



Minutes of the Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 2011, Glebe Community Centre

Present:

Board Members: Caroline Vanneste (President), Martha Bowers (Secretary), Jill Adams, Elizabeth Ballard, Joan Bard Miller, Lynn Barlow, Bob Brocklebank, Brian Carroll, Virginia Carver, June Creelman, Cindy Delage, Bobby Galbreath, Jim Gauvreau, Rochelle Handelman, Carol MacLeod, Kiavash Najafi, Catherine Waters, Barbara Wysocka

Others: Mike and Tammy Aboud, David Chernushenko, Mary Lou Coulter, John Dance, Catherine Henry, Julie Houle Cezer, Beatrice Keleher-Raffoul, Risa Sargent, Ashwin Shingadia

The meeting was called to order with a roll call of members present.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted. **Moved** Brian Carol **Seconded** Cindy Delage **Carried**

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of November 23 were adopted with corrections to the Environment report. **Moved** Elizabeth Ballard **Seconded** Lynn Barlow **Carried**

Presentation

The President introduced Mary Lou Coulter, who designed the Glebe logo, and presented her with a wooden artwork of the logo, in appreciation of her donation of the logo to the GCA. It was suggested that the logo could be used on the signs for the Bank St. reconstruction.

Presentation: Midtown Footbridge - Beatrice Keleher-Raffoul, John Dance

The presenters provided information on the proposal for a footbridge across the Rideau Canal between Ottawa East and the Glebe. The preferred location is Fifth Ave. and Clegg St., but there will be studies and public consultations on the location, design, cost, environmental and other impacts over the next 24 months, as well as discussions with the NCC, Parks Canada, the City and contractors.

Motion: The GCA reconfirms its support for a footbridge over the Rideau Canal in the area of the Glebe. **Moved** Bob Brocklebank **Seconded** Virginia Carver **Carried**

President's Report - Caroline Vanneste

- Lynn Barlow has agreed to lead the coordination of the Great Glebe Garage Sale this year with the assistance of Cindy Delage and the President. We will be meeting with Janet Sutherland within the next couple of weeks to discuss strategy.
- The presidents of OSCA, HPCA and OECA (Capital Ward CAs) will be meeting with our new Councillor to discuss common concerns and whether we want to re-form the Ward Council initiated by Clive Doucet.
- Last week Christine Leadman and I met with the Lansdowne Urban Park designers; Michael Jenkin (OSCA) met with them separately due to scheduling conflicts. They are looking at conducting public consultations in February or March.
- Ian McKercher, chair of the *Glebe Report* board, has invited someone from the GCA executive to be a Glebe Report Association Member. After some discussion, it seems that the association wants to involve more people from the community but it is not really necessary to have a GCA executive member. Anyone can be a member of the Glebe Report Assn.
- As noted in my January *Glebe Report* article, we are exploring the possibility of formally including the "Glebe Annex" in the GCA's area. We're learning about each other now and will likely plan a public meeting for the spring.

City Councillor Report - David Chernushenko

- David's staff member, Catherine Henry, will be his liaison with the GCA.
- The Capital Cup Hockey Tournament is being hosted this weekend by the Glebe but players for the team are needed.
- Apparently the environmental assessment for Lansdowne came out online but has since disappeared. The Design Review Panel still has not received requested details on the design. This is not acceptable.
- A traffic study is required before a Request for Proposal can be issued for a parking garage at 170 Second Ave.
- It is proposed to do the road reconstruction in front of Lansdowne Park as the first stage of the Bank St. reconstruction project. Reasons given were to have the disruption over when the new businesses move in. This would not please existing businesses on Bank St. There are no funds in the budget for burying the wires nor a definitive policy. There could also be cost implications for the BIA.
- The city budget will have a 2.45% tax increase, with no deep cuts to any particular area. The process will continue with committee and public meetings.
- The Councillor took questions on the O Train, street furniture and the status of the Bank St. consultation committee, which has never been convened.

Committee Reports

Environment 1 - Virginia Carver

- The microFIT information session was held on January 15 at the GCC, co-facilitated by the GCA and the office of MPP Yasir Naqvi. It was a very successful event attended by an estimated 100 people. Based on responses to a brief evaluation, the presentations were well

received, and the vendors were very satisfied with the interest shown in their materials and products. The event also made a profit.

- With GCA board approval, a letter was sent to the Ministry of the Environment and copied to various levels of government, community associations, etc., regarding the contamination at Lansdowne Park and issues associated with City plans to address the contamination. To date, no response has been received.
- City staff will be meeting shortly with Councillor Chernushenko's assistant to decide how to proceed in terms of a consultation to address residents' concerns about the toboggan run safety issues following placement of a new tarp and boulders this winter to eradicate floating yellow heart at Brown's Inlet.
- Carol MacLeod has requested that the City provide the GCA with designation status for all parks in the Glebe. The City has indicated they will shortly provide the information, but this has not yet occurred. In the meantime, we welcome a Community and Protective Services Committee of Council motion passed at its January 20 meeting to dedicate all the properties the city lists as parks as official parkland.

