

Bay Ward Council

Meeting Notes

March 4, 2009

Attendees: Elizabeth Meredith, Anita Mellow, Sherril Noble, Peter Henselmann, Shirley Mosley, Jane Pattison, Maurice Charlebois, Rich Nelson, Linda Piovesan, Bert Foulds, Steve Hopwood, Don Ford, Dianne Monette, Sharon Stephens, Ruth Tremblay, Dave Grosvenor, Pat Flynn, Aline Lauzon, Mary Morrison, Judy Patterson, Steven Beaby, Corrie Zatyhec, Michelle Hynes, Madeleine Legault, Werner and Marjorie Daechsel, Susan Goddard, Inta Zobs, Carol Smith, David Keenan, S. Sgt. Don Sweet, Sgt. Atallah Sadaka, Cst. Maria Keen, Dan O'Hagan, Councillor Alex Cullen.

Associations in Attendance: Bay Ward Public Safety Organization, United Neighbours, Crystal Beach-Lakeview Community Association, Woodpark Community Association, Woodroffe North Community Association, Glabar Park Community Alliance, Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre, Whitehaven, Olde Forge Community Resource Centre, Regina School and Britannia Village Community Association, 2651 Regina Tenants Association.

Police Services Report – Cst Maria Keen, S. Sgt. Don Sweet, Sgt. Atallah Sadaka

Cst. Maria Keen was accompanied by Staff Sergeant Don Sweet of the newly established Robbery Unit and Sgt. Atallah Sadaka of the West Division, who gave an update on crime and policing issues in the community and recent events involving criminal activity along Carling Avenue between Pinecrest Road and Bayshore Drive.

S. Sgt. Don Sweet is the head of the Robbery Unit, which was formed as a centralized unit last April to bring together resources from across Ottawa Police Services to concentrate on robberies, both investigation and crime prevention. The Unit has 10 fulltime investigators, as well as two sergeants and one staff sergeant, and works closely with other OPS units, including the West Division and the Guns and Gangs Unit, sharing information and resources in both directions. The Robbery Unit is currently working on files at the rate of roughly 1,000 a year, but one of the ten investigators has been assigned full time to work on the recent rash of robberies in the Carling Avenue area.

S. Sgt Sweet noted that most of the unsolved cases in the Carling area can't be discussed in any detail since investigation is ongoing, but that the recent issues in the area between Pinecrest Road and Bayshore Drive have their full attention, and resolving these issues is seen as a high priority at every level, from the Chief down.

In the first two months of 2009, robbery crimes across Ottawa are up 51% over the same period last year, and this includes 25 corner store robberies. 13 bank robberies have been reported, which is more than double the rate of last year at this time. This pattern is similar across Ontario, and may be attributable to the economic climate. OPS will keep residents informed and updated as more information becomes available.

Sgt. Sadaka pointed out that in the week previous, West Division held 3 meetings on this issue alone, and is working closely with S. Sgt. Sweet's unit. There are 17 officers in the Community Police section of West Division, and they are working to increase visible police presence on the street and well as assigning non-visible resources, and forwarding information to the Robbery Unit. Sgt. Sadaka is available by phone or email, and welcomes contact from residents with information or questions.

Cst. Keen outlined the preventive side of the work that is done by the Community Police section of West Division. In particular, she has been working in the community to build alliances that will strengthen people's ability to work with the police on prevention. West Division has reinstated the Business Watch program, and is going to each store in the division to deliver a robbery/fraud/counterfeit package.

The Division is also promoting the idea of CPTED audits (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), and will do audits of local business and facilities at request. Research has shown that environmental design can reduce both the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime, through the use of design and related principles that make it more difficult to carry out criminal acts. CPTED is part of a comprehensive approach to crime prevention. By changing the physical environment, it complements community-based policing, Neighbourhood Watch, and other programs that address some of the root causes of criminal behaviour.

The Division is also working with Ottawa Community Housing to identify safety issues and engage with staff and the community for more effective crime prevention, and is holding a series of meetings designed to empower local residents to deal with safety and crime issues by being more watchful and keeping local police informed of issues and information that might be helpful in addressing crime related issues. Among the community initiatives in the area that the OPS is involved in are: United Neighbours (a Crime Prevention Ottawa initiative involving neighbourhoods in the west end), the Bayshore Community Development Framework project (a City of Ottawa initiative in Bayshore), and the OCH Healthy Community Initiative in Britannia Woods.

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

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.

Revisions to the Official Plan – Alain Miguelez

Alain Miguelez of the City of Ottawa's Planning Department provided an update on the draft amendments to the Official Plan and the process leading to adoption of a revised City of Ottawa Official Plan later in 2009.

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.

Projections made by the City of Ottawa see significant growth in population, households and jobs between 2009 and 2031, requiring the City to accommodate roughly 150,000 new housing units. It is expected that the City will require an expansion of roughly 850 additional hectares to the urban boundary in order to accommodate some of this growth – the balance coming through intensification.

