

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa
General Meeting of October 6, 2015 from 7:15 pm
Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington St. West
Draft Agenda**

1. Welcome to participants

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Minutes

Approval of minutes for General Meetings of May 14 and September 9
Receipt of minutes for Executive Meetings of May 27, July 8 and August 17

4. Presentation of FCA Awards

Presentation of award to Diane Holmes, former Councillor, City of Ottawa

5. Environmental issues for Ottawa communities

Presentation by Erwin Dreessen, co-chair of Greenspace Alliance

6. Land conservation policies for Ottawa

Presentation by Nick Stow, Senior Planner, City of Ottawa

7. Networking break

8. Bilingualism for the City of Ottawa

Presentation by John Trent, Dialogue Canada

9. Crime statistics reports

Presentation by Lowertown Community Association

10. Issues arising from the minutes

10A. Report on FCA views on City priorities/initiatives

11. FCA Committee reports

11A. Regional Voices and Issues

11B. Communications

11C. Planning & Zoning

12. Open Mike / New Issues

12A.

12B.

12C.

Adjournment

Agenda item 4 – Presentation of FCA Awards

At the Annual General Meeting of FCA, held on June 9, three awards were announced. Diane Holmes, former Councillor of the City of Ottawa, was designated as 2015 recipient of the City Builder Award. Because Ms. Holmes could not attend at the time of the AGM, the presentation is to occur at the October meeting.

Agenda item 5 – Environmental issues for Ottawa communities

Trained as a labour economist, Erwin Dreessen became interested in land use issues around 1993, working closely within his local community association, and the FCA. In 1997 he co-founded the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital and has served as its Chair or, as currently, Co-chair.

Erwin will, first, provide an overview of voluntary environmental groups in Ottawa and beyond. He'll then, after providing an update on the status of appeals of the Comprehensive Official Plan Amendment passed by Council in December 2013, discuss what the future could bring on land use plans for Ottawa. He'll discuss an overarching issue, namely the state of public engagement on land use planning in this City. Finally, he'll provide an overview of what other city, provincial and federal files are on the radar of the Greenspace Alliance.

Agenda item 8 – Bilingualism for the City of Ottawa

The citizens' group Dialogue Canada has issued the following statement:

Our VISION of Ottawa: Officially Bilingual Capital of Canada

The City has a workable policy of bilingual services. French and English are spoken by many. Anglophones and Francophones have been developing Canada together for almost 150 years. Some 70% of Canadians like official bilingualism. Census studies show a minimum of 23% of every ward of Ottawa is bilingual. We have 155 embassies and thousands of national associations.

But, our cup is only half full. We have not begun to harvest the benefits that a truly bilingual national capital and international cultural, business and tourism centre would offer.

People focus too much on the costs of official bilingualism and too little on advantages. Should there be additional costs the federal and provincial governments should be expected to make strong contributions. Our bilingual reputation would attract international companies and events.

We would hold our heads high with pride as the capital city which finally would reflect the official bilingualism of Canada and would represent all its citizens in both official languages. Official bilingualism will inspire others: citizens, companies, associations, conventions, restaurants and stores will follow suit. Being recognized as an open, accommodating, diverse global city we will attract global business and tourism.

What is required is leadership from the top. The City Council and the Mayor must lead the way. It is they who must embrace the benefits of official bilingualism. They must invite Ontario's government to amend the City of Ottawa Act of 1999, to make Ottawa officially bilingual with English and French having equal status, rights and privileges plus creating a formal mechanism to ensure proactive oversight and adherence to policy and the law. The Mayor and Council will not be acting alone – far from it. All those citizens who are mobilized behind official bilingualism will be active to convince ever greater numbers of people.

Not many changes are required. Since 2001 Ottawa has had a bilingualism policy. The city's staff delivers many services in both languages. Costs presently run at 0.01% of the city budget which is hardly significant in a total budget of some \$3 billion.

Official bilingualism, once enshrined in the Ontario law, will ensure the durability of a culture of linguistic duality thus promoting enhanced observance. Citizens will demonstrate mutual respect. Official bilingualism means improving current policies to ensure bilingual meetings and events, publications and communications, services and activities, and hiring practices. Not all instances will require bilingual service. As with the current policy, no employee would lose a job because of official bilingualism. However, policies will promote bilingualism and language training.

We expect official bilingualism in the capital of Canada will develop healthy, positive attitudes toward French and English and a spontaneous response to citizens in their official language.

Agenda item 10 – FCA views on City priorities/initiatives

At the FCA general meeting of September 9, we put up on the wall large blow-ups of pages 19 through 22 of the City's Strategic Plan (accessible at <http://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents.ottawa.ca/files/documents/cap154401.pdf>). Those pages list 65 "strategic initiatives" derived from the "2015-2018 Term of Council Priorities". Meeting participants were invited to place dots next to initiatives indicating which were of city-wide importance (and should be followed closely by FCA). The leading items designated were as follows:

Dots	Initiative
12	56 Improved Public Engagement in Planning Matters
7	15 Traffic, Pedestrian and Road Safety Enhancements
6	22 Renewable Energy Strategy
5	37 Parks and Recreation Facility Upgrades
4	20 Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan
4	31 Inclusive Community Initiative
4	36 Recreation Major/Minor Capital Partnership
3	6 Transportation Master Plan Phase 1 Road Projects (2015-2018)
3	13 Cycling Safety Improvement Program (CSIP)
3	24 Urban Forest Management Strategy
3	41 Building Better Revitalized Neighbourhoods
3	45 Central Library Development
3	57 Social Media and Public Engagement
3	64 Maintain the Property Tax Rate in Accordance with Council's Budget Direction

We also ran an exercise in which we asked participants to indicate initiatives which they planned to carry back to their community association with the intention of getting the local association to take on an initiative or two as an ongoing project. The initiatives that were cited most frequently as of possible interest to local associations were *56 Improved Public Engagement in Planning Matters* and *15 Traffic, Pedestrian and Road Safety Enhancements*, followed by *24 Urban Forest Management Strategy* and *13 Cycling Safety Improvement Program (CSIP)*.

Agenda item 9 – Crime statistics reports

Lowertown Community Association is seeking time-series data at the neighbourhood level in order to assess crime trends. They hope such information would allow identification of areas of improvement and of concern.