

Heron Park Community Association (HPCA)
Community Zoom Meeting
January 3, 2023 7:00 pm

Present: Susan Carbone, Rosella Mac Neil, Linda Gama-Pinto, Marcia Foster, Clément Berthiaume, Heather Earle, Kelly Forney, Mike Little, Renso Vettoretti, Doreen Smith, Malinda Francescut, Peter Heyck, Julia & Kevin Driedger, Gail Priebe, Christopher Mariano, Jay Garlough, Ann Makuch, Steve Haddad

Absent: James McLaren, Nick Wilson

Guests: Miles Krauter, Mélanie Boyer (Councillor's staff)

1. Welcome (Susan)

The meeting began shortly after 7:00.

Motion to **approve the agenda**

Moved by Mike, seconded by Linda. Carried.

Motion to **approve the October 2022 meeting minutes**

Moved by Rosella, seconded by Mélanie. Carried.

2. Seniors Watch Old Ottawa South (Peter)

A sub group of the OOS Seniors group, looking to improve the health of seniors in the community. One way to do this is to help people find new health care practitioners, and other services. They're interested in HP and OOS collaboration, and seniors who are interested in participating. They are looking for office space. It's still in the early stages. One main goal is to help seniors remain in their homes longer.

Susan: Can you post this on FB, then we'll pass it on to the community? Peter: It's premature to send info to public now; he'll do that later, when he'll have something appropriate for the larger community.

3. Councillor's report (Miles)

Miles: He hadn't been told that the meeting was to be held on line, so he went to the field house.

- Capital ward cup: it's HPCA's turn to host this year; who should he talk to about this? TBD
 - 1097 Richard Ave. file: no helpful update available yet from city staff. Bylaw staff told him that they can't do much now; once construction begins, it's up to Property Standards to monitor, ensure the site is secured. He made sure they know they have to register with the vacant property registration.
 - Mel: Clover St. counter flow cycling: a request is in for the sign saying cyclists can travel in both directions. Enquiries were made after their meeting, he's still waiting to hear more on them.
 - 1400 Bank St.: they haven't resubmitted their proposal, so they may just back out of this, after the reaction from staff and councillor. Susan asked what their comments were. Miles said they don't tell him, either, but he thinks city staff wasn't very impressed by the request to designate the property as a node as a justification for their proposal.

- Christopher: Any updates on Bank St reconstruction? Or the towers at Bank & Riverside? Miles: No, not yet for Bank St work. Re Riverside development: the last election brought in a new councillor for the Alta Vista ward, Marty Carr. But there was a promise of \$\$ for traffic calming – if Alta Vista contributes matching funds.

- Mel: a tiny update from Phil Castro re field house: Engage Ottawa web site should be available soon, with much more info. The upcoming tender is for the architect. The EO web site will show all the stages, with another tender for the construction. Linda is anxious to send notice to our community that the EO web site is open for our comments.

4. HPCA Updates

- Community Building was already covered by Mel
- Fall Newsletter (Susan)

Susan: We distributed 1320 copies of a fall newsletter plus another 500 e copies via the councillor's HP mailing and the 800 users of our HP FB page and 215 on the email list. It was an updated version of one circulated two years ago that didn't get as much circulation as we hoped for, so we updated it. Linda: We got 6-7 new FB members after this, plus a few more on the email list. We ran out of paper copies, missed about 500 hard to access homes (no mailboxes, apartment buildings we can't enter). We hope to get more people accessing us electronically. We requested feedback on the newsletter. Should we do another in the summer?

Julia suggested we choose a time when people aren't busy, like just before Christmas. Using the sandwich boards for notices is effective. We should also look into accessing the residents of the large MUBs (multi unit buildings).

Jay: He saw the newsletter in his mailbox and via email, thinks it's useful. If we are looking for increasing membership & participation, a better return on time invested would be to distribute fliers only to the largest multi-unit buildings. For example, is anyone here from the large apartment buildings at Bank & Heron? They may have an internal website or Facebook page we could cross-post to.

Rosella: Good question. My sister lives there so I gave her a copy - but that's one person out of a large number! I'll ask her to speak with their office staff.

Jay: good idea Rosella! I don't mind dropping by their rental office to ask. The main content for spring flier could be cut from community engagement site regarding new community building (EO site).

