Action Sandy Hill

Annual General Meeting Assemblée générale annuelle 2017

Thursday, May 18, 2017

6 9 p.m.

Sandy Hill Community Centre

Jeudi le 18 mai 2017

18h00 à 21h00

Centre communautaire Côte de Sable

1. **Meeting Commences / Ouverture de la réunion** David Dendooven

2. **Review of Agenda / Révision de l'Ordre du jour** –

The Draft Agenda was approved unanimously on a motion by Diane Beckett/François Bregha

3. **Review and approval of minutes from AGM 2015-16 – David Dendooven Approbation du compte rendu de l’Assemblée générale annuelle 2015-16**

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved unanimously on a motion by Nicole Girard/ Benoit Belisle.

4 **President’s Report / Rapport du président** – Chad Rollins

The president reported on the following items:

* The Tree Group in ASH is hoping to plant 150 trees in Sandy Hill for the Canada 150 celebration.
* ASH is hoping to find a place on the ASH website to display some of the heritage information that François Brega has put together.
* The importance of the new Rideau Street/Montreal Road Corridor project was discussed.
* The Board has recognized the need to recruit new ASH members and members in the audience were asked to recruit their neighbours who were not already members.
* Ideas were solicited for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of ASH.
* The demise of the OMB was announced and some of the ASH experiences with this body were outlined.
* The president also noted ASH involvement in and importance of the Federation of Community Associations (FCA).

5.– **Introduction of Elections Officer - Introduction du directeur des élections**

David turned the meeting over to the Election Officer Sabina Matthews

Sabrina asked for any nominations from the floor for the open Board positions. There were non nominations from the floor.

**Candidate introductions (mandatory) / Discours des candidats (obligatoire)**

The following nominees were announced to the assembly and each one introduced themselves briefly.

Nominations of New Members to the Board: Trina Cooper-Bolam and Guillaume Vincent .

Nominations of Returning members to the Board: John Verbaas, Bob Forbes, Susan Young

6. **Speeches from our elected representatives / Discours de nos élus**

1. Hon. Mona Fortier, MP

Our newly elected Federal MP expressed her willingness to work with ASH to address the concerns of the neighbourhood.

b. Hon. Nathalie des Rosiers, MPP

Ms. des Rosiers also expressed her interest in learning about the concerns of ASH and working with us to address our concerns. She explained that the OMB would be replaced by tribunal who would not have the power to overrule local decisions unless these decisions violated local or provincial laws/official plans, etc.

c. Mathieu Fleury, Councillor

M. Fleury :

* **R4 Review** - reviewed the progress of this effort so far and pledged to continue the consultation with ASH on this file and reaffirmed his position that everything was on the table for review.
* **Campus Master Plan -** noted the importance of this upcoming process.
* **Town and Gown** - reviewed the initiatives taken by this body particularly with respect to noise, student move in/move out/ by-law enforcement etc
* **Sandy Hill Specific Solid Waste Initiative** - reviewed his efforts to implement city regulations for dealing with some of the unique problems faced in Sandy Hill in this dossier.
* **Truck Traffic Downtown (King Edward)** - reported that 21 traffic calming measures have been implemented to address this problem and he elaborated on the up-coming feasibility study of the proposed tunnel to divert some of this traffic from the downtown core.
* **LRT and OC Transpo** - noted that there would be three LRT stations in the Sandy Hill area and that as soon as phase 1 was completed all students would have a pass good on the entire line which would allow them to live in much wider radius of the campus than is now the case.

8. **Questions from the floor for elected representatives Questions de la salle pour nos élus**

