

**Glebe Community Association
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 27, 2009**

Present:

Board Members: Bob Brocklebank (President), Martha Bowers (Secretary), Brian Carroll, Virginia Carver, June Creelman, Cindy Delage, Jim Gauvreau, Carol MacLeod, Ian McKercher, Frank Oakes, Roger Short, Caroline Vanneste

Others: Adrian Belanger, Penny Becklund, Desmond Devoy, Clive Doucet, Chloe Fedio, David Hawkes, Pauline Hawkes, Lyne Lalonde, Ian Rice, Andy Terauds, Susan Wellisch, George Wright

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with an item on the OC Transpo strike added.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 25 meeting were adopted with small corrections. (**Moved**, Frank Oakes, **Seconded**, Brian Carroll)

3. President's Report - Bob Brocklebank

- The President suggested that it would be interesting for other board members to attend FCA or City Centre Coalition meetings.

Motion: The GCA agrees to pay \$30 for this year's membership in the FCA (**Moved**, June Creelman, **Seconded**, Carol MacLeod) **Carried**

- MPP Jim Watson will host the May meeting of the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (FUN).
- The first general meeting of the BIA was held on December 9. They are still looking for office space but have started to become active on issues. One of their first promotions will feature chocolate and its pairing with food and drink. Choc-oh-la will be held in February, to coincide with Winterlude, and will involve several Glebe businesses.
- There was a discussion on the serious impacts of the transit strike.

Motion: Whereas the citizens of Ottawa have been deprived of their transit service for 49 days as a consequence of a labour dispute between the City of Ottawa and its employees who are members of Amalgamated Transit Union 279; and

Whereas this strike adversely affects citizens of the Glebe, particularly those who are older, have disabilities, use public transportation to get to and from work, appointments and/or other activities, are students, and/or do not have cars; and

Whereas this strike adversely affects neighbourhood businesses; and

Whereas enough is enough;

Be it resolved that the GCA unanimously and respectfully requests that City Council and Union 279 resume transit service immediately and refer all outstanding matters to two-staged binding arbitration, the first stage related to scheduling and shifts, and the second to resolve remaining matters within an agreed-upon reasonable time limit. (**Moved**, Carol MacLeod, **Seconded**, Ian McKercher) **Carried**

5. a) Presentation: Farmers' Market - Andy Terauds

- The farmers would like to see the Aberdeen Pavilion (or Cattle Castle) become the permanent home for the market. As demand in Ottawa for locally produced products increases, and as supply grows to meet the demand, the farmers' market would continue to expand and become a year-round feature in Lansdowne Park. The market has widespread support throughout the city but the farmers need the stability that a permanent location would provide.
Motion: The GCA supports a permanent location for the Farmers' Market in the Aberdeen Pavilion and the area around the building. (**Moved**, Caroline Vanneste, **Seconded**, Carol MacLeod) **Carried**

4. Councillor's Report - Clive Doucet

- Councillor Doucet spoke about the Lansdowne Live proposal and the need for disseminating information to the public explaining that Ottawa citizens will pay for most of the project. Details about the consortium's financing have not been seen.
- The Councillor could not talk about the transit strike. The GCA passed a vote of thanks for his efforts in trying to end the strike.

5. b) Presentation: Urban Chickens

- A group of Glebites had given a presentation at the October meeting on having small flocks of laying hens on residential properties in urban Ottawa. The group returned to indicate they had received some positive support in the community and that other municipalities are considering making changes to their by-laws to permit chickens. The GCA suggested that Council should be asked to investigate the idea of adopting an interim by-law that could permit chickens for a limited period of time and see how acceptable the practice would be.
Motion: The GCA asks the City to investigate the issue of small flocks of laying chickens in the urban area. (**Moved**, June Creelman, **Seconded**, Caroline Vanneste) **Carried**

5. c) Presentation: Bytown Urban Gardeners - Susan Wellisch, Ian Rice

- Information was provided on a community garden to be located at Memorial Park this summer. Due to the redevelopment of the Beaver Barracks (near the YM-YWCA), the gardeners require a temporary location until the project is completed (there will be space there for a community garden). GNAG is supportive of the idea.
Action: Caroline Vanneste and Vince Catalli will organize an information meeting to explain the project to immediate residents.

5. d) Presentation: Lord Lansdowne Noise Issue - Adrian Belanger

- There has been no resolution of the noise issue and residents do not have access to the noise level readings. Unfortunately, there is no link between the granting of a building permit and ambient noise that may result from a new development. The presenter requested the GCA to buy a noise metre (\$330-\$1,000) so that residents could record noise levels in various circumstances. The GCA decided to defer the purchase question to the February meeting in order to obtain

more information. The Councillor will raise the issue at the Planning and Development Committee. It was also suggested to ask the FCA if this issue has come up in other areas.

6. Committee Reports

a) Social Planning

Pat Steenberg has had to step down. Robin Ambrose will be invited to join the Board in this position.

b) Lansdowne - June Creelman

- The idea of a forum has not gone ahead at this time.
- There are many unresolved issues, including whether the process is legal (Lansdowne Live is an unsolicited proposal); the competitive process was suspended by city staff, not Council.
- The committee has written a letter to the Auditor General, asking for an official investigation into the legal aspect.
- Other developers have expressed interest in the project. The FCA has drafted a letter, asking if others would be interested if the process is open and transparent.
- The city's Corporate Services department is drafting a report and we are preparing various scenarios in response.

c) Planning - Caroline Vanneste

- There has been no news on 81 4th Avenue.
- Plans for a duplex at 33 Morris St. are on hold for this year.

d) Environment - Virginia Carver

- We are considering another Envirofair on the theme of greening your home.
- There will be a meeting with the city forestry department on the retreeing survey.
- We are developing signage for the planters and butt-stop boxes.
- The Hintonburg Community Assoc. is hosting the joint meeting of community environment committees on January 31.

e) Traffic

- Some parts of the Glebe are still missing 40 km signs.
- We will send a thank-you note to the city for piling the snow at Percy St. and Chamberlain, thus helping to reduce cut-through traffic.

f) Membership - Cindy Delage

- Funds to date received from the membership campaign total \$6,979.

g) GNAG

- Taste in the Glebe was a success. A Lobster Fest is planned for May.

h) Governance - Caroline Vanneste

The draft manual will be posted on the website for the Board to review before the AGM.

i) Property Assessment

- The Property Tax Information Session held on January 8 featured speakers from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) who explained the system of property assessment and how to find out more about your assessment. They emphasized that residential property owners who wish to challenge their assessment must file a Request for Reconsideration by March 31. Following the MPAC presentation, there was a good discussion about the prospects for reforming the system.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:50.