining seniors, will be available at a later date, after the administration of the H1N1 vaccine, which will start shortly after the seasonal flu vaccine rollout has taken place. More information on both types of flu shots and schedules for flu clinics throughout the City are available on the PQ website.

Naini also updated the meeting on the progress of the United Neighbours initiative, which has been running as a community outreach program with the financial help of Crime Prevention Ottawa, for the past year or so. Among the notable initiatives to date were a community wide survey on community needs and expectations around crime and safety, and a Forum on Addiction, held earlier this year. There have also been a number of Coffee Houses held in various locations around the west end, where PQ staff, members of Police Services and other City service providers, are in attendance to hear issues and suggestions about how to increase community safety. These Coffee Houses have been quite successful, and will continue over the next few months.

Another successful initiative was a program, with residents of Winthrop Court, to construct a play area in an unused area behind the Fire Station on Richmond Road at Croydon. Staff and volunteers were able to acquire a variety of materials, construct some benches, plant grass and other plants, and have made the area usable as a recreation area. United Neighbours is looking for future initiatives along this line, and is open to suggestions for future sites.

Details on these and other initiatives are available at the PQ website (www.pqchc.com).

Britannia Village C.A. and Regina School R.A. – Inta Zobs

Inta Zobs noted that residents of Britannia Village have renewed an existing contract to adopt a park at Mud Lake. This agreement, lasting three years, will involve removing garbage and cleaning the park and keeping it usable as a public place. She also noted that while there is still a high level of interest in dealing with the flood plain issue, as a result of the flooding in the area two years ago, no recent progress has been made on concluding an agreement to deal with future flooding problems and some residents have become impatient at the slow rate of progress.

Ambleside Condominiums – Barry Spratt

Barry Spratt noted that he has been asked by residents of Ambleside to note that Honda delivery trucks continue to represent a disruption in the community, and a traffic hazard, with large trucks parked on both sides of Richmond Road last week.

There is also continuing unhappiness with new bus routes and schedules. In particular, the elimination of the Number 50 bus has resulted in some serious delays in getting to work.

He also reported that there has been a further delay in the renaming of McEwen Park into Sara Beth Therien park, which was reported at an earlier meeting as being close to completion. Due to a complaint by some surviving members of the McEwen family, the City has decided that the naming cannot take place, and a search is on for an alternative location. Some potential sites have been suggested, and progress on this issue will be reported to a future meeting.

Crystal Beach-Lakeview Community Association – Ruth Tremblay

Ruth Tremblay reported that St. Thomas School on Leeming Drive, which has been closed for some time but had not placed on the surplus property list by the Ottawa Catholic School Board, is now up for sale. The community hopes that the City's policy of buying surplus school property in order to keep it in public use, will ensure that this property becomes a community centre. The Community Association has formed a small committee to draw up a business plan for such a centre. As Councillor Cullen noted, Bayview School and Grant School have been bought under this City policy, and he will be recommending that St. Thomas be bought as well.

Ruth also noted that there is some community concern about current infill proposals on Carling Avenue, which will affect the community and possibly represent a precedent for future infill and intensification proposals. She suggested that the community would like to explore the setting up of a Community Development Plan to develop guidelines for development along major streets in the community. Councillor Cullen noted that this can be done, but cautioned that Carling is zoned as an arterial under the Official Plan and that the City's current policy is to take advantage of arterials for some intensification, under the City's overall approach to promoting intensification in urban areas.

Ruth reported on the Community Association's recent communications with the City and the NCC over the Bayshore to Moodie Transitway Extension Environmental Assessment. The community remains opposed to the City's current plans for routing this extension, and would like to see alternatives, such as a transit lane down the Queensway median, explored in more depth.

Councillor Cullen noted that an Environmental Assessment, in which these alternatives will be studied and evaluated, is still in process.

Ruth also reported on continuing dissatisfaction with the new bus routings as a result of the changes since September. In particular, the use of the Bayshore Station as a transfer point for buses that used to go directly downtown has added to the travel time for several community residents. The community would like some clarification about the rationale behind which buses from the West (Kanata) do and do not go through Bayshore Station, in the morning and evening. Councillor Cullen noted that that increase in ridership, combined with some adjustment issues related to the new routings and schedules, has resulted in issues in a number of places throughout the City, and these problems are being worked on. Another round of consultations on routes and schedules will be held in the Spring, and the City expects to hear some frank evaluations of how the last round of changes has worked.