Given the City's rapid transit plans, and the intensification targets contained in the Official Plan amendments, development of additional and existing urban land will be guided by intensification targets, design guidelines (to be developed) and significant investments in new transit infrastructure designed to promote urban intensification.

This urban intensification strategy will be accompanied by a policy designed to preserve the character of existing rural settlements, and significant investment in the purchase and preservation of existing natural areas, especially wetlands.

The proposed Official Plan Amendments were tabled at a joint meeting of Planning and Environment Committee (PEC) and the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee (ARAC) on February 2, 2009.

Public meetings on the proposed amendments will continue with a joint meeting of these committees on March 31, to hear oral submissions from the public.

These submissions, along with written submissions received to date and directions from the joint committee, will be incorporated into a set of revised amendments, which will be presented to a meeting of the joint committee in May, at which time further oral submissions on the revised amendment will be heard.

Final committee recommendations to Council will be discussed at Council on May 27, and the Plan as adopted will be submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the summer of 2009. Approval is expected by Fall 2009.

Details of the amendments, revisions to the amendments as they are made, and supporting documentation, are available on the City website. A copy of Mr. Miguelez's PowerPoint presentation is available on the Councillor's website at www.alexculen.ca.

Community Associations Update

Due to the length of staff reports this month, there were no community association reports. Community association reports will resume next month. Many community associations now have websites, and information on these and other community events can be found on the Councillor's website at www.alexcullen.ca.

City Hall Report – Councillor Alex Cullen

Paul McCann from the City of Ottawa will make a brief presentation regarding Spring Cleaning the Capital at the April meeting.

Our Bay Ward Spring Cleaning Thank You BBQ will be held on Saturday, April 25 - Spring Cleaning the Capital Day - from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents are urged to register their cleaning projects through 3-1-1 (or check details on the City website), and to attend the BBQ to meet other public spirited citizens and enjoy food and drink, courtesy of local merchants and Enbridge.

Councillor Cullen reported on the recent detection of methane gas at the former McGee Farm landfill at Richmond Road and the Western Parkway. This is currently a vacant lot which was a municipal landfill many years ago. Houses in the area are being tested for methane in the basement. Methane is not toxic in small quantities, but it pools in low areas and can crowd out oxygen. More information will be shared with residents as the results of these tests are available.

Councillor Cullen also gave a quick update on stormwater management projects in the Ward. All stormwater drains in the West end of the City are designed to drain to the Ottawa River, and over the next few years a combination of new infrastructure (piping and settling ponds) will need to be built at a number of critical points across the City. An example of relatively recent settling ponds, which are designed to become part of the natural environment and provide a home for a variety of wildlife, is the pond at the Parkway just east of Bayshore. As a result of an ongoing study of stormwater issues under the Stormwater Management Plan, infrastructure in Crystal Beach was updated three years ago, using new technology to coat existing pipes with a new lining, which did not require digging up existing pipes. A similar job will be done in Lakeview later this year.

Councillor Cullen noted that as of March 16, OC Transpo services will be fully operational in all parts of the City. This is 3 weeks ahead of schedule.

OC Transpo experienced a \$22.7 million shortfall because of the strike and resulting delay in resumption of services at the end of the strike, together with incentive programs to resume use of transit services. This will result in scaling back some new bus purchases this year, and the extended use of some existing buses which were scheduled for retirement. Fare increases contained in the last budget will now be delayed until July 1.

The Councillor also noted the impending deadline (March 27) for submissions to the Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP). This is designed to help the City of Ottawa meet its environmental objectives; City programs include solid-waste diversion, water efficiency,

wastewater, the water environment, sustainable development and broader global climate issues. The program provides funding for small-scale, community-based initiatives managed by non-profit organizations interested in the improvement and preservation of our environment. A total of \$50,000 is available each year. Eligibility criteria, forms and examples of successful projects are contained on the City's website.

Earth Hour this year will be on March 28, and the City is an active participant and promoter of the idea. Earth Hour was started in Sydney, Australia in 2007, and has since spread around the world. It encourages individuals, businesses and governments to join in turning off lights to demonstrate the need for action on climate change. Participants are asked to turn off their lights from 8:30 to 9:30 pm. Sign up online at the City website to register support.

Environmental Assessments for the Ottawa River Parkway LRT and for the West Transitway extensions are expected to begin this spring, and should take 18 months to complete. More information on these projects will be shared as it becomes available.

Finally, there are still spots available for *Murder On the O-Train*, the Third Annual Murder Mystery fundraising dinner at the Ron Kolbus-Lakeside Centre on Friday April 3. This is an annual event organized by the Councillor to raise funds for organizations in the community. This year the Boys and Girls Club will be the beneficiary of the funds raised. There will be a catered dinner, a mystery written and performed by the Lakeside Players, and silent auction. Tickets can be purchased through the Councillor's office, at 613-580-2477.

Next Bay Ward Council Meeting:

Next Bay Ward Council meeting will be held Wednesday April 1, 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.alex.cullen.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.