Environment 2 (Northeast Glebe Parks) - Elizabeth Ballard

- The long-awaited City staff policy on Cash in Lieu (CIL) of Parkland has just been released and will be reviewed by the Planning Committee on Jan 25. The proposed policy explicitly excludes: any cost or work associated with facilities or property not owned by the City; any capital project associated with facilities operated through a public private partnership to deliver City recreational services; and any capital project associated with land that is not a public park. These constraints may help ensure funds that would go to acquiring new parks in park-deficient communities will not be siphoned away. Alternatively, when short of parkland, it becomes difficult to find land upon which CIL funds may be expended, and there may be no way to usefully expend funds on city-owned lands. The committee suggests that this discussion be raised with the Ward Councillor.
- **Motion:** That the GCA ask Councilor Chernushenko to consider amending the CIL policy (going before Council tomorrow) so that in those areas significantly below the City's targeted ratios for parklands and recreation facilities, monies allocated through the CIL Parkland may be spent to create or improve recreational facilities in partnership with, and on the property owned by school boards, for shared use with the community. **Moved** Elizabeth Ballard **Seconded** June Creelman **Carried**
- **Preschooler Play Areas:** The heritage nature of the only park in the northeast quadrant (NEQ), Central Park, is understood to limit opportunities for traditional preschooler playground structures. The committee has identified two areas for creating preschooler play spaces and recommends that the GCA encourage the city to explore the feasibility of both. A relatively small triangle on city-owned land at the Bank St. level of the southwest corner of Central Park, immediately south of the heritage stone steps, is seen as a good location for a small, naturalistic preschooler and family gathering area with good access to the rest of Central Park; and on NCC/city-owned lands, the grassed triangle and portion of Elgin St., slated for closure, that fronts the TD Bank, is seen as a good location for a preschooler

playground area. The two areas offer different services to the target population, and rather than being viewed as either/or, options are proposed as both/and recommendations.

- **Motion:** That the city feasibility study of preschooler play spaces in the Glebe NEQ consider two locations [see above], to explore timing, legal, policy, expansion, and other constraints or opportunities, recognizing that the features of each location would be quite different. **Moved** Elizabeth Ballard **Seconded** Rochelle Handelman **Carried**

Heritage - Joan Bard-Miller

- Certain vistas to the Aberdeen Pavilion are protected under an easement agreement between the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) and the City of Ottawa. The current design for the mixed-use area at Lansdowne encroaches on the view from Bank Street. The City has submitted an application to the OHT for approval to site alterations to portions of the park currently covered by the easement.
- Heritage Ottawa and some individual residents have formally objected to the repeal of the Horticulture Building heritage designation. The appeals will be referred to the Conservation Review Board (CRB) for a hearing. The CRB can make recommendations but Council is not obligated to comply with their decision. In reply to a question, after a building is moved it is possible to have it redesignated heritage.
- The proposed designation for the Clemow Estates East Heritage Conservation District has been on hold since the public meeting hosted by the Heritage Committee in May. Shortly thereafter, the residents submitted a petition against the designation to the City. In late September the Heritage Committee contacted residents of the area about holding another GCA-sponsored consultation meeting. Residents indicated that they did not want another meeting at this time. City staff indicated in the fall that they will circulate a property-by-property survey to residents in the proposed district about the district designation and the contents of the proposed district plan.

Lansdowne - June Creelman and Bob Brocklebank

Recent updates include the following:

- There are 14 appeals on zoning (all but 1 is from the Glebe).
- Planning is proceeding on both the urban park and the mixed-use areas of the site. There appear to be changes to the plans including a new road parallel to Queen Elizabeth Driveway.
- The two heritage issues related to the site's development are being reviewed by provincial authorities. The Ontario Heritage Trust is reviewing the City's application to construct new buildings which infringe on Aberdeen Pavilion easements and the Provincial Conservation Review Board is considering appeals on the de-designation of the Horticulture Building.
- The GCA environment committee wrote to MOE on site contamination, but no response.
- The legal case is proceeding. There will be a hearing on January 31 where the City is trying to keep financial information secret. FOL is trying to seek the City to confirm it will not go after costs against a Glebe resident. The litigation is expected to be heard on April 5.
- Other community associations supporting Lansdowne Park litigation include OOE, OSCA and Riverview Park.

