

Bay Ward Council

Meeting Notes

December 2, 2009

Attendees: Ron McCooeye, Brian Payne, Joe Hager, Werner and Marjorie Daechsel, Dave Grosvenor, Jill Ivers, Debra Hughes, Carol Smith, Leigh Bain, Joel, Michaela and Palesa Cote Selig, Steve Hopwood, Barry Spratt, Peter Brebner, Adam DeCaire, Bert Foulds, Michelle Hynes, Cst. Maria Keen, S. Sgt Steve Bell, S. Sgt Atalah Sadaka, Mike Justinich, Dan O'Hagan, Councillor Alex Cullen

Associations in Attendance: Park Place Condo, Whitehaven, Woodroffe North Community Association, Lincoln Heights-Parkway Community Association, Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre, Regina Towers, WoodPark Community Association, The Conservatory Condo, Foster Farm Neighbourhood Watch, Office of Jim Watson, MPP

Police Services Report – Cst. Keen, S. Sgt. Bell, S. Sgt. Sadaka, Mike Justinich

The Ward Council received a brief update from Mike Justinich of Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO) on its new report on Community Cohesion and Youth Gang Prevention in Ottawa, which cited Ottawa's west end as one of several areas of youth gang activity. Mike outlined the Ottawa Youth Gang Prevention Initiative – a coordinated, strategic approach to stop youth from getting involved in gangs in the first place. Following this, S. Sgt. Steve Bell of the Ottawa Police Guns and Gangs unit outlined the various Ottawa Police initiatives centred on early intervention and community involvement through community police officers, School Board officials and teachers and community members. As S. Sgt. Bell noted, while there are more youth involved in gangs in Ottawa than 10 years ago, the numbers have not grown in the past 5 years. This is largely because of a stepped up police and community effort which now reaches youth at risk in the 6-14 years age range, before they are actively involved in criminal activity and offers them supports and positive activities. Mike Justinich pointed out that in the United States, there have been a number of successful initiatives involving counseling, supports and mentoring through faith based groups. CPO has recently met with local faith based groups and will be meeting again in January to continue this initiative.

The report, "Community Cohesion and Youth Gang Prevention in Six Priority Areas", is available on the CPO website at www.crimepreventionottawa.ca/.

Maria Keen noted that she had met recently with representatives from Regina Towers, Northwest One condo, the Lincoln Heights-Parkway area, and Regina Lane to discuss setting up a new Neighbourhood Watch in the area. The meeting was well attended, with about 40 people, and will be followed up in the new year. She noted as well that a new Neighbourhood Watch on Marie St. was set up this fall, and that Ron McCooye of Foster Farm Neighbourhood Watch has agreed to act as the Neighbourhood Watch representative for West End groups in City-wide meetings.

Jill Vickers and Carol Smith noted that there was a strong desire at Regina Towers to set up their own Neighbourhood Watch to handle their own unique issues. Councillor Cullen and Cst. Keen will meet with residents to discuss this in the near future.

Each month since 2004, the STEP program (selective traffic enforcement program), part of the Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP), has been profiling and enforcing two initiatives that target specific traffic safety priorities. STEP priorities for the month of December are impaired driving and speeding.

The IRSP will be teaming up with the CAA North & East Ontario to deliver additional R.I.D.E. checkpoints throughout the festive season. In 2008, 373 impaired driving-related collisions occurred on Ottawa roads. These collisions resulted in seven deaths and 154 injuries, 17 of them serious. 81 percent of the impaired drivers were male and 34 percent were between the ages of 16 and 25.

Speeding is also a serious issue on Ottawa roads. In 2008, 3,592 reportable collisions occurred on Ottawa roads as a result of drivers exceeding the speed limit or driving too fast for conditions. These collisions resulted in nine deaths and 990 injuries – including 55 serious injuries.

Additional information about the 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.

Community Associations Update

Ambleside Condominiums – Barry Spratt

Barry Spratt raised the issue of renaming an area park, or similar facility, to honour Sara Beth Therien, a young woman who was the first in Ontario to donate multiple organs at death, and who has had a major impact on the acceptance by the general public of the organ donor program. The campaign to rename a facility has been delayed for a number of reasons, and it now turns out that it will not be possible to rename McEwen Park. Barry suggested that some other facility in the west end would be just as appropriate, if one could be found. Councillor Cullen will speak with Councillor Leadman of Kitchissippi to explore the issue of renaming the Byron Linear Park from Golden west. Alternatively, it might be possible to rename just the portion in Bay Ward. Councillor Cullen will arrange a meeting and report back.

The Conservatory Condominium – Brian Payne

Brian Payne pointed out that the bus stop on Richmond Road just west of Grenon is still without a garbage can; he noted that the area is littered with garbage, and now the post box has also been removed because it was being used to dump garbage. Councillor Cullen noted that this matter had been brought to the attention of City staff and a garbage can is scheduled to be placed at this stop.

In response to several questions, Councillor Cullen noted that the green bin program, which will be in operation early in 2010 for single family residences, will not be in place for high rises and multi-unit buildings until some time in 2011, and that details of that part of the program are still being worked out by City staff. He also noted that the green bin program is needed to respond to a Provincial requirement that municipalities reach 60% of all waste being diverted from landfill and into some form of composting or recycling. Ottawa is currently working on raising its diversion rate, but is still below the Provincial guidelines. He also noted that reaching this target will extend the life of the Trail Road landfill site, and save City taxpayers a large amount of money, since locating, planning and building new landfill sites is a very expensive proposition.

