

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa [FCA-FAC]
General Meeting of 21 November 2018 – Minutes
New Edinburgh Field House, 203 Stanley Ave.
approved December 12, 2018**

Attendees: Sheila Perry – president, Overbrook CA; Morley Brownstein, Bel Air Heights CA; Alex Cullen, Belltown CA; John Stevenson, Bike Ottawa; Robert Brinker, Carlington CA; Alice Nakanishi, Centretown Citizen CA; Roland Dorsay, Champlain Pk.CA; Miranda Gray, Convent Glen, Orleans Wood CA; Archie Campbell, Dalhousie CA; Denys Cooper, Dows Lake RA; Maria Luisa Marti, Friends of James & Bay; Bob Brocklebank, Glebe CA; Angela Keller-Herzog, Glebe CA; Erwin Dreesen, Greenspace Alliance; Lorne Cutler, Hampton-Iona CG; Kul Kapoor, Katimavik-Hazeldean CA; Peter Ferguson, Lowertown CA; Elizabeth McAllister, McKellar Park CA; Grace Strachen, McKellar Park CA; Dorothy Tweedie, McKellar Park CA; Joe Chouinard, New Edinburgh CA; Cindy Parkanyi, New Edinburgh CA; Bea Hampson, Rockcliffe Park RA; Travis Croken, Riverside Park CA; Anne Stairs, Riverview Park CA; Alaine Gossein, Stonebridge CA; Graeme Roderick; Tanglewood-Hillsdale CA and Don Stewart, Westboro Beach CA.

Guests: Councillor Tobi Nussbaum, Rideau-Rockcliffe [13], Councillor-elect Shawn Menard, Capital Ward [17]; Nick Stow, senior planner, city of Ottawa's Resiliency & Natural Systems Planning Unit; Elizabeth Whyte and Karen Hamilton, Centre for Global and Community Engagement, University of Ottawa.

1.0 Welcome: 7:20 pm. Sheila Perry welcomed members and guests to the New Edinburgh Field House, 203 Stanley Ave. The theme of this meeting was Civic Participation in Governing our City.

2.0 Approval of Agenda: Moved by S. Perry and seconded by consensus CARRIED

3.0 Community Association organizing this gathering:

3.1 New Edinburgh is in Ward 13. It is bordered on the north by the Ottawa River, to the south by Beechwood Avenue, to the east by the village of Rockcliffe Park's Springfield Drive and Maple Lane and to the west by the Rideau River. It is comprised of 2500 households, including the Governor General's and the Prime Minister's. In 1887, it was annexed to Ottawa. It is a heritage district. Regarding the NE Community Alliance, which was incorporated in 1989, its mandate is to develop and foster a sense of community, to make representation to governments on matters affecting the community and its residents; and to coordinate activities with organizations of similar interest, either within or outside their neighbourhood. Crichton Community Council, New Edinburgh Community and Arts Centre, New Edinburgh News (published 5 times a year) are ex officio members of the board. The board has committees focused on heritage & development, traffic & safety and Park Vision Working Group. A number of neighbouring community associations periodically met to discuss common issues, share solutions and mutual projects. Its communication e-tools are:-
<http://www.newedinburgh.ca/community-associations/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/NewEdinburghCA> ; and https://twitter.com/New_Edinburgh.

3.2 Since the FCA met here seven years ago, the Field House underwent a refurbishment.

3.3 Greetings were received from NECA's president C. Parkanyi and Councillor T. Nussbaum. Both emphasized the importance of working relationships between the Councillor and neighbourhood associations. He regularly attends board meetings.

4.0 Civic Participation in Governance:

Each Council establishes a set of priorities for that Term, which guides Council and staff in making decisions concerning allocation of resources. Underlying last council's seven priorities was a focus on

achieving/maintaining a sustainable quality of life of citizens in caring communities; while improving the public's confidence in the City's way of doing business. There are over 100 positions on seventeen boards and committees occupied by recruited citizens. [Applications received to December 13] On Nov 28, the 2014-2018 Governance Review will be received by Council, and the Governance Review 2018-2022 will be tabled for consideration at its December 5 meeting. Given that the Council will then begin to work on a statement resetting its 'Term Priorities', what observations and advice might citizen association give to the new Council? And, what ways can citizens meaningfully participate in the governance of their city? For instance, views could be expressed on advisory committees. Regarding mandates for committees such as Planning Advisory Committee, how frequently should they meet to be able to provide a meaningful contribution. Regarding non-mandated ones, prior to 2014, there were a number of advisory committees, such as Parks and Recreation. Should the usefulness of non-mandated advisory committees be revisited? Are there also better ways for the City to meaningfully engage/consult its citizens? Community Associations could express their views on such matters to their Councillors. Perhaps FCA should meet with the mayor to share our commonly-shared concerns and insights.