- Two fundraising events: Havana Night at the Firehall on January 29 and Lansdowne Follies on Feb. 5 at the Mayfair Theatre.
- **Motion:** Given that the intent of the City’s policy on public interest litigation is to prevent litigation chill against citizens who want to raise matters of public interest—and that the Lansdowne legal challenge has provided its full application in advance and is clearly a matter of public interest—that the GCA call on the City to confirm in advance that it will not seek cost-awards from the individual applicants. **Moved** June Creelman **Seconded** Bob Brocklebank **Carried**
- **Motion:** That the GCA call on the City to disclose to the public all documents and financial agreements related to Lansdowne Park. **Moved** June Creelman **Seconded** Rochelle Handelman **Carried**
- **Motion:** That the GCA organize a public meeting/event to update the community on Lansdowne developments and to confirm the GCA position and that the City be invited to attend and make available at that meeting detailed 3-d models and visuals of the proposed zoning, site plan, traffic circulation plans, the Bank street frontage, the urban park and environment remediation, and specifically to provide information on where street parking will be. The Ottawa Art Gallery should be invited. **Moved** June Creelman **Seconded** Carol MacLeod **Carried**

Update on OMB appeal of Lansdowne rezoning:

- In October, the GCA and 13 others, submitted appeals of Council’s decision to rezone Lansdowne Park. Lansdowne is the largest single block of land in the community and the way in which the zoning has been changed presents various challenges to our neighbourhood.
- A prehearing will be conducted on February 10 at which the Ontario Municipal Board will seek clarification of the issues before the Board and structure mediation or formal hearings for the resolution of the issues.
- The question of zoning is separate from the commercial arrangement known as the Lansdowne Partnership Plan, which is being challenged before the courts. This means that the objectionable aspects of the rezoning could still be in place, determining the future use of the Lansdowne property, even if the Lansdowne Partnership Plan does not proceed.
- Specific questions of zoning of interest to the community in the zoning include:
 - the height of buildings allowed to be built on the site (notably buildings of 60 metres at the foot of the Bank Street bridge over the Canal, of 52 metres at the corner of Holmwood and Bank, and of 30 metres parallel to Holmwood Ave.)
 - a wide range of commercial activities which are permitted throughout the entire site, including the proposed urban park
 - provisions which have no relationship to the designation of Bank Street as a Traditional Mainstreet in the Official Plan of the City, and which are inimical to the sustained economic vitality of Bank Street.

- provision for parking which has no relationship to general policies in the zoning by-law and which fails to adequately address the heightened level of activity on the site permitted through the rezoning.
- transportation demands which cannot be met will jeopardize mobility of Glebe residents, the economic future of Glebe business and the access of emergency services to the Glebe, as a result of permitting additional commercial activities on the site, coupled with a declared intention to make greater use of renovated facilities, buildings and restored greenspace at Lansdowne.
- The GCA has been building up reserves for a rainy day. The Lansdowne issue IS the rainy day in question. It is difficult to imagine a greater challenge to be faced by the community calling for GCA resources. The GCA has approved expenditures of \$5,000 for the appeal before the OMB. Together with support from our colleagues in Ottawa South, this has provided sufficient funds to negotiate the services of a leading planner. It is expected that we will also require the services of a municipal lawyer and, possibly a transportation expert. The GCA must be able to mount an effective appeal.
- **Motion:** That authority is granted for the expenditure of an additional \$20,000 for the appeal before the OMB of bylaw 2010-329 (rezoning of Lansdowne Park); and that expenditure under this authority be subject to approval by an executive committee composed of the President, the two Vice Presidents and the Treasurer. **Moved** Bob Brocklebank **Seconded** Carol MacLeod **Yes - 13, No - 1, Abstentions - 3 Carried**

GNAG - Lynn Barlow

- Taste of the Glebe went well. It was sold out and had great food and wine.
- January 26 - Silent Art Auction at Irene's Pub to raise money for GNAG.
- January 30 - "Pre to Three Health and Wellness Forum" from 10 am to 3pm, free, all kinds of information for new parents from educational practitioners, health to fitness instructors.
- Kate McCartney and Mary Davies will be meeting Jim Watson in the new year for discussions on how Lansdowne will affect the Community Centre (GNAG).
- Ian McKercher wants to organize a Walking Historical Tour of the Glebe (or bus tour). Date to be decided.
- Janet Connely Patterson has replaced Patti as the new City of Ottawa Manager at GNAG.
- Regis Alcorn is back with GNAG as the City Program Coordinator.

Other Business

The following motion was circulated by email on December 28, 2010:

Motion: The Environment Committee will draft a letter to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment regarding the contamination at Lansdowne Park and issues related to City of Ottawa plans to address the contamination. **Moved** Virginia Carver **Seconded** Carol MacLeod **Carried**

The following motion was circulated by email on January 6, 2011:

Motion: That the GCA spend up to \$75 on a gift for Catherine Lindquist to thank her for all the assistance she provided to the GCA when she was the Glebe BIA Executive Director. **Moved** Christine McAllister **Seconded** Joan Bard Miller **Carried**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.