

Action Sandy Hill Board Meeting
Monday, November 29, 2010, 7 pm
Sandy Hill Community Centre
www.ash-accs.ca // (613) 241-4646
email: info@ash-accs.ca

Rencontre du Conseil d'administration d'Action Côte-de-Sable
Lundi le 29 novembre 2010, 19 :00 h
Centre communautaire de la Côte-de-Sable
www.ash-accs.ca // (613) 241-4646
courriel: info@ash-accs.ca

Present/Présents:

Sam Almsaddi, Sophie Beecher, Janice Bernstein, François Bregha, Dave Bagler, Christopher Collmorgen, Céline Heinbecker, Ted Horton, John Verbaas, Judy Vincent.

Regrets/Absents:

Kyle Ric, Mona Staples, Jane Gurr, Jill McFarland, Robert Stehle, Joshua Zanin.

1. Welcome

François Bregha opened by saying that in Robert's absence he would be chairing the meeting. He then welcomed everybody and began with the first item.

2. Approval of Agenda

Janice Bernstein moved (Judy Vincent seconded) approval of the agenda. Carried

3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting

John Verbaas moved (Ted Horton seconded) adoption of the minutes of the October Board meeting. Carried

6. Advocacy activities

Since the Councillor-elect, Mathieu Fleury had not arrived yet, François moved on to Advocacy activities, asking Sophie if she would like to provide an update.

Development

Sophie explained that she had recently met with the owner/developer of 496 Rideau (corner of Rideau and Augusta, beside the Quickie Mart), who would like to obtain a variance for height for his project. He would like to add 3 extra stories (to be confirmed by Sophie). It appears that there would be room on the first floor for retail and some additional landscaping in the back for the

residents of the building to enjoy. Concerns expressed included the aesthetic appearance of the building and the risk of turning Rideau St into a canyon if too many tall buildings were built close to the street.

ACTION:

Sophie to organize a working group meeting where board members can review the plans and discuss how ASH might be able to influence the building design.

4. Councilor-elect, Mathieu Fleury

François welcomed and congratulated Mathieu Fleury on his recent election and asked him if would like to say a few words.

Mathieu started by saying that George had done things one way but that he was going to do things differently, that in a way we would be starting our relationship (between he and ASH) from scratch. He also talked about his background in Parks and Recreation Services. He said he was committed to a greener environment, stopping urban sprawl and improving public transit. He said that he wants to help the community, he will be here for 4 to 8 years and then he wants to be a family physician, but while he is our councilor, he wants to help the community.

François thanked him and then asked the board members to introduce themselves and describe briefly the priorities on which they were working.

Sophie Beecher provided an overview of the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Ted Horton talked about his issues of interest including the tenant side of things and how the City deals with these issues (i.e., absentee landlords, noise, garbage, tenants' rights).

Celine Heinbecker gave an overview of current beautification and heritage issues in Sandy Hill (i.e., litter, graffiti, garbage, furniture outside that shouldn't be).

Janice Bernstein mentioned that she maintains the listserv and communication with ASH members, and that she also organizes social events like the welcome BBQ in the fall. She also mentioned 2 files that she thought Mathieu should be aware of:

- A) ASH has taken a position against the construction of a Stadium in our community (Nicholas-Mann);
- B) George was in the process of pushing through a bylaw that holds landlords ultimately responsible for the actions of their tenants.

Sam Almsaddi talked about being interested in planning and development in Sandy Hill.

François Bregha gave an overview of the "Bons Voisins Committee".

Judy Vincent introduced herself as the Treasurer for ASH and said that her main interests were quality of life for the residents of Sandy Hill, living in a community where people act in a respectful way and issues related to noise.

Dave Bagler talked about how keeping information flowing was his main point of interest.

John Verbaas gave Mathieu an overview of the Transportation portfolio.

Christopher Collmorgen said that he was an ASH member at large and wants Sandy Hill to remain a great livable community where we can all get along.

At the end of the round table Mathieu Fleury talked about his team. He will have 4 staff members. He stated that he brings no City Hall expertise and said that his staff members were new to City politics also. He explained that he planned this on purpose as he believes it is time for a new start. He said that his office is not organized in a hierarchical way, but rather more collaboratively which he feels is more effective and will contribute to better outreach. He also noted that he was keeping his website, including the interactive feature that allows residents to register concerns or complaints. Mr. Fleury emphasized that this was not an alternative, but rather a complement to “311”.

François explained that we always have time reserved at ASH meetings for the Councilor to share information about what is going on at Council and it is also an opportunity for him to hear our concerns and allow members from the community to ask questions. François told him that our agenda will be sent to his office every month before our meetings.

6. Advocacy activities

Transportation

John Verbaas attended the last impact study on the LRT and gave an update. He said that at this point the main ideas being considered for the western extension are:

- A) Having LRT follow the current route (on the Parkway), and;
- B) Having LRT go down Carling

François attended a consultation about adding segregated bike lanes on Laurier Ave W. The City is considering a pilot project where 2 bike lanes would be added to Laurier Ave. This would reduce car travel to one lane for each direction and some parking spots would be removed. Some issues are still being discussed however, such as left turns during rush hour and what happens to the bike lane where Laurier meets Bronson.

Good Neighbours' Committee

Ted has been meeting with Alistair Mullen and they have been putting materials together about garbage, noise and tenant issues. They will be going to meet residents of identified addresses to share this information with them.

7. Community-building activities

Beautification

Celine announced that a meeting will take place on Wednesday Dec 1 at 5:30 pm at the Community Center which will offer community members the opportunity to ask questions and

talk to a Bylaw officer about their concerns (i.e., maintenance, graffiti). She is hoping for a good turnout as this will also be a chance for the Bylaw officers to talk about the process they have to follow when dealing with these issues.

Winter Carnival

There is a group who is willing to organize a winter carnival this year. Christopher made a motion (seconded by Dave Bagler) for ASH to commit approximately \$200-\$300 towards the funding of this event, subject to a formal request for specific assistance being received. Carried. The Carnival is tentatively scheduled for the last weekend in January 2011. Janice Bernstein will act as liaison between ASH and the carnival organizers.

8. Organizational activities

Website update

Dave now has the website passwords but he is still waiting for the website hosting information from Ryan. He thinks that we could use the website to interact more with the community (e.g., maybe people could post their activities on the website on their own and all we would have to do is approve them).

We now have a bilingual Facebook page. Please let Dave know if you have any ideas or if there is anything you would like to see posted on our website.

Dave also mentioned that the annual food drive in Sandy Hill will be taking place this coming Saturday (December 4) from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. For all those who would like to volunteer, the meeting point is at the Sandy Hill Community Center.

The Delta Pi Fraternity offered to help out with this. At this time, the co-president of the Fraternity also offered to help with any ASH activities we might need assistance with. He said they have 50 strong guys that want to help and contribute, please contact them at Waheed.obadi86@gmail.com for requests.

Door-to-door canvass

Janice Bernstein reminded Board members to continue with their door-to-door canvassing and suggested that it would be a great idea to combine door-to-door canvassing with volunteer food drive efforts.

9. Pot-luck Christmas dinner (Dec 13, 14, 15)

François offered to host the ASH potluck Christmas again this year at his house on Monday December 13 starting at 6:30 pm.

10. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:35 pm. The next ASH Board meeting will be held on January 31, 2011.