

Heron Park Community Association (HPCA)

Community Zoom Meeting 7:00 pm, June 8, 2021

Present:

Shawn Menard (Councillor), Mélanie Boyer (Councillor's Office), Mike Little, Linda Gama-Pinto, Léo Derome, Susan Carbone, Rosella MacNeil, Sara & Addison, Sarah Bickley-Gardiner, Laury Graham, Karina Hanes, Christopher Mariano, Sarah Dillon Randall, Doreen Smith, Leah Stolarski, Clément Berthiaume, Fraser Smith, Debbie Brereton, Marta Khan, Peter Heyck, and Cameron & Julie (last names not shown).

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION/DECISIONS:

1. Councillor's Update:

- a. Planning for the new HP Community Building continues. City staff are also exploring federal grants, however, the Councillor does not want this to delay the project which is anticipated to be completed by 2022-2023 or earlier.
- b. The petition for one-sided parking (Gregg St. – from Junction to Carlsen, Aldea - from Clémentine to Clover, and Clémentine - from Brookfield to Heron) has been finalized. A date will be set, by the Councillor's staff, to deliver them to residents living on those streets.
- c. The source of the flooding behind the houses on Gilles St. is on private, not city property. The Community Association will follow-up with the Councillor's office regarding next steps to remedy the situation (eg. contacting the property owner).
- d. The property that is being suggested for a Linear Park (ie. behind the industrial area on Kaladar) is privately owned, with a very small section owned by the City for a hydro easement. The property owner will need to be approached to assess interest in developing this land.
- e. The repair and maintenance of the tennis courts in Kaladar Park have been flagged to the City staff, who will look into making repairs and their associated costs.
- f. Bike lanes have been completed along Heron Road

2. Community Clean-up Event:

Twenty households participated. Front yards, streets and green spaces were noticeably cleaner following the event. Prizes were given to participants, courtesy of Randy's bottle fund.

During the May community meeting, approval was given to purchase signs for certain areas that tend to require repetitive cleaning. Ten signs have been ordered and will be rotated between problem areas throughout the neighbourhood. They read: This area was cleaned up by residents. Please do your part to keep it clean. Don't litter. Pick up trash. Thank you."

Residents are encouraged to help keep the community clean all year round. Research shows that a cared-for community is a safer community, it reduces crime.

3. Community Orchard:

The Orchard is situated behind the basketball courts in Heron Park (near Clover & Aldea). It is currently being maintained (grass cut, trees/shrubs watered, regular weeding) by a few volunteers. More help is required. Anyone wishing to assist with maintaining the Orchard is asked to email heronparkca@gmail.com. Christopher Mariano expressed interest in helping to maintain the Orchard.

Because the Orchard is tucked away behind the Park, two signs indicating its location have been ordered.

Mike Little indicated that Ecology Ottawa will be giving away tree saplings at the Natural Food Pantry, Billings Bridge Shopping Centre, on Thursday, June 10th from 10am -2pm.

4. Contra-Directional Bike Lane – Clover Street, North of Heron Road

The City recently hosted a Cycling consultation where this was raised. A contra-directional bike lane on Clover St. (north of Heron Rd) has been requested by community for several years, as Clover St. is a one-way street running South to North. This makes cycling from the community to the new bike paths on Heron Road illegal, as bicycles are considered vehicles in the Motor Vehicle Act and must obey all rules of the road.

A Facebook consultation of the community was recently conducted where many residents supported a contra-directional bike lane. Some residents expressed concern that it may impact street parking. As a first step in this process, Mike indicated that he would inform City staff that the community would be interested in seeing, and discussing further, a proposal for this bike lane.

5. By-Law Service Call Trends/Statistics

The HPCA has been receiving By-Law Service Call statistics from the Councillor's office since 2017. The top 5 service calls relate to Parking, Property Standards (eg. garbage, long grass, unkempt buildings and property, etc.), Noise, Provincial Enforcement (eg. new bylaws due to Covid-19 restrictions), and Animals (eg. wild and domestic). Since 2017, Heron Park averages approximately 5000 calls a year.

If you see what you might consider a bylaw infraction (eg. cars parked on the street for more than 3 hours, cars parked on the front yards; overflowing garbage cans, garbage being stored on the front steps or front yard; animals in distress; noise - machinery, loud voices, construction; graffiti; street or park maintenance; abandoned shopping carts; etc.), please make a Service Call by dialing 311 or completing an online form at <https://so311.serviceottawa.ca/selfserve/index.jsp> Your Service Call is confidential.

6. Other Business

- a. Clarification was provided on activity taking place at Rockingham and Gloria, a lot that is currently being surveyed for utilities in advance of developing the lot. Building permits have yet to be shared.

- b. Project Noisemaker, a traffic safety initiative by the Ottawa Police Services to crack down on speeding, stunt driving & excessive noise on city streets was raised given the noise due to racing vehicles & modified mufflers coming from Riverside & Bronson. Response: This ongoing issue (for many years) has been flagged to City staff.
- c. The need for major repairs on Billings Bridge and a redesign of the intersection at Bank and Riverside to help improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers were raised as common themes during several recent community consultations (eg. Lofty Riverside, Cycling, and Bank St. Re-construction). Riverside and Bank is one of the most dangerous intersections in the City. Multi-million dollar developments are being proposed for this intersection. It was expressed that before these developers are given approval by the City, now is the opportune time for these concerns to be addressed. Response: The Councillor has this on his radar during discussions with developers. He has asked for a review of the designs. Mél will send drawings to the HPCA regarding the redesign of that intersection.
- d. Has the community noticed any issues now that the two apartment buildings on the corner of Bank and Heron have tenants? Response: Lights on the balconies are extremely bright. Trees and green space have been maintained. No noticeable increase in car traffic coming from the buildings.
- e. Safety within Heron Park was raised given the numerous Facebook posts related to bikes being stolen and cars being broken into. Response: Bike thefts throughout the city have sky-rocketed during the pandemic. Many of the cars that have been robbed were not locked. These kinds of thefts are taking place throughout the city and are not specific to Heron Park. If you see something suspicious you are encouraged to call the Police. Call 911 for crimes in progress and life-threatening emergencies. Report a non-emergency at 613-236-1222 ext. 7300 or go online and file a report at <https://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.aspx>
- f. Some of the guard rail posts along Clover St., that were broken during the construction, have been replaced. Have the older ones that remain been examined to ensure they are sturdy enough to meet standards required? Response: Mél to flag this to City staff.

7. Closing remarks:

This is the last meeting until September. Issues will be addressed via email, or if something urgent requiring a meeting surfaces during the summer, notices of a special summer meeting will be sent to the community via email and Facebook.

Be safe and enjoy the summer!

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.