



Minutes of the Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 22, 2011, Glebe Community Centre

Present:

Board Members: Caroline Vanneste (President), Martha Bowers (Secretary), Jill Adams, Lynn Barlow, Bob Brocklebank, Catherine Caule, Sharon Chartier, June Creelman, Cindy Delage, Bobby Galbreath, Jim Gauvreau, Louise Green, Vaughn Guy, Rochelle Handelman, Teena Handelman, Cindy Kirk, Carol MacLeod, Dale Miller, Janet Sutherland, Barbara Wysocka

Others: Danny Handelman, Julie Houle Cezar, Valerie Lasher, Rob Lasher, Will Nichol

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

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with a note that the Councillor would not be present. (Barbara Wysocka, Rochelle Handelman)

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of October 25 were approved. (Vaughn Guy, June Creelman)

President's Report - Caroline Vanneste

- The Community Centre will begin closing at 9 p.m. Members agreed that, beginning in January 2012, the GCA monthly meeting will start at 7 p.m. If meetings go on later, there is the possibility of having to pay \$18 per hour.
- There will be a meeting on December 1 to discuss the impact of the Lansdowne development on traffic.

Treasurer's Report - Louise Green

- We are still receiving membership fees.
- \$100 was allocated to thank the two firms for their contribution to planning for the preschool play area in Central Park East (see Other Business).

Committee Reports

Education - Sharon Chartier

- The October 27 public meeting on accommodation issues at local schools was well attended.
- Option 1: Construct a 6-classroom addition at Mutchmor Public School, open for September 2013, redirecting some Early French Immersion (EFI) students from First Avenue P.S. to Mutchmor P.S. This was not supported by First Avenue.
- Option 2: Construct an 11-classroom addition at Mutchmor P.S., open for September 2013, in essence, flipping the entire school populations and programs of First Avenue P.S. and Mutchmor P.S.
- Sharon intends to speak on the following points at the November 30 Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) meeting.
 - Additional capacity is necessary in the Glebe.
 - If Option 2 is selected, in addition to the 11-classroom addition, funding should be approved for concurrent renovations to the current school structure, which has already been identified as an OCDSB priority for upgrades and renovations. Upgrades to existing basement spaces could provide relatively low-cost capacity in the event that local enrolment continues to grow.
 - The yard across Fourth Ave. from Mutchmor, which belongs to the OCDSB, will be used more intensively since the number of students at the school will rise substantially. The field must be upgraded since it is too wet to be useful for many months of the year.
 - With students crossing Fourth Ave. several times each day, new traffic restrictions or other safety measures must be implemented.
 - The addition of Middle French Immersion to the Glebe answers a need expressed by many in our community that this program be added to existing EFI, English and Gifted programs.
 - The GCA Education Committee supports the recommendations of the Accommodation Working Group to strengthen the Core English program.

Motion: The GCA agrees with the points that the chair of the Education Committee will present to the OCDSB. (Sharon Chartier, Barbara Wysocka) **Carried**

Environment - Carol MacLeod

- On October 27, 120 people attended a meeting jointly sponsored by the Environment Committee and the City of Ottawa on soil remediation at Lansdowne Park. The panel consisted of the City of Ottawa. Program Manager, Disposals and Environmental Remediation, two AMEC staffers, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment local Issues/Project Coordinator and a policy person from Toronto, and an independent environmental assessment consultant asked by the committee to comment on presentations.

Soil excavated from the parking garage will be moved to berms to the south and east of the stadium, wrapped in geotextile and covered by 1.5 metres of clean soil. If required, solid contaminants will be sorted either in the shell of the Coliseum or in a tent erected for the purpose. The province is requiring a separate environmental assessment for the park area. The current solution for contaminated soil in the park area is to cap it. Both the MPP and the Councilor have committed to further community consultation. Documents are available on the city website: http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/public_consult/lansdowne_partnership/reports_en.html.

- The Environment Committee met November 9 to revision itself. A small but committed group agreed that the committee group its interests under natural and physical environment. The current list of interests will be regrouped under those headings. The current practice of creating working groups to address specific projects should continue. On November 11, the group made an inventory of plant material in Sylvia Holden Park, including the girth of trees at chest height for replacement purposes. New members are welcome!
- The third project of note is the footbridge across the Rideau Canal. On November 17, the City sponsored the second of three consultations. The consultant, McCormack Rankin, is recommending a high-level crossing at Clegg and Fifth. A bridge would cross the canal north of the Canal Ritz. A ramp would start on the QED at the Ritz and curl over the end of the pond at Fourth. It would continue to loop over the canal to land either on the island between Colonel By and Echo Drive at Clegg with a ramp that doubles back on itself or alongside the canal, if Parks Canada permits, in a continuation of the curl. It is estimated that on an average day the bridge will handle 1500-2500 pedestrians and cyclists. How these people will cross the QED and get to Bank Street is yet to be decided. The content of the City's presentation is available at http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/public_consult/rideau_canal_bridge/index_en.html
- It is soliciting comments until the end of the month.

