

Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa
General Meeting of Dec. 8th, 2016
Overbrook Community Centre
Draft Minutes

Present: Gary Sealy (Beaverbrook CA, President FCA), Christopher Barker (Rockcliffe Park RA), Colin Beattie (Citizen), Susan Blakeney (Queensway Terrace North CA), Scott Blurton (Glebe Annex CA) Robert Brinker (Carlington CA), Bob Brocklebank (Glebe CA), Bonnie Charron (Riverside Park CA), Denys Cooper (Dows Lake RA), Alex Cullen (Belltown NA), Roland Dorsay (Champlain Park CA), Erwin Dreessen (Green Space Alliance of Canada's Capital), Maureen Forsythe (Observer), Eddie Gilles (Old Ottawa East CA), Jan Grabowiecki (Lowertown CA), Miranda Gray (Convent Glen Orleans Woods CA), Melissa Gendron (Lowertown CA), Kay James (Rockcliffe NW), Kul Kapoor (Katimavik-Hazeldean CA), Rawlson King (Overbrook CA), Bruce Lindsay (Green Space Alliance of Canada's Capital), Sarah Livermore (Champlain Park CA), Rosella MacNeil (Heron Park CA), Maria Luisa Marti (Centretown Citizens CA), James McLaren (Heron Park CA), Rod McLean (Katimavik-Hazeldean CA), Susan Morrison (Queensway Terrace North CA), Norman Moyer (Lowertown CA), Kris Nanda (Riverview Park CA), Shane Quinn (Civic Hospital NA), Graeme Roderick (Tanglewood-Hillsdale CA), Chad Rollins (Action Sandy Hill), Gilian Salmand (Wellington Village CA), Steven Sandiford (Westboro CA), John Stevenson (Citizens for Safe Cycling)

Guests: David Behn (Crime Prevention Ottawa), Mark Ford (Ottawa Police Service), Jill Skinner (Ottawa Police Service), Nancy Worsfold (Crime Prevention Ottawa)

1. Call to order

Gary welcomed everyone (7:15 PM).

2. Adoption of Minutes

Alex seconded by Sheila moved that the minutes be set at the end of the agenda.

3. (a) Introduction to Overbrook

Rawlson King, President, Overbrook CA welcomed participants to Overbrook. He pointed out that Overbrook extends from HWY 417 and the St. Laurent S C to Montreal Road. He noted that his association is very pleased to have formally dedicated a Park to Veterans and are working to bring attention to the community's heritage.

Furthermore, Rawlson highlighted their positive approach to crime prevention and especially focus on a Youth Strategy designed to help youth avoid crime and be productive members of the community with the help of the neighbourhood through a community conversation that seeks to have an on-going conversation looking to improve.

He urged that FCA use its social capital to make civic engagement as a trust. Last, he considers that the ultimate transportation choice of walking, bicycling, transit, or private vehicle as fantastic but he believes the ultimate situation is to live in a community where walking to all daily activities is the way we live. Then we will truly feel safe.

3. (b) Greeting by Councillor

Councillor Nussbaum drew attention to the fact that Council will vote on the 2017 City Budget on December 14. Second, he pointed out that while the City Council endorsed making the Ontario Municipal Board a judicial-like appeals body, only a substantial minority Councillors (9 vs 14) had voted to ask the Provincial Government to make ‘reasonableness’ one of the OMB decision criteria. Thirdly the Councillor speculated that municipal electoral reform in the form of ranked ballots will not happen for the 2018 City election but will be the change installed for the 2022 municipal election.

4. Panel discussion on community safety and security

Gary introduced the panel members: Nancy Worsfield – Crime Prevention Ottawa, Thierry Harris – Lowertown CA reporting on Community Survey results, Jan Francois Grabowiecki – Lowertown CA Crime Statistics Project Team, and Deputy Chief Jill Skinner & A/Superintendent Mark Ford, Ottawa Police Service.

Nancy Worsfield stated that we want to feel safe, to be safe and suggested that the website of Crime Prevention Ottawa illustrated ways in which we can achieve that goal as a community, as individuals and as families. Receiving email releases from CPO would keep FCA members in the information loop.

Thierry Harris outlined the results of the 235 replies to the Community Concerns survey within a period of just five days which emphasizes the concerns which City residents have for safety matters. Should you wish, you may take the survey by visiting: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSJ8R76> For the detailed preliminary report as of Dec. 7th on the survey please visit: <http://fca-fac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/161208ps.pdf>

Jan Grabowiecki began the search for better OPS multi-year crime data some five years ago. He had expected that it would be a quick successful effort. It has not been quick nor, as yet, successful. Jan advised us that the Ottawa Neighbourhood Study would be releasing crime data organized on the basis of the City’s 108 neighbourhood areas in January, 2017. When we have the open crime data, community associations will better understand which types of crime occur in its area, will clear away myths and be able to rely on having consistent data in the future to develop an appreciation of trends.

