

TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE

June 27th, 2013 – 5 p.m.

Desmarais Building, 55 Laurier Avenue East (Room DSM 3120)

MEETING MINUTES

Present (members): Councillor Mathieu Fleury (Chair, City of Ottawa), Cst. Ryan Pierce (Ottawa Police), Linda Anderson (By-law and Regulatory Services), Christopher Collmorgen (Action Sandy Hill), Marc Joyal (University of Ottawa), Salam Hawa (Resident-at-large Representative), John Dickie (Landlord-at-large Representative), Chris Hynes (Student Federation of the University of Ottawa).

Guests: Michelle Ferland (University of Ottawa), Lucie-Mercier-Gauthier (University of Ottawa), Michel Guilbeault (University of Ottawa), Pierre Lefèvre (University of Ottawa), Kathryn Moore (University of Ottawa), Nicholas Lavoie (Campus Security, University of Ottawa), Andrew Arcand (Resident), Erik Schiller (Resident), Elaine Koren (Resident), Louise Shaughnessy (Resident), Patrick Coughlan (Resident), Claire MacDonald (Resident), Veronica Vaillancourt (Resident), Betsy Mann (Resident), Marina Krentzler (Resident).

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Fleury welcomes the members of the committee and asks members of the committee as well as other attendees to introduce themselves to the group.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The committee approves the agenda, as amended to have the University Presentation moved to the last item on the agenda and to add an item concerning the Welcome Week strategy.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The committee approves the minutes of the March 4th, 2013 meeting.

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- a. Since the last Town and Gown Committee, an interim control by-law has been brought into effect by City Council to put a temporary moratorium on single family home conversions. This is being done to allow for a full study of zoning in Sandy Hill, with a report coming forward in the next 6-12 months.

- b. Property standards and derelict/vacant properties have been a major focus of Councillor Fleury over the last 6 months. With the support of Mayor Watson, the City has been leading a review of its Property Standards By-law to ensure that vacant and abandoned buildings no longer appear to be as such. A report is expected to come to committee and council on this matter in early fall.
- c. The construction of the first phase of Ottawa's Light Rail Train network has begun, and changes have already been implemented at the intersection of Laurier Avenue East and Nicholas Street to allow for the closure of part of the Transitway. Collaboration between the City and the University of Ottawa has been great on this file.
- d. A study on transit oriented development is also underway at the moment, and a focus is being put on Lees Station; there are currently no final recommendations on this. Mr. Joyal asks if it would be possible to provide regular updates on impacts to traffic during the construction of LRT to the Town and Gown Committee members. Councillor Fleury agrees that a quarterly update would be very relevant to committee members within their respective organizations.

5. VERBAL REPORT FROM THE HOUSING WORKING GROUP

Mr. Dickie, Chair of the Housing Working Group speaks of their last meeting where many productive discussions occurred. The group briefly discussed the amended work plan and mandate, which had been modified by the full Town and Gown Committee and it welcomed Mark Beaudoin and Derek Petch from By-law and Regulatory Services (City of Ottawa) for presentations and discussion on Rooming Houses and upholstered furniture outdoors. The committee heard very informative presentations from Mr. Beaudoin and Mr. Petch regarding the rules and some of the inconsistencies relating to Rooming House regulations, as well as the gaps in the Property Standards and Property Maintenance By-laws relating to upholstered furniture outdoors. Recommendations are being developed to improve both of these elements.

6. VERBAL REPORT FROM THE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES WORKING GROUP

Cst. Pierce provides an update on St. Patrick's Day activities. He indicates that Ottawa Police had three officers out early working in conjunction with By-law Services; their interventions were primarily proactive. By-law Services add that they were very well prepared to deal with increased activity, but that the cold weather mostly kept folks inside. Overall, there is agreement that this year was a major improvement over 2012. The move-out was also very well coordinated between Solid Waste Services (City of Ottawa), By-law Services and the community. Salam highlights "Dump and Run" as a possible focus going forward. This would potentially be an effective way to redistribute used furniture and discourage waste.

7. PRESENTATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

Mr. Joyal speaks briefly to introduce the subject of the University's presentation. He informs the committee that he is committed to keeping the committee as well as the

community informed. This presentation will deal with the University of Ottawa's 3-year plans for on-campus student housing. The university's Board of Governor's has taken the decision to move forward on planning student housing. Mr. Joyal passes the presentation over to Michel Guilbeault.

Mr. Guilbeault reiterates the fact that this is a great forum to bring these projects forward to the community. He describes how the University of Ottawa currently houses 3,000 students on campus in its 7 residences; 80% of these are first-year students. It is noted that on-campus life is proven to lead to a more successful education. Currently, there is a need of about 1,000 beds for the University to be able to fulfill its commitment to offering each first-year student a space in residence. Furthermore, the University wants to continue to promote being a good neighbour in on-campus housing to its students, so that they might behave as good neighbours in the broader community thereafter.

Mr. Guilbeault continues by describing how a university residence is a 24/7 operation, where there are security services and community advisors (they do rounds twice per night to check on things). The first project which is proposed is to build a new 160-bed residence on Henderson Avenue (at Templeton Street). They would like to have shovels in the ground on this project by spring 2014, with the facility opening in fall 2015. This new residence project would include all of the support services that come with a University residence. There is some worry from one of the resident's present that this project is inching into the residential portion of the neighbourhood. Mr. Joyal responds that the University remains committed to looking at sites around Lees Avenue in the longer term.

Lucie Mercier-Gauthier then describes that the University will also put out a Request for Proposals to have a private-sector developer build a purpose-built residence for 500-700 students. This RFP will be put out in the fall and they would consult with the community on this over the summer. Mr. Joyal indicates that they will coordinate with Mr. Collmorgen to coordinate the consultation.

6. MOVE-IN WORKING GROUP

Cst. Pierce will need everyone's literature by end of July so that his students can put the Welcome packages together. It is agreed that a planning meeting should occur in the next two weeks.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned at 6:30pm.