5.0 Significant Woodlands Guidelines – for identification, evaluation and impact assessments:

Municipalities identify significant woodlands using provincial criteria. Among the stipulations under the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is that these lands must be protected. Other PPS stipulations may conflict with this requirement. These new City guidelines, using an ecosystems approach, are intended to assist in resolving conflicts or striking an acceptable balance. Consultation and comments close December 17.

6.0 Student Volunteer Placements in the Community

Ottawa University's Michaëlle Jean Centre for Global and Community Engagement is seeking placements for students in community setting such as community centre.

7.0 Networking Break

8.0 FCA Workplan – FCA's Focus 2018-19 will be

- i) Supporting Community Associations to do their work.
- ii) Being a collective voice on key projects / issues / policies.
- iii) Increasing the capacity of the FCA.

9.0 Open Mike on local community issues:

- As the new councilors and mayor begin to formulate their 4-year priorities, FCA wants to meet with them, especially newly elected ones, to provide them with our perspective.
- NCC's Urbanism Lab Lecture: Fantastic Trees and Where to Find them April 2019: panel discussion on the importance of urban trees, presenting findings of a tree canopy assessment completed in the National Capital Region, as well as new perspectives from other regions.
- In conjunction with the upcoming review of the City's Official Plan will be a review of the Greenspace Master Plan.
- CAFÉ's Meeting: The November 17 meeting saw 40 in attendance, representing associations from thirteen wards.
- Committee of Adjustment makes decisions on applications for minor variances, 'severing' of property, changes to a non-conforming property, and validation of title or power of sale. J. Blatherwick of Woodpark CA is a knowledgeable person on related matters.
- In the context of the tornado, the City is reviewing its emergency preparedness protocols.

10.0 Approval of Minutes October 17 General Meeting – Moved by Graeme and seconded by Alex.
CARRIED

10.1 Business Arising:

Transportation Committee Recommendation:

MOTION: Moved by Lorne and seconded by Roland

that in the course of Council's upcoming consideration of the 2018-2022 Governance Review Report, the terms of reference of the Transit Commission be revisited with a view of amending them so that significant operational decisions be recommended by the Commission to City Council for approval. CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by Graeme and second by consensus,

that a letter be sent the Mayor and Councillors reflecting this sentiment. CARRIED

Context:

- During the recent municipal election campaign, the FCA heard much public discussion regarding the quality of service provided by OC Transpo, particularly as the City has been transitioning to the integration of Light Rail transit.
- Transit Commission currently reports to City Council for approval on global budget, fare structure and labour negotiation. We believe Council should also be accountable for OC Transpo's operations.

11.0 Treasurer's Report:

Our bank balance is \$9671. Fees for 47 members have been received. New associations who apply now will receive the remainder of this calendar year for free but will be paying now for next year at the 2019 rate.

12.0 Committee Reports: -

12.1 Communication: FCA's November Newsletter went on November 13 with the GM agenda on the 20th. Currently, it's seeking to ensure that the distribution/subscriber list is up-to date and does not have duplications. It's also working on a brochure. Persons interested in joining this committee could speak to B. Brocklebank

12.2 Governance: Civic engagement will remain a concern of the new council.

12.3 Logistics: D. Stewart indicated we are still seeking meeting space and hosts. December meeting will be in Stittsville.

12.4 Finance: The committees of the executive board are preparing their budget for the upcoming meeting.

12.5 Membership: Currently there are 47 members. Our short-term goal is 50 members, and to decrease the number of wards (6) from which FCA does not currently have representation. The third focus of item #8 identifies Membership as being key to our capacity building. Persons interested in helping, should speak to Emilie.

12.6 Planning & Zoning: The monthly gathering was held on November 14 at McNabb Centre. Beyond those in attendance, there are approximately 40 subscribers to our planning e-mail group.

Among the topics discussed were:

- The work of the committee of adjustment:
- Beyond 2036
- Provincial Policy Statement and Official Plan
- A planning forum in the New Year.

Persons interested in learning more about Planning and Zoning should speak to Sheila or Maria Luisa.

12.7 Social: No report.

12.8 Transportation: The last meeting of the Transportation Committee was on November 6 at McNabb Centre. Our workplan for the year would include:

- Two evening workshops: - spring and fall.
- Determining the need of neighbourhoods for data to assist in their decision making.
- Could be by survey,
- Comments on the transportation masterplan.

Persons interest in helping with Transportation matters should speak to Alex

13.0 New Business:

13.1 City's Budget: Because Council will be sworn in on December 3, the budget cycle is out of sync with the City's fiscal year. Our next general meeting will be on 'understanding the city's budget process and its timelines'.

14.0 Adjournment: On a motion made by A. Campbell CARRIED

Graeme Roderick, secretary

Sheila Perry, president