* A resident of Range Road (Donald Clarke) expressed concern about the possible danger to the houses on Range Road due to the tunnelling for the proposed truck diversion tunnel that could go under their houses. He wanted to know what steps would be taken in the upcoming environmental assessment study ensure the safety of the residents along Range Road. Councillor Fleury noted that the exact route of the tunnel has not been determined and he invited residents of Sandy Hill to take an active part in the environmental/feasibility study.
* Another resident (Diane Beckett) expressed her concern about the lack of a clear planning vision for Sandy Hill and the resulting construction of buildings out of character with the neighbourhood and related garbage problems. Councillor Fleury said that he too is disturbed by development trends in Sandy Hill (for example, bunk houses) and blamed lack of engagement on the part of the city leadership and expressed his confidence that this attitude is changing. He said he now has commitments from the city to finally address the development problems in Sandy Hill. MPP Natalie de Rosiers expressed the hope that the abolition of the OMB and the introduction of a new appeal process will give more weight to local decision making and help Sandy Hill address its development problems more effectively. Chad asked Natalie if she had a clear time line for the OMB changes but she did not know.
* Resident Sabrina Matthews asked about plans for landscaping and bicycle connections related to the new LRT project and Councillor Fleury gave a general overview of these plans.
* Another resident expressed his frustration with development in Sandy Hill and asked the three office holders what they intended to do differently to address these problems. MP Mona Fortier pledged her help in ensuring an effective consultation process for planning in Sandy Hill. MPP Natalie de Rosiers cited the new possibilities with the demise of the OMB and promised to be honest with ASH about what is and is not possible in the planning dossier. Councillor Fleury reiterated the new initiatives he has recently undertaken on property standards, solid waste and the R4 review process designed to find solutions in these areas specific to Sandy Hill. He noted that as far as the R4 review, “everything is on the table” and pledged that “I am here to listen to Sandy Hill.”

09 **Special Resolution on Development Rules for Sandy Hill**

**Résolution spéciale sur les règles de développement à la Côte-de-Sable**

Chad thanked the elected representatives for attending the AGM. He then gave a brief background presentation on R4 zoning history in Sandy Hill and a brief account of the Special General Meeting of Action Sandy Hill held on April 27, 2017 to get community input on the upcoming R4 review.

The following motion was moved by Bob Forbes and seconded by Sally Southey

**Preamble**

Over the past seven years the City of Ottawa has undertaken several planning studies designed to address problems with infill development in Sandy Hill and other mature neighbourhoods. Action Sandy Hill has actively participated in each of these studies, despite concerns about their scope. The resulting bylaw changes have proven largely ineffective in improving the quality of residential development in Sandy Hill.

The City, recognizing that concerns persist and that undesirable outcomes continue, is now undertaking another planning study, this time focused on residential fourth density (R4) zoning throughout the City. As Action Sandy Hill intends to separately provide written comments on this R4 review, we convened a special meeting of members and residents on 27 April 2017 to review the proposed changes to the R4 zoning and to clearly identify the concerns of residents as it relates to development in Sandy Hill.

From that meeting and other feedback, it is clear that residents of Sandy Hill have strong reservations about the City’s implementation of intensification policies and are frustrated at the outcomes in our neighbourhood. While we appreciate that intensification is essential and can be beneficial, there are countless opportunities for intensification in Ottawa which do not necessitate the gutting of established, diverse, densely-populated neighbourhoods like Sandy Hill. In particular, we object to the fact that,

* The majority of new residential construction in Sandy Hill is out-of-scale and out of character with its surroundings, and negatively impacts the character of our heritage neighbourhood and the quality of life of residents;
* These developments are almost exclusively operated as unlicensed rooming houses (i.e. rented by the room) which serve only one demographic, lack future versatility, and undermine the diversity of Sandy Hill; and,
* These developments create numerous bylaw and property standards issues, exploit students and are potentially unsafe for occupants.

**Resolution**

Therefore, be it resolved that the members of Action Sandy Hill are firm in our conviction that the City of Ottawa, in carrying-out the R4 review, must take a more holistic approach to this issue and develop a comprehensive solution that will reverse recent trends in Sandy Hill. (We note that similar problems have been successfully addressed by other municipalities in Ontario and that their efforts can and should be used as guidelines.) A holistic solution requires that the City of Ottawa,

1. Consider R4 down-zoning;

2. Implement a Floor Space Index (FSI) for all residential zoning (similar to other Ontario municipalities) (e.g. www1.toronto.ca/city\_of\_toronto/city\_planning/zoning\_\_environment/files/pdf/guide\_fsi.pdf);

3. Create a rental property licensing system (similar to other Ontario municipalities); and,

4. Maintain Site Plan Control for all development in Sandy Hill.

(Item #1 under **Resolution** “Consider R4 down-zoning” was added to the original text by an amendment moved by Diane Beckett and seconded by Guillaume Vincent. This amendment was carried unanimously)

**The motion as amended was approved unanimously.**

10 **Report from Sandy Hill Community Health Centre**

**Rapport du Centre de santé communautaire Côte-de-Sable – David Gibson**

Mr. Gibson reported on the services offered by the SHCHC and in particular announced the creation of a 10 bed facility in Vanier to help men with addiction problems.

