

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa**  
**Executive Meeting – October 14, 2015 – Draft Minutes**  
**Tanglewood Park Community Centre**  
Gathering Theme – Respect for all, FCA's networking, Growth of CAs

**Participants:** Gary Sealey (chair), , Klaus Beltzner, Bob Brocklebank [skype], Archie Campbell, John Chenier, Kul Kapoor, Sheila Perry, Graeme Roderick , Phil Sweetnam and Observer Kevin MacDonald (K-M Council)

**Regrets:**, Alex Cullen, Lorne Cutler, Maureen Forsythe, Maria Louisa Marti, and Agnes Warda

**Guest:** Jan-François Grabowiecki (LCA-BAC)

**1. Municipal/Urban Planning Models**

Gary made a brief presentation of four models of planning: the visionary, like Utopia; the concentrated, intensively developed, Le Corbusier; dispersed self-sufficient towns and garden cities, Ebenezer Howard; and dispersed, serviced by autos, Frank Lloyd Wright. He circulated planners' books on the different models of neighborhoods, towns and cities.

**2. Approval of amended agenda:** CARRIED

**3. Approval of Amended Executive Minutes of September 23:** CARRIED

**4. Receipt of the General Meeting Minutes of October 6:** RECEIVED

**5. Correspondence/Business Arising**

**5.1 Complete Streets Framework**

As a follow-up to a motion encouraging the City Transportation Committee to support the Complete Street Framework passed at the September 9 General Meeting, a letter was set to the members of that Committee on October 7th. This letter and others could be posted on our website to inform and engage members, and subscribers on current affairs.

**5.2 Location of general meetings**

Archie confirmed the information reported at the last meeting which dates and locales up to February. Further information was provided

February

March            Glebe

April             Rockcliffe

Locations will be posted on our new website.

**5.3 Lowertown [LCA-BAC]'s Safety and Security Committee**

Jan-François noted that in 2014, the community association asked residents how safe they felt. They also sought to acquire Crime Statistics for their neighbourhood. A request through the Freedom of Information Office would have cost \$2400. The assistance of the ward councillor in obtaining crime data at a nominal cost to CAs was successfully sought. The Community Association also asked Université d'Ottawa students to help them get a better appreciation of criminal behaviour in the Byward Market sector of their neighbourhood. Findings were published in their local newspaper "Echo". Crime Prevention Ottawa also did a presentation at a General Meeting in 2014.

Discussion was had on a) safety and security being a possible mission of community associations, b) effective use of the information/data, c) fit with Neighbourhood Watch's mandate and

d) fit with mandate of Crime Prevention Ottawa. It was felt that a dialogue with the membership would be useful. While Crime Stats was on the October 6 agenda it was not discussed.

ACTION: Dialogue with membership

## **6. Regional and Functional Committees**

### **6.1 Communications**

- Website: John reported that the site continues to be a work in progress. There is a Bulletin Board tab. Its drop-down box has Members Only, FCA to Members, Member to Member, Help Wanted and Expertise on Offer pages. To begin using the capacities available, it was agreed that one or two topics [ e.g. City budget, CDPs, or hedges blocking views at many intersections] need to be identified, an initial comment might help promote others' contribution and incoming comments need to be monitored to discourage trolls. And topics need to be regularly changed. Additionally, consideration should be given to what happens to our two 'Google-groups' [ FCA Executive and FCA Members].

ACTION: John and Bob

- Posting of Minutes and documents, John saw this as part of his role for the time being. Regarding who contributes what to the site, as comfort levels increase, others would be responsible of their portfolio aspects of the website.

### **6.2 Membership Outreach:**

- Members and non-members receive notice of meetings with the opportunity to contribute to the agenda.
- Particular requests for assistance are responded to
- Seek to broaden/increase our members with both urban and rural CAs as well as other community organizations.

### **6.3 Liaison with Councillors:**

At the October General Meeting retired councillor Diane Holmes and newly-elected Kitchissippi Ward Councillor Jeff Leiper were both present. Discussion was had on strengthening the rapport between councillors and ourselves.

