

Bay Ward Council

Meeting Notes

June 3, 2009

Attendees: Janet McFarland, Joe Hager, Brian Payne, Dave Grosvenor, Kay Rawlings, Steve Hopwood, Inta Zobs, Werner and Marg Daechsel, Ruth Tremblay, Pat Flynn, Mary Morrison, Elizabeth Meredith, Craig Cornell of City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation, Dan O'Hagan, Councillor Alex Cullen.

Associations in Attendance: The Conservatory, Woodroffe North Community Association, Crystal Beach Lakeview Community Association, Whitehaven, Woodpark Community Association, Regina School, Britannia Village Community Association, Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre

Police Services Report

Cst. Keen was not able to attend today's meeting because of another assignment that day. Councillor Cullen introduced the 2007-2008 Police Ward Profiles, which have recently been released. He noted that for the City as a whole, the rate of criminal code offences excluding traffic was down nearly 10% from 2007 to 2008, while the solvency rate was up by roughly 13% year over year. While any crime is troubling, Ottawa remains a relatively safe city compared to other large Canadian cities. The rate of traffic offences, unfortunately, was up a bit overall, year over year.

For Bay Ward, similar to the City, the rate of criminal code offences is down by roughly 20% and the solvency rate is up, but traffic offences are up a bit year over year.

As with the City as a whole, Bay Ward overall remains a safe part of the City, with some remaining issues which the Police department is working to address.

Recent crime and policing statistics, including recent activity reports, are available on the Ottawa Police Services website.

The STEP program (selective traffic enforcement program), part of the Integrated Road Safety Program, chooses a different priority each month. For June the focus will be on motorists to exceed set speed limits in construction zones and those who drive impaired. Provincial legislation allows for the doubling of fines for exceeding posted limits in construction zones when workers are present, and during the month of June this legislation will be applied with a zero tolerance approach. In Ottawa between 2006 and 2008, 494 collisions occurred, with 107 injuries, six of them serious.

The STEP teams will also be teaming up with CAA to deliver additional RIDE checkpoints. In 2008, there were 373 collisions attributed to impaired driving, with 154 injuries, 17 of them serious, and 7 deaths. The vast majority of the impaired driving incidents involve males between 16 and 25, so while this is a continuing priority, it will be emphasized this month by the STEP program.

Additional information about the reports referred to above, and other information, can be found on the OPS website. Crime statistics can be analyzed using the new Google based crime analysis tool available to the public through the OPS website (www.ottawapolice.ca). This tool uses the crime statistics compiled by OPS and allows anyone to do an analysis of the crime statistics in their part of Ottawa. This tool is now available for use, and will be updated as new statistics are available.

Parks and Recreation – White Paper on Recreation Master Plan – Craig Cornell

Craig Cornell, of Parks and Recreation, introduced the City's White Paper and public consultation process on the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

This Paper was done under policy direction from Council and will update the City's vision and mission, strategic direction and priorities for parks and recreation policy. An update is needed to manage for growth and change, ensure that facilities are accessible and inclusive as the City and its needs change, and improve efficiencies so more and better programs can be delivered. Some changes and updates to the City's recreation infrastructure (fields, structures, equipment) will be needed as the City changes and grows, and the City would like to hear from citizens on what direction these changes should take.

The process will take place in two stages. Phase 1, which should be ready by the Fall of 2009, will update the City's key strategies and policy directions, and Phase 2, ready in the winter of 2010, will deliver a full service delivery model and infrastructure implementation plan for consideration by Council. Both of these stages will allow for extensive public consultation. The first stage, which begins now, will be mostly web based and should result in preliminary recommendations for Council by December of this year. The White Paper has been posted on the City website since May, and feedback will be solicited over several months. After analysis and some feedback, with more consultation if necessary to clarify some points, Council will have a report by the end of the year, with a slippage date of January if some issues need more consultation. Several papers in addition to the major white paper, covering funding issues, accessibility and inclusion issues, service delivery issues and models, are also available on the website and the City invites comments and suggestions. Please consult the Parks and Recreation Master Plan section on the City's website (www.ottawa.ca) for more information and continuing updates. Written responses can be sent in electronically, or dropped off at community centres or library branches.

