

**Glebe Community Association  
Draft Minutes of the Board Meeting  
March 27, 2007**

Present: Bob Brocklebank, Brian Carroll, Caroline Vanneste, John Smart, Virginia Carver, Christine McAllister, Janet Sutherland, Kathi Lauder, Dale Miller, Cindy Delage, Martha Bowers, Carol Macleod

Others: Ricardo Forbes, Jim Gauvreau, Clive Doucet, Colleen Leighton

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Addition Includes:

10.1 Property tax / assessments - John Smart

With this addition the Agenda as circulated was adopted.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

(The Draft Minutes of the February 27, 2007 Board Meeting were not approved due to lack of quorum. E-mail is to be sent to Board with a copy of the Minutes, for approval)

**3. President's Report - Bob Brocklebank**

Volunteer Canada Membership/Directors and Liability Insurance - Assumed it has been renewed, will check with Joyce McMahan.

AGM - AGM to take place on June 12. In conjunction with Great Glebe Garage sale, the GCA runs ads in Glebe Report identify nominating committee. Due to publishing deadline, Bob submitted three names of nominating committee: Bob Brocklebank, Caroline Vanneste, and Doreen Drolet. Please feel free to submit further names.

Website - Website is up and running and has been transformed by web master, Jim Gauvreau.

Sewers - Preston Street sewer project - Bob was in contact with Inez Berg and visited with Preston Street BIA to learn of their concerns. Issues centre around the capacity to deal with big storm events and water being stored in reservoirs (lower area behind the Plante Bath -Plouffe Park). City didn't seem interested in alternatives.

City is running a series of Open Houses on Storm Water Management; last meeting is Wednesday March 28.

Red Tape at City Hall - Red Tape Task Force has been initiated and is looking for examples of "frustrating" experiences in dealing with City Hall.

Strategic Visioning Exercise - Bob was invited to be one of interviewees for the strategic visioning exercise for the Planning, Transit and Environment department of the City administration, headed by Nancy Schepers. Ms. Schepers is successor to Ned Lathrop, who retired. While Mr. Lathrop was head of Planning and Growth Management, Ms. Schepers was appointed under a much larger mandate and has many more employees reporting to her. Bob

found it interesting that the new high ranking person at City Hall is engaged in this re-think.

Federation of Citizens Association (FCA) - Meeting next Monday April 2 at Glebe Community Centre. Additional reps from GCA are welcome to attend.

#### **4. Councillor's Report - Clive Doucet**

Waste Management - Council had a presentation on a new planning system for waste management. It was agreed to put the money behind the project - costing about \$8 million to deal with organic waste. It is expected the project will go forward around 2008.

Old Ottawa South/Glebe solidarity - Clive remarked that each neighbourhood has something the other doesn't; Old Ottawa South buried its wires, but still has an old community hall, Glebe hasn't buried its wires, but has new community hall. Clive suggested that if the GCA supports redevelopment of the fire hall in Old Ottawa South, he'll suggest the Old Ottawa South Community Association (OSCA) support burying wires on Bank Street.

Motion that the GCA generate a letter to support OSCA's efforts to develop an appropriate community centre in their neighbourhood. Motion (Carroll/McLeod). Carried.

Elderly - Glebe has a fair number of widows/older women living in houses alone. The City doesn't have a good mechanism to help these people. Clive will often act as "mediator", talking to the neighbour of the elderly person to see if a resolution can be reached. In some instances, the police are called in. Clive would like to see the community become more involved. It was discussed that the GCA has a Senior's Committee, and many streets have "unofficial" groups that assist neighbours. He suggested that a group who would visit with neighbours may find it easier to resolve matters in a low key way. If not successful, such a group could provide more clarity on situations to the police.

Comment: Agreed to refer to Senior's Committee, who will be in need of volunteers.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

##### **5.1 Environment/Anti-Litter - Virginia Carver**

a) Glebe Enviro-Fair Update - Virginia Carver - Huge success! Many volunteers, approximately 500 attendees, 45 groups/organizations/businesses rented tables, representing a wide range of exhibits. Exhibitors seemed happy with the turnout. The fair may use only \$500 of the \$1000 advance from GCA (final tally not in). Signed up around 200 on the petition to declare Glebe a pesticide-free community.

One of original exhibitors had been profiled on "W5" on care they gave to people with cancer. We received e-mails from the father of an individual who had used this alternative health care expressing concern with this exhibitor promoting services at Enviro-Fair. As a result of this potential controversy, Glebe Business Group (GBG) withdrew their co-sponsorship. The GBG had no liability insurance if anything should happen and this was an indication of potential issues.

In the end the exhibitor did not take a booth (although he attended Enviro-Fair). Jim Gauvreau checked and hits on the GCA website went up as Enviro-Fair approached.

- b) Spring Clean Up Date - April 28 - Notice will appear in April Glebe Report - 9:00 a.m., gather outside Fifth Avenue Court. Clean up of Bank Street. Jointly sponsored by GCA and GBG. Bob hopes to attend next Environment/Anti-Litter meeting (after Easter).
- c) Vending Boxes - Haven't heard back from City whether revision to encroachment by-law has been amended to reduce number of boxes.
- d) Urban Trees - Applying for money to do inventory of current tree situation in Glebe. Similar inventories have been done in number of communities and there is methodology to doing inventory. It is proposed that the committee put forth a proposal for such an inventory at the April meeting.
- e) Pesticide-Free Glebe - At the April meeting, a motion for a pesticide-free Glebe will be introduced.
- f) Ottawa Sustainability Committee - Bob Brocklebank asked if anyone in Environment Committee would be interested in meeting with the Ottawa Sustainability Committee.
- g) Graffiti - Colleen Leighton - The graffiti working group had a meeting earlier this month and discussed updates related to police, school, website development and the business community. GBG is having someone from a graffiti elimination company come to their next meeting in April. Have put GBG in contact with Downtown Rideau Business Association to see how they've handled graffiti. Purportedly Olympic Shop is being leased and the owners have stopped painting over graffiti on the building. People are taking photos of graffiti and collecting them on a website; that information is being passed to a police contact. If we can get it cleaned up, graffiti will be easier to track. The working group is looking into whether using the GCA website will be a useful way to communicate what is going on with graffiti.

