

Heron Park Community Association (HPCA)
Community Zoom Meeting
May 2, 2023 7:00 pm

Present: Susan Carbone, Rosella Mac Neil, Linda Gama-Pinto, James McLaren, Diane Burgess, Julia Driedger, Renso Vettoretti, Keltie Robertson, Peter Heyck, Clément Berthiaume, Steve Haddad

Absent: Nick Wilson, Mike Little

Guests: Miles Krauter (Councillor's staff), Shawn Menard (Councillor, part time)

The meeting began at 7: 02

1. Approval of Agenda (Susan)

A motion to approve the agenda was moved by Linda, seconded by James. Carried.

2. Councillor's Report (Shawn, Miles)

Shawn:

- Good news re Clémentine Blvd resurfacing: the work has started. It will be able to have flex stakes on it.
- Field house: he has been working directly with the project manager.
- Julia is very happy and excited that Bélanger is on the list to be repaved because it has been over 13 years that she has been asking and there is no paved surface any more. Shawn: Brittany is looking into it. He knows it needs to be redone, even though it is a dead end street, it's still a city street and needs to be maintained.
- Bank St renewal Bank St Billings Bridge to Walkley

Miles:

- Please include him if we email Shawn, as HP is his responsibility. He spoke to the traffic calming staff about the speed board, so that will be seen to.
- He raised the issue of the Brookfield bike path Clément had raised to the right person, but that staff person has not responded, so he'll get back to them and then us.
- The numbers of Bylaw reports by street that he was given for recent years cannot be correct. He doesn't know why they are wrong, but they are.

He has SR numbers by ward that he can go back to.

Rats: He requested that the City bait the sewers; that's how he found out that the City isn't doing that any more as the eco friendly bait they were using isn't effective and they won't use the more potent bait as it's too hazardous. That doesn't seem satisfactory, so he'll keep pushing on this matter. Ariel is back in their office now and Shawn is on the environmental committee. He spoke to her about recycling bins with lids. She lives in Québec now, where the recycling bins have lids; she thinks that's a good thing to look into.

Confirmation re policy on street names: Thanks to Clément who did all the leg work.

Diane: City is supposed to be picking up brush resulting from the ice storm, but hers wasn't picked up. Will it get collected? Susan told us that a chipper came by on Chasseur and did the large branches, left the brush, so maybe this will be done soon. Call the City if it isn't.

The City web site said that Bélanger will be resurfaced from Clémentine to 27 m west of Bank Street. Why not all the way to Bank? It doesn't go anywhere else.

Miles: yes, Brittany should be the contact. It's best to email the contact directly.

3. Approval of April 4, 2023 minutes (Susan)

The minutes were previously circulated to the board members and community by email. Moved to approve them: Peter, seconded by Keltie. Approved.

4. Cleaning the Capital - Spring Clean-up Dates (Linda)

Randy and Léo have done a great job on the Sawmill Creek ravine and Heron transit station area; tents and belongings had been left behind when the people left. When they lifted up the tent, there were nests of rats underneath. There was a lot of drug paraphernalia left behind at the Heron site.

She asked Miles for some No Camping signs, hopes that will be useful.

Last year, they made signs that they posted after a clean-up, saying This area has been cleaned up by your neighbours.

There are new signs printed to announce the Spring Clean-up operation that look more professional.

Susan: how can we encourage people to clean up the residue after the recycling and garbage trucks go by? The problem is on blocks with a lot of multiple unit buildings.

Linda: we used to distribute flyers to residents, with a Be a Good Neighbour message.

Miles: he thinks it's the landlords' responsibility to clean up their properties. They can offer reduced rent to a tenant to do some of these jobs: cleaning litter, shoveling walkways and steps, etc.

Renzo: he had a problem with a neighbour who rented, went to the tax office on Laurier, got the name of the owner (landlord). Julia: she doesn't think putting flyers in mailboxes will work, as it doesn't go to the person responsible. There was no fee involved. Miles: but there is a fee if you're enquiring about a building permit.

5. Orchard (Linda)

Last year, Léo tackled many of the buckthorns, which are an invasive species. He planted over 100 saplings. This year, he is tackling the dog strangling vine by covering the plants with tarps. There are 3 kinds of milkweed that we're using to help pollinators.

Julia: Has some tarps that may not be useful for other purposes, i.e. they have a few holes so aren't waterproof but may be useful for tarping over the stuff.

6. New Community Building (Susan)

She asked Phil for an update, which he provided.

RFP has closed, there are about a dozen firms who expressed interest, which is unusually high. It will take a little more time but he expects to have an architect by June. The Engage Ottawa site was not a survey, just a simple box for comments. That was to allow people to say what they wanted, not to be steered in any direction. There will be a more tailored questionnaire later. If people don't want to register, they can send him an email. He has the results of HPCA's earlier survey.

Rosella: how long will this process take?

Susan: we asked the City for a project plan with time lines, we haven't received one yet. E.g., how long should the RFP review process take? And the next phase? Miles has also asked him, hasn't had an answer to that. He thinks we should ask again, for when we have an architect in place. Please cc him on our request.

7. Bylaw Services (Susan)

Susan, Miles, Linda met with Bylaw Services. We'd like to know how we can help reduce the # of Bylaw calls, especially repeat calls for properties. Jennifer Finkleson & Roger Chapman (Director). They are aware of what's going on in HP, that there is a difference with respect to the type and number of calls. They find it similar to Sandy Hill, with its high student population. The meeting went very well. In SH, they have a dedicated team who visited properties; they offered to send that team to HP after move-out weekend, when beds, furniture are left out at the curb regardless of when the next garbage collection is.

We don't call every time we see a violation, only when it's noticeably bad. Also, each new tenant has to have a learning period after they receive materiel. Miles was pleasantly surprised when the 2 staff members offered to include HP. City staff told them they will see a difference soon, in the residents' behaviour.

Miles: Does Heron Park have a "Buy Nothing" Group on FB?

Rosella: Many people use our FB page, rather than in a separate Buy Nothing group.

Linda: No, but there is one in Alta Vista.

Miles: With the trajectory towards more rental housing it may be good to have one for HP. It can help mitigate the lingering furniture on curbs issue (unless the furniture is completely unsalvageable of course).

Julia: Yes, Heron Park does have a Buy Nothing group.

8. Committee of Adjustment (Susan)

HPCA attended the CoA meeting hearing re 1044 Secord Ave, across from the other high bedroom count multi unit buildings. It has 3 bedrooms and a garage, on the drawings, so that may lower the likelihood of a high bedroom count. Having a garage means there is room for garbage and recycling storage. But we know that the finished building doesn't always match what's in the drawings.

The concerns raised included storage of garbage and recycling at the front of property. Linda: she wrote a letter re this development in particular, to object. She asked for the approval to be tied to the plan, as in the past what was built did not include everything in the original plan submitted and approved.

Miles: Roger told them that Sandy Hill got a specific property standards term included in their approvals, re storage of bins. City councillors are not supposed to interfere in CoA proceedings. An occasional letter is allowed, but not generally. He offered to meet with that property agent, if we want him to. We asked him to do that.

In one case, tenants didn't have to move bins from rear to front because there are 2-3 steps in the sloped terrain of the lot. Because this is not part of CoA mandate, it becomes a de facto Bylaw enforcement problem. Very frustrating!

9. Other business

No additional items were raised.

Julia moved to end the meeting, seconded by Linda.

The meeting ended at 8:21.

Note posted on chat during meeting but not discussed.

Keltie: If you ever need anything like signs or flyers translated to French, let me know!