

Bay Ward Council

Meeting Notes

January 7, 2009

Attendees: Because of the extreme weather alert and heavy snowfall, attendance at the monthly meeting was lighter than usual. About 8 to 10 people were able to make it to the meeting.

Police Services Report

Because of issues related to the weather, Cst. Keen was not able to attend the meeting. Councillor Cullen noted that the Ward Crime Trends Profiles for 2007, containing a great deal of information about crime and policing trends in each City ward, are now available on the Ottawa Police Services website at www.ottawapolice.ca. The Bay Ward statistics are summarized in the table below.

Key Crime Trends						
Offence	2006 Actual	2006 Rate (1)	2007 Actual	2007 Rate (1)	3-Year Average (2)	% Change 2006-2007 (2)
Crimes Against The Person	370	786.4	307	654.7	348.0	-17.0%
Crimes Against Property	2,177	4,627.3	2,189	4,667.9	2,052.0	0.6%
Other Criminal Code of Canada Offences	303	644.0	262	558.7	313.3	-13.5%
Total CCC Offences Excl. Traffic	2,850	6,057.8	2,758	5,881.2	2,713.3	-3.2%
Criminal Code Traffic Offences	159	338.0	174	371.0	154.3	9.4%
Total CCC Offences Incl. Traffic	3,009	6,395.7	2,932	6,252.3	2,867.7	-2.6%
(1) Rate is calculated on a per 100,000 rate for each year. As provided by the City of Ottawa's Planning and Growth Management Department, the 2006 population was 47,047 and the 2007 population was 46,895						
(2) The 3-Year Average and %Change are based on the actual values.						

The statistics indicate that for most key crime categories, Bay Ward has a relatively low rate of incidence, and rates are falling.

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

Community Associations Update

Because of the light attendance, community association reports were dispensed with for this month. Larissa Williams of Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre reported that the Bayshore area is included in a new Community Development Framework pilot project intended to coordinate community resources in dealing with a range of social, economic and development issues. She will report on the new CDF process and what it means for Bay Ward at a future Bay Ward meeting.

City Hall Report – Councillor Alex Cullen

Councillor Cullen gave a summary of the current situation with respect to the Interprovincial River Crossings Environmental Assessment Study. Phase One of this EA has now been completed and the consultant's report is recommending that the next phase of this process examine the feasibility and design considerations for a bridge over the Ottawa River at Kettle Island, in the east end of the City. The report is recommending that no bridge be considered in the west end of Ottawa for the time period under consideration in this study (20 years). This report represents a significant victory for Bay Ward, and for the people on the Bay Ward Community Response Committee who put in so much work on this issue.

The consultant's report will go to Ottawa City Council's Transportation Committee and Council for City Council's endorsement before it goes to the Board of the National Capital Commission itself. At this point, if the NCC accepts the consultants' recommendations, Phase 2 - the detailed consideration of the crossing site at Kettle Island - will begin. It is expected that this phase of the study will take roughly 2 years to complete.

Councillor Cullen also 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 Interprovincial River Crossings EA Study, 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. Emails will be sent out in January to community associations soliciting ideas and interest for a 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. More detail can be found at the NCC website (www.nationalcapitalcommission.gc.ca).

Councillor Cullen also reviewed the results of the 2009 City Budget, which saw City Council adopt a balanced budget containing a 4.9% property tax increase which provided for additional support for Ottawa Police Services, additional investment into infrastructure, and adjustments to accommodate inflation. This was achieved without sacrificing community programs that had been originally listed for cuts in order to balance the City's 2009 budget.

Councillor Cullen also went through a list of upcoming events and issues (the Bay Ward 2009 Calendar of Community Issues) that are likely to be important in the coming year. Given the light attendance at this meeting, this list will be presented again at a future meeting for feedback. A copy of the list is available on the Councillor's website.

Next Bay Ward Council Meeting:

Next Bay Ward Council meeting will be held Wednesday February 4, 2009 and will start at 7:00 p.m. at the Ron Kolbus-Lakeside Centre in Britannia Park.

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.

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.