Miles: folks on our list responded positively! It might be good to have on the spot sign-up sheets for the mail list more widely available :)

- Stocking Stuffer Market & Food Drive - December 18, 2022 (Linda)

Linda: Great event, proposed by Kat involved local crafts, the publicity was done by Kat and others, Randy provided the food and helped Linda put out sandwich boards. \$533 was raised for the food pantry, plus many food donations during the 5 hours it was open. Clementine Towers is a rent-to-income residence, so the higher food costs have affected them greatly. Kathy started the food pantry because someone fainted in the lobby after not eating in two days, which made her realize how hungry people are. Having food available through the pantry reduced the incidence of house break-ins. Police officers provided grocery store certificates.

- Meeting with Councillor's Staff re Planning & Development December 15.

Susan: How things are planned at City level, their outcomes in our community, e.g., bylaw complaints about the low property standards. How can we assist Bylaw Services? Note: city staff and councillor's staff are very different people. They also talked about planning for the new field house and previous problems. We're stymied with respect to limiting two sided street parking in winter. The main offenders are small developers who convert family homes into multi-unit rentals – with no parking. We expect there will be a review of existing bylaws by the new city council, so that may help. Jonathan McLeod in Shawn's office is the key contact for parking problems. She's meeting with him tomorrow (January 4) re: permit street parking.

Proposal: paid permit parking for on street parking in winter on problem streets.

Christopher: he's interested in the meeting re parking and why the City web site says we're not eligible for permit parking on streets.

Mike: re permit parking, we're partly R4, part of the inner urban area being built up.

Julia: She's been in HP since 2000. It takes a while for City to recognize changes in communities. The neighbourhood has changed immensely in the past 20 years.

Malinda: we have had many conversions of single family houses to rentals. Does City change bylaws in response? No, they respond to us asking for changes – if we meet their target levels that justify a change.

Clément: re parking permits and one sided parking, there wasn't much interest. He remembers comments by the councillor that he wouldn't support a restriction to two sided street parking. With respect to discussion at November mtg, he won't support it, sometimes the community doesn't reflect the CA opinions. We should find out from community members if they want to implement parking permits in HP and not rely on the opinions of the small number of people at monthly meetings.

Susan's response: the push to get one sided parking resulted from requests from residents and a follow-up online survey, so we felt that it was the community who wanted this.

Kelly: There are always cars parked on both sides of Apolydore. A neighbour suffered cardiac arrest, the ambulance had to turn around and approach from the other direction to get to the house.

- Outdoor Rinks (Susan)

We got started and then the weather turned against us. Volunteers are very important to help establish the rinks and also to remove snow after a big snowfall.

- Pedestrian triggered beg buttons (Christopher)

Remove the beg buttons at the main intersections. Miles: yes, we don't like forcing people to use a beg button. They usually are only in effect at certain hours. They are helpful to people with impaired vision, as they emit a sound. He'll ask Jonathon about this tomorrow, as he knows more about this issue. Intersections of concern: Bank & Lamira, Clementine & Heron.

Susan said she will raise this at the meeting the next day.

Mike agrees, students going to school use these. He also asked for a sign so people will know how the work. Using an advance light for pedestrians is a really good safety measure.

Christopher: Having a leading pedestrian signal at Lamira, and Bank & Riverside westbound at Riverside, would be a big help.

5. Better South Keys Centre Initiative (Mike)

South Keys Centre is owned by Smart Centres, has two transit stops, the Sawmill Creek pathway and is frequented by Greenboro and South Keys communities. That entire shopping centre will be removed and replaced by high rise buildings. South Keys transit station will be the transfer point for the train to the airport.

A community group has inserted themselves in the planning process. They are called the Better South Keys Initiative (<https://www.bettersouthkeys.ca>). They want more bicycle options, greater density, fewer motor vehicles. It's easy to get there without using a car (on transit) and it should be easy to live there without a car. They've targeted the city-owned Greenboro park and ride for affordable housing, and want an at-grade pedestrian railroad crossing over the tracks to the Home Depot. They have many other proposals for making this a better use of the property. We should take note, for when Billings Bridge shopping centre gets rebuilt.

Please check out their website for more details (<https://www.bettersouthkeys.ca/>

6. Neighbourhood Watch in Heron Park (Rosella)

Deferred to next month

Motion to end meeting: Linda, seconded by Malinda.

The meeting ended at 8:38.