



SANDY HILL - CÔTE DE SABLE

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting

June 25, 2012

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Rencontre du Conseil d'administration d'Action Côte-de-Sable

Le 25 juin, 2012

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Courriel: info@ash-acs.ca

Present/Présents: Sophie Beecher, François Bregha, Christopher Collmorgen, Eric Crighton, Jane Gurr, Alice Kwong, Claire MacDonald, John Verbaas.

Regrets/Absents: Sam Almsaddi, Mona Frendo, Julie Crêteau, Marcia George, Liz Kessler, Elaine Koren, Jawad Quereshi, Kyle Simunovic.

1. Welcome and introductions

Christopher Collmorgen welcomed everyone and started the meeting at 7.05. He noted that as a result of a Board vote by email, the ASH Executive will remain the same and he thanked the Board for its continued confidence.

2. Review and approval of the agenda

François moved (Jane seconded) that the agenda be approved.

3. Approval of minutes

John moved (François seconded) approval of the May minutes.

4. Councillor's report

In Mathieu Fleury's absence, Nathaniel Mullin reported as follows.

The reconstruction of Rideau St (new water and sewer lines, burial of wires, wider sidewalks) has started from Dalhousie to King Edward, although detours will only be implemented starting on July 9 with eastbound traffic to be moved unto Besserer St. Eastbound truck traffic will turn north on Cumberland to Murray before turning on to King Edward. Westbound traffic will remain on Rideau. A second section of Rideau St (King Edward to Chapel) will be reconstructed later in the summer and the rest of the street will be done in 2013.

Council has approved the new noise by-law, which will come into effect on July 2. The by-law

now needs to be delivered officially to the Province for approval of the fine schedule, a process that could take 3 to 4 weeks. During that time, the by-law will be in effect but not the fines and enforcement will have to be through Part 3 of the Provincial Offenses Act (people charged, and the officers charging them, have to appear in court). This process is labour-intensive and may dissuade by-law officers from enforcing the law. Board members asked Councillor Fleury to convey their concerns to By-law Services that the momentum achieved in curtailing nuisance issues not be lost.

In a related vein, Board members learned that the City had issued 60 charges in Sandy Hill against partiers on St Patrick's Day.

Nathaniel will ask Mathieu Genest to provide a report on the status of the properties at the corner of Rideau and Charlotte that are due to be demolished and replaced by a temporary park.

5. Questions from the audience

There were no questions.

Committee reports

6. Planning, Development and Transportation

Elaine Koren and Tony Friend have joined the committee.

The Committee will draft a position statement for ASH on the proposed interprovincial bridge after consultations with the Lower Town Community Association. It was suggested during the discussion that Ottawa would be better off without a new bridge and by re-routing southbound truck traffic from Quebec to Murray and the Vanier Parkway instead. While this would not eliminate all truck traffic from Rideau and King Edward, it would cut it in half.

Jane and Sophie met Mathieu Genest to ask that the 2010 Heritage Report on Sandy Hill be followed up.

ASH will need to focus on Part 2 of the Infill Study next year to advance Sandy Hill's interests. After that, it may be opportune to conduct a visioning exercise in Sandy Hill as a prelude to a new Community Design Plan to replace the current one from the 1970s. Mathieu Genest will investigate whether financial support could be available for this visioning exercise.

The City is not in favour of turning the southern part of Strathcona park into a temporary parking lot during the construction of 85 Range Rd. This may lead to more on-street parking during construction and also slower construction if the new underground parking lot has to be built in stages instead of all at-once.

7. By-laws and environment

Strathcona Heights gave ASH a certificate of thanks for its support and expressed interest in closer collaboration.

ASH will help publicize two "good food" markets Strathcona Heights is organizing this summer with the support of the Community Health Centre. Kyle to follow up with a note to members with text from Claire.

Claire will draft a notice to members outlining bylaw resources for the neighbourhood this July 1 weekend and Kyle will distribute the note and post it on the web-site.

Claire reported on individual initiatives to beautify the neighbourhood (planters on Besserer, some planting on Laurier).

Eric is following up on the possibility of planting some trees along the north side of the commercial strip on Mann ave.

Board members discussed whether some of the trees on the large property at the corner of Blackburn and Osgoode (behind the Serbian embassy) could be protected. Nathaniel is reviewing the file.

The owners of the derelict houses at 197 and 201 Wilbrod have been discussing a possible sale of the property. In the meantime, the two properties had been referred to Norm Allen, City of Ottawa, Program Manager Building Code to fix the hole in the roof and board up the windows.

8. Special events

François will send an email to the Board about planning a retreat, likely on the evening of Friday July 13.

We need to start planning the Fall BBQ and garage sale. It was suggested that UOttawa Housing be invited to set up a table. It was also suggested that the garage sale might be more successful if sellers were concentrated (e.g., at the Community Centre).

9. Community relations

Christopher reported that the University had not yet ratified the terms of reference of the Town and Gown Committee. The intent is still to hold the first formal meeting of the Committee in mid-September. In the meantime, an informal working group is operating, with the next meeting being on July 18 at City Hall.

The Town and Gown Committee is planning to distribute 1500 to 2000 kits to new students, including information on by-laws, garbage, ASH, SFUO, etc. Police Services have offered to put the kits together over the summer.

François reported on the second meeting of the Sandy Hill Northwest Neighbourhood Improvement Area. The meeting went well but the committee has not yet been tested as the move of Centre 454 has been delayed to August. The committee's next meeting will be in the early Fall.

10. Membership

Christopher will follow up with Kyle to discuss how to resume closer communications with our membership.

11. Future meetings

The next Board meeting will be on August 27.
The meeting adjourned at 8.55.