

**Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa [FCA-FAC]
General Meeting of 17 June 2020 by videoconference
Draft Minutes**

Participants: Sheila Perry (chair), Alice Nakanishi, Alex Cullen, Barbara Ramsay, Cheryl Parrott, Mousa Hamid, David Levesque, Don Stewart, Elisabeth McAllister, Erwin Dreessen, Graeme Roderick, Greg E, Jean Cloutier, Jonathan McLeod, Kathy Vandergrift, Kul Kapoor, Lana Jovanke, Lorne Cutler, Marc d'Orgeville, Maria-Luisa Marti, Mary Huang, Miklos Horvath, Miranda Gray, Morley Brownstein, Neil Thomson, Phil Sweetnam, Rachelle Lecours, Robert Brinker, Robert Brocklebank, Roland Dorsay, Ron Rose, Rosalind Curran, Samiha Rayeda, Stefan Baginski, Theresa Kavanagh

Guests: Peter Sloly, Chief, Ottawa Police Service; Kaite Burkholder-Harris, Alliance to End Homelessness

1. Welcoming remarks

Sheila Perry noted that this is the third General Meeting conducted by videoconference because of the pandemic.

2. Approval of agenda

Approved on motion by ML Marti and Robert Brinker

3. Featured community – Greater Avalon

Rachelle Lecours introduced the Greater Avalon Community Association representing some twenty thousand residents in the Orleans area south of Innes Road. Transit is an important issue for the community because rapid transit is only planned for after 2036 to serve the area. Now all the traffic funnels into the Blackburn By-pass and there are serious congestion problems. The association also has concerns about the pace of development in the area and the inadequate infrastructure to support population growth. There is a current application to add 4000 people and an Open House event is scheduled for June 24. There is a small forest in the neighbourhood which the community wishes protected but only one-third of the area is city property.

However the association has received financial support from Les Amis de Mer-Bleu which has been invested in gardens next to the Giselle Lalonde Secondary School greenhouse.

4. Guest speaker: Peter Sloly, Chief, Ottawa Police Service

Chief Sloly briefly outlined his background, immigrating from Jamaica as a child, becoming a member of the Canadian national soccer team and joining the police force in Toronto. In coming to Ottawa as Chief he hopes to update the classic policing model with a more proactive approach of preventing crime. He emphasized the importance of community policing, of serving victims of crime and of collaboration with other services such as public health.

In response to a question about priorities, Chief Sloly outlined four priorities: modernizing policing; advancing equity and inclusion; advancing the health and well-being of police members; and advancing community policing. One initiative in community policing has been establishment of NRT – Neighbourhood Resource Teams such as has just been established for Lowertown. In these initiatives he mentioned working with academics and with Business Improvement Areas.

Asked about the call for “defunding” police, he cautioned against quick decisions based on emotion and drew parallels to the closure of mental institutions years ago which left vulnerable people unserved. He commented that the police are too often seen as a “swiss army knife”, dealing with a myriad of

situations when other agencies might be better positioned to respond, not necessarily in place of the police but in partnership with them.

5. Open Mike – Housing and homelessness

Kaite Burkholder-Harris of the Alliance to End Homelessness spoke about the City's 10 year Housing Plan. She cited Edmonton as an example of positive results in reducing homelessness. In Ottawa she called for coordinated access (meaning that the homeless individual need only make one contact to access multiple agencies) and for real-time data on housing and homelessness. She said there is a system for tracking people who access shelters but a wider sharing of information is needed to ensure the particular person is receiving the appropriate level of support from other agencies. She cited a study in Edmonton in which a small number of people were identified as requiring the most significant support and resources could be redirected accordingly if a coordinating body could be formed. Asked about the housing registry, she noted that this is a question of affordable housing and that evictions for renovation leading to housing units being improved to the point they were no longer affordable, was a significant problem in Ontario.

6. Tow truck regulation

Phil Sweetnam noted that the City is seeking public comment on the regulation of tow trucks. After some discussion it was agreed that an FCA letter would be submitted encouraging the City to press ahead with a system of regulation of the industry.

7. LeBreton Flats Community Benefit Agreement

Mary Huang reported that the LeBreton Flats Coalition continues to seek a formal agreement for ongoing community involvement in the development of the Flats. The NCC has offered consultation but the Coalition proposes to launch a campaign to seek support for a formal community benefit arrangement.

8. Insurance

Lorne Cutler noted that for associations which have an agreement with the City to maintain community rinks, the City has arranged for general liability insurance for those organizations. This year the company providing the insurance, Aon, has sent a supplementary form to the associations seeking information about sexual abuse policies and procedures. Several communities have received similar forms. After discussion it was agreed that Lorne Cutler and Sheila Perry would contact Dan Chenier (General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Facilities) seeking clarification about this apparent new requirement for insurance coverage.

9. Minutes

The meetings of April 22 and May 20 have been recorded. It was agreed that the minutes were considered received.

10. President's report

Sheila Perry noted that ML Marti had offered to provide assistance to associations which are working toward videoconference meetings. She commented that the AGM had been moved to September. The urban boundary issue had been approved on May 27 following two days of presentations. The FCA, GOHBA (Greater Ottawa Home Builders Association) and the City planners continue discussions. A project jointly with the Telfer School of Management has worked on the 15-minute neighbourhood in Barrhaven and another project is under consideration in Carp. An Overbrook workshop on walkable neighbourhoods has been held. There is initial interest from Carleton University about a mapping

project. A briefing by the City on the Infrastructure Master Plan is scheduled for next week. The Committee of Adjustment, which has been holding virtual meetings wants to learn from communities about their experience with this new approach.

11. Committee reports – Planning & Zoning

Robert Brinker reported that discussion have been conducted with GOHBA about the Infill Addendum. FCA has come out in support of the staff position rejecting the GOHBA proposals. Both Infill and R4 zoning proposals have been delayed to August and September respectively.

12. Transportation

Alex Cullen reported that the Transportation Master Plan continues to make slow progress. Our FCA workshop input and results of a survey by the City may influence the eventual form of the TMP. Consultations are being held about the area around LRT stations in Phase 2. The NCC is seeking input for a master plan on pathways. The Transportation Committee is to meet on June25. A new Committee chair will be needed for next year.

13. Communications

ML Marti said that emphasis over the summer will be on revising the website. The committee seeks additional members.

14. Nominations and Awards

Miranda Gray said the committee is seeking indications of interest in serving on the board and is looking forward to nominations for the awards.

15. New Business – Interpretive comment welcome

Bob Brocklebank noted that FCA regularly distributes material received from the City, but in many of the briefings there are subtle indications of future directions, for example hints about the new Official Plan. The various discussion groups we have need not be restricted to what the city says; in addition participants can offer their interpretation in the groups, just as comment has been shared in committee meetings.

16. Adjournment

Moved by Stefan Baginski and seconded by Maria-Luisa Marti