The CBLCA annual general meeting will be held on October 22 this year, 7 pm at Maki House. The Councillor will be in attendance.

Glabar Park Community Alliance – Judy Patterson

A new Board of the Community Alliance was elected at a special general meeting held in September. The next AGM will now be held in September 2010.

There is an understanding in the community that the Fairlawn Plaza property has been sold, but the community would like to know what the intentions of the new owner are for the site. Councillor Cullen noted that the zoning on this site is not uniform. The major part of the site is zoned commercial, and the former usage did not use all the site intensity allowed by the zoning bylaw. As a result, some major commercial development can be expected, (for instance some infill similar to what has been done further west at the Coliseum, where commercial uses have moved out into the parking lot closer to Carling) but no details are available at this time. The eastern part of the site, an open field facing Aaron Ave. which has been used in recent years for Christmas tree sales, is zoned residential, and is likely to be treated separately. The Councillor will report to a future Ward Council meeting if further details emerge.

Lincoln Heights-Parkway Community Association – Julia Goodman

This is a new community association formed recently out of reaction to a proposed development at Parkway House, at the end of Regina. This is a group housing project, which houses a number of adults with special needs. A proposed development which would see some additional residential development (2 condo towers) on the site, caused some concern in the community about intensification. Although this development appears to have been cancelled, the financial needs of Parkway House remain, and the Community Association intends to work with the Board of Parkway House on sustainable solutions to meet their needs.

The Association will be organizing community cleanup projects as part of Fall Cleaning the Capital and Spring Cleaning the Capital campaigns, and is looking at setting up a Neighbourhood Watch program.

Woodroffe North Community Association – Dave Grosvenor

Woodroffe North Community Association recently held its AGM and elected Dave Grosvenor, formerly the VP, as its new President.

On September 12 a celebration of the 200th anniversary of settlement in the Woodroffe North area was attended by about 100 people. The first deed of property in the area was obtained by Ira Honeywell in 1809, and he built his first log cabin on the site (just next to the Parkway, off Woodroffe) in 1810. Three of Ira Honeywell's descendants were among the attendees. The community is currently working on a book to celebrate its first 200 years, and progress on this project will be reported to a future meeting.

Ongoing issues between the Ottawa Honda dealership on Richmond Road and Woodroffe North and other communities in the area, will be discussed at a meeting on October 14, at which the owner and senior staff of Ottawa Honda will meet with community representatives to deal with lighting, noise, traffic congestion and some related issues. The outcome of this meeting will be reported to a future Ward Council.

Dave also noted that the Community Association will be meeting again with officials from the Unitarian Church and Parkway Preschool Childcare Centre, the child care centre built on the church property last year, to discuss some ongoing controversies about landscaping and other issues. It has now become clear that the Church is in violation of an agreement made some years ago to members of the community adjoining the property about what landscaping and other buffering measures would be taken to separate uses on the site from the adjoining properties on the west side (in Woodroffe North). A meeting is planned for the near future to deal with these issues, and progress will be reported to a future Ward Council meeting.

Councillor Cullen's City Hall Report:

Councillor Cullen outlined recent updates to the City's Speed Zone policy, which was first established some 30 years ago. Under the updated plan, changes to the default speed limit (set by the Province as 50 km/h) to 40 km/h on local residential areas will be processed with 75% consensus from property owners. Speed limits on major collector and arterial roads will be set at the 85th percentile speed, and developers will be required to include 40 km/h signs as applicable in new developments under the current Subdivision Plan Agreements. There will also be a process to review speed limits on rural gravel roads and the City will petition the province for an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act for authority to establish default residential speed zones other than 50 km/h and to double fines in school zones. The policy will be presented to Council on October 28. More details on the background to this policy and the timetable for rolling out the changes are included on the City's website (www.ottawa.ca).

Flu Clinics: The Councillor outlined plans for rolling out both seasonal flu and H1N1 flu shots over the next few weeks. Details on schedules and locations for both types of flu shots are available through the City's website.

The Councillor distributed copies of Vital Signs 2009, the annual report by the Community Foundation of Ottawa. Vital Signs measures indicators in 11 areas critical to Ottawa's quality of

life and identifies significant trends and issues that may require attention. As the report notes, Ottawa residents, on the whole, are younger and healthier than in Canada as a whole, but the population is aging rapidly, bringing with it a host of medical and social adjustment challenges. The report focuses on the gap between rich and poor, the lack of affordable housing, the quality of health care and the environment as priorities for improvement. The Community Foundation will be holding the first of a series of community conversations on Tuesday, October 20 at the Ottawa Public Library from 2-4 pm. The report, and details of further meetings, are at the Foundation's website at www.ottawavitalsigns.ca.