Community Associations Update

Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre – Janet McFarland

Pinecrest-Queensway CHC held a cultural diversity event, with a BBQ, that was well attended. Given the changing nature of the population and the changing needs of the client population in the PQ catchment area, more such events are planned. Information on this and other events is available on the PQ website at www.pqchc.com.

Janet reported on the current state of the Community Development Framework (CDF) for Bayshore, an initiative to bring a variety of programs and services provided by different government and private providers, into some cooperative effort that will allow for integrated services that meet client needs as they emerge and change. At the moment the staff associated with the CDF are doing a survey to get more information on existing and changing needs and the facilities and programs available at the moment to meet them. The effort to build this new framework is now being referred to as Hand-in-Hand Bayshore, and monthly meetings of interested providers and community leaders are being held. As this initiative proceeds, we will update the Councillor and the Ward Council.

Woodroffe North Community Association – Dave Grosvenor

The WN Community Association had a successful cleanup event in cooperation with the Spring Cleaning the Capital staff from the City, and will be doing this again next year. A successful garage sale was also held in May, to coincide with the opening of the new Byron pathway extension. Later this year, the community will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the first settlement in the community, in what is now the large open area at the corner of the Parkway and Woodroffe Avenue. A street party in September will, it is hoped, also unveil a small book on the history of the community which is now being worked on. More information will be reported as it becomes available.

Woodpark Community Association – Steve Hopwood

The Woodpark BBQ and cleanup in May netted 56 bags of garbage, and coincided with the Byron strip pathway official opening, for which Councillor Cullen provided cake and prizes and Ottawa West-Nepean MPP Jim Watson attended. Thanks to both for their encouragement and support.

Infill issues are still a concern, and the Community Association would like to begin a Community Development Plan (CDP) to address these issues and develop a secondary plan for the area. Woodroffe North Community Association has expressed interest in working with us on this, and a meeting will be held soon to explore common issues.

The Conservatory – Brian Payne

The Board will be meeting soon with police to continue our discussions on police protocols with respect to calls about break-ins; this caused some concerns recently, and it is our hope that we can come to an understanding that meets everyone's needs. An update will be provided on this issue.

As well, the issue of the missing garbage can at the nearby bus stop is still unresolved.

Crystal Beach Lakeview Community Association – Ruth Tremblay

Residents in the community would like to know more about plans to resurface Carling in the Holly Acres area, including possible timetables for this work. There is also new watermain work imminent in this area, and residents would like to be assured that this work will be coordinated with the roadwork and not result in the road being torn up after it has been resurfaced. They would also like to be updated on tree planting on Holly Acres and in Maki Park, and on the progress of new signs in Andrew Haydon Park with respect to dogs in the park.

A recent garage sale was well attended and this will be repeated.

Residents are still not happy with the Transplan 2009 plans for Buses 59 and 166. They understand the motivation behind the changes, but do not like having to transfer at Bayshore and get on a crowded bus downtown, neither of which were necessary before.

Britannia Village Community Association – Inta Zobs

The Village held a successful garage sale, and a social event at the yacht club. This was very pleasant and will be done again. It was suggested that the Councillor and other local elected official should be invited to these events as a matter of course, and such invitations will be issued for future events.

Issues around floodproofing on the flood plain are still unresolved, and a number of residents on Kehoe Street, particularly, are not happy with slow pace at which this issue is being resolved in a way that meets everyone's needs.

Councillor Cullen's City Hall Report

The Ward Council BBQ will be held at the Ron Kolbus-Lakeside Centre on July 8, and will feature food and entertainment. All Bay Ward Council attendees (and volunteers) are invited to attend.