Deputy Chief Jill Skinner who now coordinates the allocation of patrol cars and personnel to local areas and A/Superintendent Mark Ford who manages major events planning and preparations – combined to present a sense of the many changes which make policing a challenge. Not only is the OPS contending with budgeting constraints, but only 13% is not related to personnel financing so the deployment of personnel such that the constables act as effectively possible in serving City of Ottawa residents takes considerable skill. One must take into account the population increases of 10,000 people each year and aging noticeably as time progresses a major annual change and modifications in community expectations of policing and legislative changes. Proper survey techniques assist the police in keeping aware of community expectations. Moreover cyber-crime is a new and revolutionary policing concern.

These changes require answers to very practical questions: How should the police better serve the residents? How should police be deployed across the City? What is the best way to support frontline police officers? How can the police generate community partnerships? Keeping Ottawa safe means sharing the right information! OPS asked KPMG to provide its advice on managerial issues and systems.

The OPS receives 395,000 calls for service and made 50,000 arrests in 2015. Still 80% of the calls are not crime related at all. Always emergency calls are and will be the top priority. Maybe 3 and 4 level calls can be treated as information reporting sources. On the other hand the Guns and Gangs Unit is a large matter of concern as search for results. The strategic Operations Centre must keep in touch with frontline policing such that its thinking is in synch with what the frontline constables are dealing with. Changes in frontline policing approaches to meet Ottawa's needs will take effect on January 23, 2017.

5. Question & answer period: issues raised

Recommend Neighbourhood Watch because it brings awareness to break-ins. Also drop-in centres for youth are needed. Community meetings will help residents see their part. Who decides which by-laws to fully enforce? Patterns will be seen by police and eventually the community and residents through reporting by residents despite any embarrassment. What makes us feel unsafe? Is safety achieved when community challenges are overcome by welcoming newcomers and integrating people into the community?

6. Breakout discussion groups on “Police – community perspectives”

Group One: Citizen awareness is paramount. Social media makes community support realizable. Community policing is the natural focus. Report through the police website.

Group Two: Increase social cohesion. Community action is not just a police matter. Community events do much to bring us together.

Group Three: Define what makes a something into a crime; i. e., how does a crime become a crime? We should become aware of the non-emergencies police number.

Group Four: Safety depends on eyes on the street. Devices can help. Telephone the police. Neglected reporting is too important for us to imagine.

Group Five: GPS is a neglected source of info. City Hall is not heard. Make use of town vs gown concerns. Always use local resources they bring residents into the matter and its resolution.

Group Six: Grey area on what is legal vs what is illegal. Hence no charges laid unless sure of conviction. This is not a pro-active approach.

7. Planning/Zoning Committee motion: Review of Ontario Municipal Board

The province has requested that input for the review of the OMB be received by December 19. A draft submission was circulated with the draft agenda.

Motion by Sheila seconded by Alex **that the draft submission be approved as the FCA submission to the Provincial Review body.** Chad asked for the deletion of one sentence under Question Three. This friendly amendment was accepted by Sheila and Alex. The meeting voted

to support the motion for submission of the amended document with no votes opposed and three abstentions.

Erwin then urged all community associations to submit their own comments either in response to the general idea of the OMB Review, or to a single question or commenting on the whole 24 questions. A common front is significant but participation is most important.

8. Committee Reports

Transportation Committee. Alex noted that the committee met on Nov. 24 and will focus on the need to update the Transportation Master Plan as the focus of the FCA February general meeting. The Committee supports the Equi-Pass at the monthly cost reduced to the \$40, same as price of the current disability pass. The Transportation Committee will meet on January 12th at the Dalhousie C C.

Operations Committee. Maria Luisa & Chad are continuing to work toward constructing a master plan for a FCA data base.

Communications. Thierry noted that the Community Crime Survey is open for more responders to respond. The Committee prepared a press release. The coming new year will see more press releases.

Planning/ Zoning Committee. Sheila said the Committee's big ask is to be part of the City's Planning Advisory Committee. Community associations are invited to comment by December 16 on the R4 Zoning Review. Sheila is preparing a strong letter on R4 Zoning issue. Closer contact has been achieved with the Greater Ottawa Homebuilders Association (GOHA); we may not agree with them but we can identify differences and common support issues. The committee would like to know if there is interest in another Saturday morning Imagine Ottawa session; issues could include the Transportation Master Plan or some other matters.

This General Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

Next General Meeting will be on January 18 at Tanglewood CC.

Next Board Meeting will be on December 14th at Tanglewood C C.