### **6.4 Regional Voices and Issues:**

- Klaus and Phil spoke to this item. There are a range of ongoing land development issues in and outside rural villages; transportation, water and wastewater and environment concerns. As well, there are concerns regarding social resources of rural communities. The City acknowledges these considerations but such considerations may not be reflected in the City's budget, as is the case with the draft Budget for next year.
- Klaus noted that there may also be concerns that are broader than municipal issues such as human safety considerations and the protection of the land with the pending approval of the Energy East pipeline.
- FCA's ongoing challenge is to be consistently engaged with representatives of these communities whose issues may not always be those of the urban/core of the City.
- Land Inventory: Klaus had attended the October meeting of City's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee to express concerns about the protection of agricultural lands, particularly around villages. He felt the city staff are not doing enough, and used as an example a recent OMB decision which permitted the rezoning of local agricultural land to rural general. The City staff and their lawyer did not do enough. The decision noted that the City has not completed the Land Inventory Study (LEAR) which was to be done as a component of its Official Plan.

**7. Budget:**

The City will table its 2016 draft budget on November 12, with approval by Council to be held on December 09. Agriculture and Rural Affairs, FEDCO and other committees of Council will consider the draft and make recommendations between those dates. The draft budget recommends a 2.85 per cent increase for transit and six per cent hike in water rates and a two per cent property tax increase. Regarding the latter, while some members in attendance believed a greater increase in the property tax is necessary, all agree that ‘departmental efficiencies’ should be factored in first. It was agreed that the November 2 General Meeting is not too late for a meaningful discussion to be had and recommendations to be made. As well, discussion can be had as on what monies are there for neighbourhood’s use, such as traffic calming and trees. As well, budgets have a multi-year component and we need to be aware of what capital projects the City is planning to undertake across years. And, not to forget 2017 celebrations.

ACTION: GENERAL MEETING

**8. Coach Houses/Granny Flats:**

The province is encouraging such dwellings as an aspect of densification. City is seeking input on how to regulate the growing trend of secondary dwellings in urban, suburban and rural areas. The city wants to decide related property size and how close a coach house could be to the property line. Klaus suggests there needs to be two different conversations regarding this initiative, one being rural.

**9. Transportation:**

Klaus raised two items:

- Co-ordination: With the number of road and bridge projects as well as LRT simultaneously on the go, it is evident that a number of project has inadequate vehicle “detour” plans and there appears to be an absence of a master traffic flow plan or a particular staff assigned to synchronize traffic flow and mitigate drive-through congestion in some neighbourhoods during peak hours.
- Hurdman Bridge: With all the bridge work being done, structure weakness with that bridge was discovered October 14. Temporary loss of the bridge would increase chances of transit gridlock.

**10. Planning Committee:**

- Although Jan Harder indicated in the Planning Newsletter that the first meeting of the Round-Table/Consultation with residents on planning matters would be held on November 7 at City Hall, that date has been revised to the beginning of the Year. This would give Ms Harder, Councillor J. Leiper and ourselves more time to prepare. Regarding ourselves, we want to ensure that there is good turnout from community association’s form across the city, and that common and/or diverse concerns of our members are thoughtfully communication. This request enough time for prior dialogue.

ACTION:: Place on the agenda for the December 9 General Meeting

**11. Midterm Progress Report:**

Agreed such a report would be desirable. ACTION: Gary and Graeme

**12. Agenda for the Upcoming General Meeting:**

Key item will be the budget. It is acknowledged that Lorne would have a key role. Executive Members to meet and design agenda in detail, following federal election.

**Adjournment:** On a motion from Graeme, Archie CARRIED

*Date of the next Executive meeting: November 11.*

*Dates of General Meetings: Nov. 2 (Manotick Legion, 5050 Ann Street);*

*Dec. 10 (Overbrook Community Centre, 33 Quill Street)*