11 **Treasurer’s Report / Rapport du trésorier – Pat Archer**

Pat reviewed the financial report for ASH

Moved by Chad Rollins and seconded by François Bregha to accept the treasurer’s report.

Carried unanimously

12 **Committee Reports / Rapport des comités**

1. **Block Representatives / Représentants du bloc – Jan Finlay**

Jan was not present. In her absence Susan Young gave a report on the ASH intention to reinvigorate this program.

2. **By-law and Community Environment Committee / Comité des règlements et de**

**l'environnement communautaire**

1. **By-law / Règlements – Sally Southey**

Sally thanked Claire MacDonald for her long time commitment to ensuring that by-laws are respected and enforced in Sandy Hill. She noted that some progress has been made but more remains to be done. In particular the City needs to take a more proactive approach in enforcing its own bylaws. She reported that Larry Newman will be the new chair of this committee. Finally she reported that 340 bylaw complaints had been lodged in Sandy Hill over the last 12 months and expressed the hope that in the future we can resolve a higher proportion of these complaints. She urged all residents to continue to call 311 and report bylaw violations.

**b. Sandy Hill Tree Group / Action Arbres Côte de Sable – Susan Young**

Susan reviewed the progress of this group over the previous year and in particular noted the four new beds and four new planters that were established on Somerset Street.

**3. Communications, Membership & Outreach Committee / Comité des coms., de l’adhésion et des relations avec la communauté – Jeremy Silburt**

In the absence of Jeremy, Ralph Blaine reported that this committee had successfully reorganized the membership database, updated the membership list and sent out reminders to many ex-members encouraging them to renew their memberships. In addition, it is now possible purchase and renew memberships at the ASH website. The next goal is to organize a membership drive to increase ASH membership.

**4. Engagement with University of Ottawa / Dialogue avec l’Université d’Ottawa – Bob Forbes**

Bob reviewed the functioning of this committee and the issues that had been addressed in the past year - noise, garbage, move in/move out problems etc. He reported that in the coming year the committee hopes to address the following tasks

* meet with the University of Ottawa President and get his commitment to working on the resolution to some of the issues facing Sandy Hill
* remove ads for unlicensed rooming houses from the official University housing site.
* other concerns coming out of the community

5. **Heritage / Patrimoine – Larry Newman**

In the absence of Larry, Chad reported that:

-A heritage study added 108 more Sandy Hill properties to the heritage list.

* ASH hopes to see more districts within Sandy Hill designated “heritage”
* ASH hopes to ensure that owners of heritage properties will be able to claim tax deductions who make appropriate improvements to their properties.

6. **Planning, Development and Transportation Committee / Comité de la**

**planification urbaine, du développement et du transport**

1. Planning / Planification – Judith Rinfret

Judy expressed the hope that ASH will begin to have more impact on planning decisions in Sandy Hill and feels that we may be at a turning point on this issue. She also reported on some of the specific cases the committee had worked on over the year.

**b. Transportation/Transport–John Verbaas**

John reported on:

-The proposed truck tunnel to divert truck traffic from the downtown core. He pointed out the the environmental study slated for this project,if funded, will take place over the next three years.

* The traffic calming measures Mann, Marlborough and other streets.
* The newly installed advisory bike lane on Somerset
* The completion of the Adawe bridge over the Rideau River.
* The plans for more traffic calming and measures to improve pedestrian and cycling safety.

**13 Other Business / Autres sujets**

1. **Ping Pong Table and Tournament / Table de ping-pong et tournoi**

Bob Forbes reported on the installation of this table and the arrangements that have been made for distributing equipment that ASH has purchased for the players. He noted that ASH intended to organize a ping pong tournament in the coming year.

2. **Strathcona Park Gazebo / Pavillon du Parc Strathcona**

Chad noted that ASH has $26,000 for this project and hopes to get a matching grant from the City. He called for volunteers to help move this project forward.

3. Upcoming ASH Events / Prochains événements d’ACS

There was a call for volunteers for the Canada Day Picnic. “Spring Swing” is also in the works.

14. **Presentation of ASH Volunteer of the Year Award**

**Présentation du prix Bénévole de l'année de l’ACS** – Chad Rollins

This award was presented to Jan Finlay for her work with the Block Rep network and Prime Ministers Row.

15 **Election results or Acclamation of Candidates**

Sabrina reported that all of the nominees for the Board of ASH had been acclaimed.

17 **Adjournment / Ajournement**

The meeting was adjourned on a motion from Diane Beckett and Richard Macey.