

Heron Park Community Association

Community Zoom Meeting

April 6, 2021

Present:

Shawn Menard (Councillor), Mélanie Boyer (Councillor's Office), Mike Little, Linda Gama-Pinto, Nick Wilson, Susan Carbone, Rosella MacNeil, Clément Berthiaume, Julia and Kevin Driedger, Christopher Mariano, Angie Bueneman, Sara Dunbrook, Marcia Foster, Jill Pringle, Renso Vettoretti, Cynthia Modjeski, Sarah & Addison, Kate Bell, Irene Shumada, Fen McKenna, and Peter Heyck.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION/DECISIONS:

1. Councillor's Update:

- a. City is hiring a staff person to coordinate design work and soil remediation for developing the **Community Centre**. The goal is to start construction in 2022.
- b. Planning continues regarding the new **Splash Pad in Kaladar Park**.
- c. City staff have recommended that a short stretch of **Brookfield Road** (from Junction to Clover) **be designated no-parking** on both sides during winter months. **Pilots for one-sided parking during winter months** for Gregg St (from Junction to Carlsen), Aldea (from Clémentine to Clover) and Clémentine (from Brookfield to Heron) are progressing with next steps being to identify which sides will be restricted and planning to distribute petitions to residents living on those street sections.
- d. An engineer has been hired by the owner of the **development at 1197 Richard** to assess the foundation of the existing house prior to continuing construction at the site.
- e. The developers of the proposed **Riverside/Bank St. Towers** held a consultation which was well attended. A wide range of feedback (eg. height, parking, increased traffic, bridge remediation, etc.) was provided by community association representatives and residents in attendance.
- f. Construction continues along **Heron Road** to complete the cycling tracks, add paint markings and lighting, and re-pave sections that need correction.

Questions:

- a. A Brookfield Rd. East property owner raised concerns with city staff's recommendation to implement a parking restriction on both sides of Brookfield (eg. no parking for visitors, no access for maintenance vehicles). He suggested parking only be restricted on the South side of Brookfield.
- b. Clarification was provided that the City Tree Bylaw applies to trees owned privately and by the City. Concern was noted about tree roots being exposed and damaged at 1455 Clémentine Ave.
- c. Clarification was provided that cycle tracks along Heron Road will run in both directions.

2. Nick Wilson, current **Vice-President of HPCA**, will be moving out of Heron Park. He would like to finish his term as VP and remain involved with projects on which he has worked (eg. Community Centre planning, HPCA Newsletter) until re-elections occur in the Fall of 2021. No objections were raised.
3. The formal City-sponsored “**Clean-the-Capital**” event has been delayed until early May due to COVID-19 restrictions. The **Heron Park Community Clean-up Contest** announced (via the HPCA Facebook page and Email list) from April 15-May15 will go ahead. Residents are being asked to abide by all COVID restrictions while participating in cleaning-up the properties on which they live, the streets in front of their properties, and common spaces in the community such as parks, paths and natural areas. Please social distance, only group together if you are from the same household, and wear masks and gloves. Prizes will be given to 10 lucky people who enter the HPCA contest. Students can also earn volunteer hours for participating.
4. **HPCA memberships** have been difficult to promote and obtain due to COVID-19 and not being able to host in-person meetings during which memberships are sold (\$5/household). Suggestion made to promote a membership drive via the HPCA email list and Facebook page.
5. **Development Updates** were covered under the Councillor’s update.
6. **Bylaw Update:**
 - a. Residents were asked to comply with the **Garbage/Recycling bylaw** which says that garbage/recycling should be stored in back yards, in solid containers (with lids) or in small hard plastic or wooden garbage sheds. Garbage/recycling should not be stored on the front step or in the front/side yard. Some properties store garbage in small wooden or plastic sheds on the side yard, which although against the bylaw, is acceptable. This bylaw is in place to foster public health by discouraging rodent access and preventing wind from scattering recycling/garbage throughout the neighbourhood.

To raise awareness of this bylaw, it was suggested that: 1) a flyer be placed in the mailboxes of buildings to inform occupants of the bylaw; 2) distribute flyers at a time that coincides with changes in school semesters; 3) encourage people to use green bins for food waste to discourage rodents; 4) inform people that each dwelling unit can get one free black, blue or green bin from the city by calling 311, and that landlords should be providing sufficient numbers of bins for the number of tenants. If landlords are not responsive to tenant requests, tenants can contact the Councillor’s office for assistance. 5) call 311 to report problematic properties, as by-law typically takes an educational, rather than punitive, approach to helping citizens comply with city by-laws.
 - b. Residents were reminded that **Front Yard parking** (eg. parking on grass, front walkways, etc.) is a bylaw infraction, and to please park in their laneways, garages,

or on the street (abiding by the street-limit parking restrictions). A resident raised issues with snow removal and the narrowing of Gregg St. near Clover and Carlsen.

7. Other Business:

- a. **Police Presence on Gilles St.** (property owned by Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation) – Police cars attended, guns drawn and rifles pointed. Access to Gilles St. was blocked at Heron Road, as was Richard Ave at Clémentine. Residents on the street were asked to shelter in place. Tenants were evacuated into a bus while police surrounded the building. Illegal activity has been ongoing at this property. Property standards are not being met, related to garbage storage/maintenance and broken windows being boarded for months. The Councillor's office is aware of the issue and is working with city staff who liaise with this Corporation. Suggestion made to make these issues known to our Member of Provincial Parliament, as the provincial government has a mandate for the Landlord and Tenants Act.
- b. A resident raised that **Google Earth** does not situate Heron Park correctly on its map and that certain street name changes have not been updated. Others indicated that it takes quite a while for Google to respond to requested changes. Also noted was a damaged street name post at Richard and Clémentine. Resident asked that when it is repaired, that the spelling of Clémentine reflect the accent.
- c. Question asked about whether any consideration is being made regarding **better pedestrian connectivity between Heron Park and the transit and O-train stations** with work currently underway on Heron Road. Response: not for current project, however, Councillor's office is working with staff regarding any future projects.
- d. Help asked to deal with **flooding of properties (Gilles St.) behind the Blue Heron Mall**. This year's spring melt was quite problematic and eroded the current ditch, which leaves property owners concerned about flooding whenever there is a heavy rainfall. Response: Councillor's office will follow-up with relevant city staff.

8. Closing Remarks:

- a. Stay safe by following the COVID-19 safety protocols and restrictions.
- b. Motorists please be mindful that the warmer weather will increase the number of cyclists, including young children on bicycles and scooters, on our city streets.
- c. Please consider using ecologically supportive yard maintenance habits when doing your spring yard clean-up.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.