

Bay Ward Council

Meeting Notes

February 4, 2009

Attendees: Larisa Williams, Denis Pelletier, Ruth Tremblay, Pat Zagar, Aline Lauzon, Pat Flynn, Rich Nelson, Natalie Steele, Werner and Marjorie Daechsel, Bert Foulds, Judy Patterson, Mary Morrison, Madeleine Legault, David Keenan, Cst. Maria Keen, Rosalyn Stevens, Dan O'Hagan, Councillor Alex Cullen.

Associations in Attendance: Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre, Bayshore Shopping Centre, Crystal Beach Lakeview Community Association, Glabar Park Community Association, City of Ottawa Parks and Recreation.

Police Services Report

Cst. Maria Keen gave an update on crime and policing issues in the community. She noted that there was a slight rise in thefts from vehicles across the West Division in January, and advised people in the community to remember to lock vehicles and make sure that valuables are not visible, and that personal ID, vehicle registration, credit cards and other material that could be used for identify theft should not be left in cars, since most thefts of this type are crimes of opportunity.

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

She also noted that the most recent annual Ward profiles are available on the Ottawa Police Services website, and show a general decrease in criminal activity in all major categories for the most recent period available, 2007. The statistics show that Bay Ward had a better record than most parts of the City and the City as a whole for rates of incidence and rates of increase/decrease in major crime categories.

Cst. Keen noted that these and other 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.

Community Associations Update

Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre – Larisa Williams

Larisa outlined the new Community Development Framework project that is being put in place in the Bayshore area. The Community Development Framework (CDF) is a new way of bringing community partners and resources together to work collaboratively on common problems and of aligning City services in a way that meets the needs of people in the community.

Under the CDF approach, neighbourhoods such as Bayshore, and other communities which are also trying this new way of aligning services, will be encouraged to set up consultation mechanisms to identify issues and problems and to define goals at the community level. The CDF will set up systems and community supports, including financial, knowledge and other resources, to work on addressing the issues and achieving the goals set by the community.

Starting with a local steering committee of community members and advisors, Bayshore will be linked to committees of staff and professionals at the City wide level, which will be able to do research, find resources (staff, money, information, equipment) and work with the community to assign people and resources to address community issues.

The point of this approach is to increase the capacity of neighbourhoods to identify and solve their problems, to improve planning and delivery of programs, and to sustain changes by evaluating how effective the changes are in addressing issues identified by the community.

Several steering and resource committees will be set up in the next few months, and citizens will be encouraged to get involved. In the next few weeks, members of the community will be receiving information about informal meetings and information sessions.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation on the CDF approach will be posted to the Councillor's website (www.alexculen.ca). Those who are interested in more information should contact Larisa Williams, who will be responsible for coordinating this project on behalf of Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre. There is also a CDF website at www.cdfottawa.ca.

Crystal Beach Lakeview Community Association – Ruth Tremblay

Ruth reported that the community association's annual Winter carnival at Maki Park had good attendance.

She also noted that the first phase of the Environmental Assessment for the Ottawa River Bridge Crossing has now drawn to a close and that - pending NCC approval of the consultant's recommendation that a bridge be built in the east end of the city at Kettle Island - Phase 2 will begin soon, without any further consideration of a bridge in the west end of the city. The community association and other members of the Ward who worked to ensure that no bridge was recommended for the west end have achieved a major victory on this issue.

The community continues to be concerned about noise issues in connection with the West Transitway extension and bridge work at Moodie Drive, and will be lobbying the City and the

Province for commitments on noise abatement measures. More details on these issues will be forthcoming as these developments proceed.

The City is currently engaged in a Dogs In Parks policy review, and all parks in the City are being reevaluated for dog use. The community association is concerned about changes in the rules with respect to dogs in any of the area parks, and believes that the City needs to consult with community associations before any changes are made.

The Community Association continues to be concerned about noise and pollution issues connected with geese in Andy Haydon park, and has formed a committee to look at solutions. More details will be brought to future Ward Council meetings.

The Community Association will be meeting with City officials in mid February to discuss a business plan for the purchase of St. Thomas School under the City's policy of acquiring surplus school property for community purposes. A question that has arisen in discussions on this issue is whether school renovations or upgrades might be eligible for funding as a result of the recent Federal Budget, which sets aside money for new infrastructure projects. The Community Association will be contacting the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Baird, on this issue.

Bayshore Community and Bayshore Shopping Centre – Denis Pelletier

Bayshore Community Association will be holding its Winter Festival February 16, 11 am to 3 pm, by the ice rink.

Mr. Pelletier noted that the expansion plans for Bayshore Shopping Centre have now been delayed by the recession, and will likely not start until the economy has begun to recover.