Councillor Cullen provided an update on the current state of Phase 1 of plans to extend the light rail rapid transit system, which involves the construction of a downtown tunnel and light rail from Tunney's Pasture to Blair, which will replace buses on the existing Transitway and eliminate associated bus traffic downtown.

This first phase is now out for an environmental assessment (EA), which will involve extensive public consultation over the next few months. Those interested in details on this consultation, and who want the latest updated information, should consult the City's website for times, places and methods that will be used in this consultation process.

Current plans are to start construction of the tunnel in 2012, assuming the environment assessment process has been concluded successfully, and the system out to Tunney's Pasture and Blair should be completed by 2017, provided that funding is in place. The finished product will have 4 downtown stations, each roughly 180 metres long, with multiple entry points from the street level. It is expected that there will be considerable development opportunities, both at surface level and at station level, and these will be clarified and negotiated as they emerge. The tunnel itself will be double tracked, with twin parallel tunnels. The overall cost of the tunnel is estimated to be roughly \$600 million, out of a total \$1.8 billion for all of Phase 1. These numbers will be clarified as the EA process develops, and funding from other levels of government is currently being sought.

The Councillor will be introducing a motion at Committee to develop a living wage policy for the City that ensures all contractors and others doing work for the City pay a decent minimum wage to their employees that allows them to live a decent life. ACORN, a local community development organization, estimates that this figure, for Ottawa, should be set at \$13.25/hour. Only a small number of City employees (roughly 400) would be affected by this policy, but the major impact would be on contractors who do business with the City, some of whom (but not all) currently pay below this level. A report has been prepared and will be submitted. The most important point to note here is that roughly 50,000 people in Ottawa currently work below the poverty line, and these people are both vulnerable and represent a cost to the City, since they are users of a variety of programs that are funded by the City. A policy which reduced the demand for a variety of these social and support programs would represent a net saving to the City. Roughly 130 US cities have adopted a living wage program.

The initiative to ban arms related trade shows in City facilities was presented to Council, but was not dealt with because of a lack of quorum. This motion will be reintroduced at a later date.

The Councillor gave a quick update on plans for the 2010 budget. More information on this process is on the City's website, and you will receive updates as new information is available. The current plans are for each Council committee to develop a series of proposals in its area of jurisdiction by early November. This information will be assembled by Finance and Audit Committee into a draft budget, which will be released for consultation in early December. The process should result in a final staff report to Council by the end of January, at which point consultation and Council deliberation will take place, on a timetable that has not yet been finalized. It is understood that the budget must account for inflation in the City's cost of doing business, and a 2% capital levy, similar to that introduced last year, will also form part of the budget. Beyond that, the actual spending and revenue plans will emerge from consultation and discussion. You will be kept updated on this process.

A variety of EA's will begin this spring. A consultant has been hired for the West Transitway extension out to Bayshore and from Bayshore to Moodie Drive (2 separate projects). Happily, it appears that a new transit garage may not be needed, and Roman Avenue may not be needed as well, which will make residents relieved. This first EA will begin soon, and you will be updated. On the Bayshore to Moodie extension an open house will be held at Maki House on June 25 from 5-9 pm, with a presentation at 7 pm.

On another matter, Carlingwood library is now equipped to take recyclable batteries.

Next Bay Ward Council Meeting:

Next Bay Ward Council meeting will be held Wednesday September 9, 2009 (note that this is the second Wednesday, and not the first as usual) and will start at 7:00 p.m. at the Ron Kolbus-Lakeside Centre in Britannia Park.

This document and related information is also available on the Councillor's website (www.alexcullen.ca). If you need to have this material in hard copy, please phone our office (613-580-2477) and let either Sheila or Lara know.

If you wish to be added to our mailing list, or if you know someone else who should get this material, please phone, or email me (alex.cullen@ottawa.ca) and let me know the e-mail addresses. We will add them to our Ward Council e-mail list.