Planning - Bobby Galbreath

- The developer has not yet submitted a formal proposal to the City for 174 Glebe Ave., so we are unable to solidify our position at this time.
- Glebe Ave. residents are concerned about the proposal, specifically the height and mass of the project. They also expressed concerns about the process, having learned about possible compromises put forward by the Planning Committee. However, since we do not have details about the developer's latest proposal, we cannot respond nor advise residents about the GCA position yet.
- The GCA assured the residents that we will consult broadly with them before forming a position to take to the City.
- The Planning Committee will ensure that residents are provided with information and that communications are clear.

Other Business - Bob Brocklebank

1. Proposed amendments to by-laws governing permanent signs on private property

The GCA has spoken out about signage in the past, including opposition to the proposal to erect a large “jumbotron” digital display which could run advertising whenever the Lansdowne stadium was not in use. Earlier this year it was stated that an application would be presented to the City this autumn to grant the Lansdowne Partnership Plan exemption from signage by-law controls. The GCA indicated that it would oppose a blanket exemption and would need to see the detailed proposal. The following are changes potentially affecting the Glebe:

- reduction in setback from residential zones for non-illuminated ground signs

It is proposed that non-illuminated ground signs be permitted three metres from a residential property line. We have residences on side streets next to commercial establishments. At present the regulations would indicate a ground sign would need to be 30 metres from a residential property. In our community lots are small and the changes proposed seem reasonable. The 30 metre rule would continue to apply to illuminated signs.

- maximum identification ground signs at a shopping centre

Shopping centres are currently allowed only one ground sign on each street frontage but it is proposed to allow more than one, while retaining the limit that the total signage area per street frontage be limited to 20 square metres. We have nothing defined as a shopping centre at the moment, but the redevelopment of Lansdowne could create something akin to a shopping centre. There is a danger that this would open the way to signage along Holmwood. It is recommended that the GCA state that redevelopment of Lansdowne should not be considered a shopping centre under the relevant signage by-laws.

- mural signs in residential areas and parks

Murals are currently allowed on commercial, industrial and institutional buildings and structures but it is proposed that murals be permitted on walls of residential buildings and structures. Only walls or structures directly abutting commercial, industrial or institutional sites would be allowed. Such permission is granted only if the structure has had incidents of graffiti and requires ward Councillor approval. This change may be beneficial for some Glebe property owners.

Motion: That the GCA oppose any attempt to classify properties in the Glebe as shopping centres; that such opposition is to prevent the proliferation of identification of ground signs under the amended by-law; and that the City be so informed. (Bob Brocklebank, Barbara Wysocka)

Carried

2. Establishment of a lobbyist registry

A proposal to establish a lobbyist registry was tabled before the City’s Governance Renewal Sub-committee on November 17. If adopted, this proposal would require all community association and public interest group representatives to register as lobbyists prior to approaching

any public officer holder with respect to a city policy. This proposal contrasts sharply with rules governing lobbyist registries at both federal and provincial levels, at which unpaid volunteers are not considered be lobbyists.

Motion: That the GCA Executive continue to monitor closely proposals for a lobbyist registry; that the GCA question the inclusion of unpaid volunteers in the registry; that it object to proposals to exempt land use discussions from the registry; and that it express such concerns at the Governance Review Sub-Committee meeting on December 1 and at the Finance and Economic Development Committee meeting on December 6. (Bob Brocklebank, June Creelman)

Carried

3. There will be an FCA meeting on November 24.

4. The following motion was circulated by email on November 6:

Motion: That the GCA allocate up to \$100 to send a thank you note and bouquet to each of the two firms (Cardinal Conley and Lashley) in appreciation of their generous pro bono contribution to the planning of a preschooler area in Central Park East. (Elizabeth Ballard, Vaughn Guy)

Carried

5. The President announced that this would be June Creelman's last GCA meeting, since she has accepted a job with the Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg. Everyone thanked June for her tireless work over the years on community issues in the Glebe.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.