On March 9, Bob attended a city-wide meeting on Graffiti Management on behalf of the FCA. He was provided a "confidential for discussion purposes only" draft of the by-law on handling graffiti. One idea is that property owners could receive tickets for not cleaning graffiti from buildings. The by-law as proposed includes this clause but the draft by-law also includes makes a person who places graffiti on structures subject to being ticketed. When the graffiti creator has to pay a ticket it may be more "real" punishment than the present situation. However business owners can't get away, so by-law officers can always find them - perpetrators aren't as easy to find. There is concern about the business community being stung by fines. Many property owners fear aggressive ticketing is the intent of by-law services.

Comment: As a Community Association, do we want to provide money or volunteers to help with initial clean-up? Is a ticket to a property owner the same amount as a ticket to a perpetrator?

Where does ticket money go once collected?

**5.2 Membership** - Bob Brocklebank - We need to discuss what information we need; if information is being collected that's not required, let's not collect it this year. The database as developed is not suitable for long term use. We can print out what we need for this year's campaign, and then going forward make the database an asset and not a liability. Two tracks are proposed: this year's campaign, and looking into the future. Launch of the campaign is tentatively fixed for April 19, with the campaign going ahead in May.

Comment: Normally discussing expenditures at this time.

Motion to have up to \$1000 to spend on membership campaign (launch, brochures). Motion (Delage/Carroll). Carried.

**5.3 Planning** - Bob Brocklebank (on behalf of Neil Pearson) - Planning Committee on March 13 received a very good presentation by city planning staff; it is to be put on the website. As follow up, Planning Committee has requested a Community Design Plan meeting.

Comment: There is a pub now where the Indian restaurant was at the corner of Bank and Clemow. No issues were raised.

**5.4 Traffic** - Bob Brocklebank (on behalf of Guy Giguere) - Bank Street redevelopment - Guy and Bob attended a meeting of Public Advisory Committee on March 26. Nothing new in terms of work being done for design of Bank Street project. We are still in the situation where none of work will be done this summer; more open houses are to take place; planning is to continue.

A discussion paper which will lead to a Street Design Policy was posted on the city website March 26 but it does not answer questions about burying wires on Bank Street. A meeting of the Bank Street Redevelopment Committee is planned to review the document, and decide where to go from here. There will be an Open house on April 10 at Jean Pigott Place, City Hall from 3 to 9 on the draft document.

**6. GNAG Update** - Inez Kettles not present.

**7. Great Glebe Garage Sale** - Janet Sutherland - First ad will run in Glebe Report in April and then again in May. Spoke with City of Ottawa and submitted Special Events Planning to coordinate parking, garbage etc. Glebe Business Group will participate on a voluntary basis. One of the problems is getting the proceeds to the Food Bank. The idea was discussed of students collecting money or passing out pledge forms as a school project. We will approach high schools and will also coordinate with the Ottawa Food Bank. Liam McGahern's store, McGahern Books Inc., will be a drop off for cheque donations. Next Glebe Report will carry an article about the Great Glebe Garage Sale. It was suggested that the article include a pledge form and information that tax receipts are provided for donations. No response to call for volunteers.

Comment: Dymon Corporation wanted to know about sponsorship opportunities available to

them. Comment: Same date as National Capital Marathon.

**8. Underground Sound** - Bob Brocklebank (on behalf of Leslie Fulton) - Next concert is May 9 with Lynn Miles and Sneezy Waters. This is the last concert of season. Raised \$40,000 to date to bury wires.

**9. Website governance** - Bob Brocklebank - Jim Gauvreau is now web master. Jim explained that posting is different from publishing. Jim will only put up approved content. GCA is the publisher and needs to be cognizant of what is on site. GCA needs 2 or 3 people on an editorial board and need to establish a process for approving and managing content (getting information to GCA, getting the content approved, getting the content posted).

Comment: Communications Officer (currently vacant) is sought for the Board at AGM. Meanwhile it is proposed that the executive committee act as web governance committee.

## **10. Other Business**

**.1 Property Tax Assessments** - John Smart suggested repeating a meeting we had in November 2005 on the property tax assessment system. The Province has made a commitment in the Budget to move to 4 year cycle. Clive said this would be worse than current system - the property tax assessment will be set for 4 years just before City election, which is just after provincial election, and there will be no chance to get a property reassessed for 4 years.

Comment: Would GCA want to have its own information session on this issue before summer? Might it be a meeting similar to that of November 2005 (at that time speakers were Clive, MPAC, John Taylor from Carleton History Department, and Herb Weber with a presentation on taking MPAC on and getting satisfaction)? John will put forth a proposal for next meeting.

## **11. Adjournment**

Motion (Carrol/Lauder). Carried. Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

### Upcoming Meetings Schedule

\*\* All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated \*\*

Tuesday April 24, 2007

Tuesday May 22, 2007

AGM, Tuesday June 12, 2007

Tuesday June 26, 2007

Prepared by: Kathi Lauder