The City of Ottawa recently tabled its 2008 Annual Report, and copies are available online at the City's website, or in disc or hard copy, both of which can be ordered online, or through the Councillor's office. As Councillor Cullen noted, this is the corporation's annual report, and contains detailed reports on new policies implemented during the year, progress in implementing ongoing tasks, and detailed financial, human resource and operational tables.

For the 2010 Budget, the City will be adopting a new implementation process. Councillor Cullen outlined this new process. In brief, the new approach changes the process from a staff-led process for the development of new budget options to one led by members of Council through the Standing Committee structure. Each standing committee will review budgets for the departments under their responsibility, examine any challenges and pressures on the budgets, and at the end of their review they will forward a recommended budget in these areas to the newly created Audit, Budget and Finance Committee, consisting of the Mayor and Standing Committee chairs. The Audit, Budget and Finance Committee will review the budgets presented to it and present a recommended budget to Council, which will begin by sitting in Committee of the Whole so that it can receive public consultation. Public input will also be received through the Committee process. The goal is to have a draft budget before Council by early December, followed by public delegations at Council in late January and budget deliberations at Council at the end of January. More details on the new process, and a timetable for when various elements of the budget will proceed through the system, are available on the City website (www.ottawa.ca).

Regarding the City's Rapid Transit Plan - last May, Council directed staff to prepare a critical path document that would outline key decision points, processes and timelines of the implementation of the City's Rapid Transit Plan. This begins in mid-October with a report from the City Treasurer to Council on the affordability of the Rapid Transit project, followed by the presentation of technology options to Transit Committee and Council in November (based on information gathered through the Technology Forum held last June). Among other important dates, the critical path document lists presentation to Council in January on recommendations regarding system design, which will initiate the formal environmental assessment process; public consultation beginning in late 2009 and continuing through late 2011; and an RFP process beginning in late 2011 and finishing in late 2013. The entire critical path document, with each step outlined in some detail, is available on the City's website as a presentation to Transit Committee on September 30.

On September 2, 2009, City staff and the Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG) presented City Council with a plan to redevelop Lansdowne Park, including refurbishing Frank Clair stadium plus adding new retail and residential development. Councillor Cullen outlined the current scheduling and issues connected with this proposal. Following a series of six public consultation meetings, which have now taken place, and an online consultation process, staff will

be preparing a report to Council, which will sit in Committee of the Whole on November 12 and 13 to discuss the report and to hear public delegations. Residents who would like to make a verbal presentation on November 12 or 13 can contact Tania Mercure by phone at 613-580-2424, ext. 21801 or by e-mail at tania.mercure@ottawa.ca. More information about the Lansdowne Partnership Plan is available on the City's website. Councillor Cullen has indicated his concerns over the lack of access to rapid transit for the site (the City's Official Plan requires access to rapid transit for sports stadiums and for retail development of this size), and the inadequacy of parking (City policies require 10,700 spaces for this site – only 1,385 are being provided).

In June 2008 City Council accepted Councillor Cullen's motion to accelerate implementation of the Ottawa Cycling Plan – a \$26 million plan to expand Ottawa's cycling network, facilities and programs. Unfortunately, since then, the layoff early in 2009 of key staff necessary to implementing the Cycling Plan has put the plan in jeopardy. On October 7, Councillor Cullen was able to get a motion approved at Transportation Committee directing City staff to prepare a budget submission outlining the staff resources needed to begin implementing the City's Cycling Plan. If Council adopts this motion, then City Council will consider this as part of the 2010 budget deliberations. This will ensure that the Cycling Plan is back on schedule, with sufficient staff resources to ensure its implementation. More details on this initiative, and what it means for cyclists in the community, is available on the Councillor's website at www.alexculen.ca or through the Councillor's office.

Next Bay Ward Council Meeting:

Next Bay Ward Council meeting will be held Wednesday November 4, 2009 and will start at 7:00 p.m. at the Ron Kolbus-Lakeside Centre in Britannia Park.

This document and related information is also available on the Councillor's website (www.alexculen.ca). If you need to have this material in hard copy, please phone our office (613-580-2477) and let either Sheila or Lara know.

If you wish to be added to our mailing list, or if you know someone else who should get this material, please phone, or email me (alex.cullen@ottawa.ca) and let me know the e-mail addresses. We will add them to our Ward Council e-mail list.