Whitehaven Community Association – Werner Daechsel

Werner noted that there has been some discussion in the community about how the funding for infrastructure projects in the recent Federal budget might affect local communities and asked about whether the City will be accessing increased funds for Social Housing as a result of the budget. Councillor Cullen estimated that the City would be eligible for roughly \$66 million in federal funds for social housing, and discussions with the Federal Government on access to these funds have begun. More information on this issue will be brought to a future Ward Council meeting.

Glabar Park Community Alliance – Judy Patterson

The community association has a new website at www.glabarpark.ca. The site is being administered by Dave Morrow.

City Hall Report – Councillor Alex Cullen

Dave Keenan of the City's Parks and Recreation noted that city summer camps are now recruiting for staff, and that the City website has information on the jobs available and application forms. He also noted that the Spring/Summer 2009 Guide to City Parks and Recreation programs is expected

out soon and will be distributed through community centres and City service centres. The information will also be available on the City website.

Councillor Cullen presented a summary of current information on plans to return OC Transpo to full service as a result of the end of the transit strike. He noted that the principle being followed in getting service back is to have the O-Train running immediately and to work from the Transitway outward in returning buses and routes to service.

Under this plan the O-Train will be in service as of Monday the 9th of February, service on main lines and the Transitway will resume within a week, and other service will be returned as soon as bus maintenance and Provincial safety certifications can be achieved. Full normal weekend service will begin starting February 7, and will be free.

A number of other incentives for riders to return to public transit, and reimbursement for unused Transit Passes, have also been put in place. Some of the details of these incentives are still being worked on, and full details are available on the City website, the OC Transpo website and will be contained in ads to be run in all newspapers. The details of these incentives will also be posted on the Councillor's website.

Councillor Cullen noted that while Phase One of the Interprovincial River Crossings Environmental Assessment is now complete and recommended against any crossing in the west end, this recommendation still needs to be ratified by the NCC. An NCC Board meeting on this issue will be scheduled for later in February (details on City website, through the NCC and will be announced in local papers) and this meeting will be open to the public.

Councillor Cullen noted that draft comprehensive amendments to the City's Official Plan have now been tabled and will be discussed by Council later this year. A presentation on this issue will be made at the next Ward Council meeting by City staff.

Councillor Cullen also noted that amendments focus on four issues: expansion of the urban boundary; support for intensification and design; implementation of the Rural Settlement Strategy; and the protection of wetlands.

The cost of implementing the Official Plan is estimated at \$98.5 million over the 22 year planning period, and the key expenditure is the acquisition of natural areas.

An Open House and Workshop on changes to the Official Plan will be held at City Hall on February 24. Details on this and background documentation are available on the City website.

Councillor Cullen summarized the recent announcement by the NCC of a new review of the Greenbelt Master Plan. The NCC has engaged a firm of consultants to engage in a broad consultation plan over the next two years, culminating in a draft Master Plan for the future of the Greenbelt in the fall of 2011.

The Greenbelt Master Plan is the NCC's main guide in planning and decision making around land use throughout the National Capital area, and the current plan, dating from 1996, requires updating to reflect current realities such as population growth, revised municipal boundaries, regional economic diversification, and other concerns such as protection of the environment.

A Public Advisory Committee will be struck in early 2009 to reflect the interests and perspectives of a variety of stakeholders throughout the National Capital area.

As Councillor Cullen noted, based on our experience with the River Crossings Environmental Assessment, it is possible to have a significant impact on the outcome of this study if we are organized and focused on those issues which we want to pursue. E-mails will be sent out in January to community associations soliciting ideas and interest for a Bay Ward based committee to follow this process and monitor how it is dealing with issues of interest to Bay Ward residents.

A copy of the NCC PowerPoint presentation outlining the importance of the Master Plan and the process to be followed in amending it is available on the Councillor's website at www.alexculen.ca.

Councillor Cullen also noted that community comments on major issues to be dealt with at the Ward level in 2009 are invited. A draft list of important issues and events expected in 2009 was distributed at an earlier meeting and has been posted on the Councilor's website.

The 3rd annual Bay Ward Murder Mystery fundraising dinner will be held at Ron Kolbus-Lakeside Centre on Friday April 3rd. The theme this year is Murder On the O-Train. This is a catered dinner, with a Silent Auction and cash bar. Proceeds from the event this year will go to the Boys and Girls Club. Details on the event, including ticket prices, are available on the Councillor's website, and tickets can be purchased through the Councillor's office at 613-580-2477.

More information on times and agendas/minutes of Council and Committee meetings at City Hall, as well as details on a number of the programs and meetings referred to in the Councillor's report, are available either through the Councillor's website at www.alexculen.ca, or on the City website at www.ottawa.ca.

Next Bay Ward Council Meeting:

Next Bay Ward Council meeting will be held Wednesday March 4, 2009 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.alexculen.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.