Foster Farm – Ron McCooeye

Ron noted that the Foster Farm Turkey program, supported by an anonymous donor, will once again be handing out Christmas turkeys, and that the annual children's Christmas party will also be taking place. Dates for this, and details of the turkey program, can be obtained from Ron.

Lincoln Heights-Parkway Community Association – Leigh Bain

The Board of the LHPCA has met with local police and Neighbourhood Watch representatives and are ready to set up a neighbourhood watch organization in the community. The community association will also be taking over responsibility for the Regina School ice rink.

Leigh also pointed out that there are some safety issues involved in getting to the Lincoln Heights transit station. In some cases it involves cutting across the Parkway (for which there is a fine) or cutting across private property, and there are some safety issues at night for women and older people. The Councillor will set up a meeting with City staff to discuss how to deal with these issues.

Pinecrest Queensway Community Health Centre – Michelle Hynes

The flu assessments centre that PQCHC hosted was closed down as of November 20; H1N1 and seasonal flu shots are still available, and public health authorities are urging those not vaccinated to contact public health (available through the City website) about times and locations for flu shot clinics. Councillor Cullen noted that roughly 45% of residents have been vaccinated, a rate above the provincial average, but still less than the goal of 70%.

Regina Towers, 2651 Regina – Carol Smith

Carol Smith noted that the lounge and kitchen are being upgraded, thanks to a Salus grant, and that the Regina Towers Christmas dinner will be held again this year, thanks to an anonymous benefactor. The event is on December 19, at 5 pm, and the Councillor and MPP Jim Watson will

be invited to the event.

It was noted that that the recent changes to OC Transpo schedules and routes have made it difficult for people at 2651 to travel without having to walk a long way to get a bus. They would like a formal bus stop at Poulin and Regina going in the direction of Britannia. The Councillor will discuss with OC Transpo officials.

Woodpark Community Association – Steve Hopwood

The WCA held its AGM recently, with about 40 people attending. The Board was re-elected, and three new positions were added to the Board. The meeting raised \$200, which will be used for community association projects and mailouts in the coming year.

The WCA is concerned with the impact of intensification and infill on the community and would like to set up a Community Design Plan to discuss related issues and responses, the goal being to impose some guidelines on the direction of change. The WCA has discussed this with the Councillor and their request is under consideration by City staff.

The Councillor provided a brief update on proposed development at Fairlawn Plaza. The property has been sold, tentatively, to a Toronto developer (Starbank Developments), which will redevelop the site and add more commercial space. No rezoning will be necessary for this, since the developer does not intend to go outside of what is already allowed by the current zoning. The current intention is to renovate the current space for four tenants (including Shoppers Drug Mart), and to add 2 additional one-story commercial spaces along Carling Avenue for roughly six smaller tenants. A meeting will be held in January to outline plans for the site, at which representatives for the developer will be present. The exact date of this meeting will be announced as soon as possible, and community associations in the surrounding neighbourhoods will be informed of the date.

Woodroffe North Community Association – Dave Grosvenor

Dave gave an update on discussions between members of the community and representatives of the Ottawa Honda dealership on Richmond Road. Issues discussed at a recent meeting included rezoning, noise, lighting and its effect on surrounding properties, and security at night. Most of these issues have been resolved amicably; discussion on some others, mostly involving lighting, continues. The community association also had a recent meeting with representatives of Unitarian House to discuss landscaping and related issues stemming from the recent construction of a child care facility in part of the former parking lot. This is a longstanding issue and discussions are continuing.

Office of Jim Watson, MPP

Mr. Watson will be holding his annual New Year's levee at Ben Franklin Place, on January 10, from 2 to 4 pm. All are welcome. There will also be an awards night on January 17 at which 25 people from the community will be given community sports volunteers awards. Details are available from his constituency office, at 613-721-8075.

Councillor Cullen's City Hall Report

Councillor Cullen updated the meeting on the Pinecrest Creek/Westboro Stormwater Management Retrofit study, for which a public open house and information session will be held at Ben Franklin Centre on December 3. The study will identify a plan to improve stormwater management in Pinecrest Creek and the adjoining Westboro area. This area, like much of the core of the City, was developed some time ago, before there were requirements for facilities to treat stormwater, and the study will examine ways in which management measures can be retrofitted into the community. It is hoped the project will also provide a template for how such retrofits can be carried out elsewhere in Ottawa. The goal of the study is to improve water quality in the area, reduce flooding and erosion in the creek, improve the health of the creek, and reduce closures at Westboro Beach. More information on this project is available on the City's website at www.ottawa.ca, where it is possible to have your name added to the study's mailing list.

Councillor Cullen also noted that this is a component in the City's overall Ottawa River Action Plan, which is designed to protect the Ottawa River from the adverse effects of wastewater and reduce the number and volume of wastewater discharges to the river. More details on the Plan are available on the City's website, which includes a Frequently Asked Questions document about the project, its goals, and the schedule for the plan.

The Councillor provided an update on the rollout of the City's green bin program, which is on target to begin pick up of organic waste on January 4, 2010. The Green Bin program is an important step to ensuring community sustainability by diverting waste from the City's landfill (i.e., the Trail Road landfill site) and extend its life. If this is achieved the City will avoid spending hundreds of millions of dollars on the future expansion of landfill sites.

The full program was preceded by a number of pilot projects in part of the City, and uses best practices from a number of other areas, including other Ontario municipalities which have been rolling out their programs over the past few years. In the beginning the program will only include single family residences, but other residences are scheduled to be included in 2011. The program does not include businesses, including restaurants, which are not within the City's jurisdiction under provincial law. Since ICI garbage (industrial, commercial and institutional) constitutes a large portion of the City's waste, the City continues to work on solutions to this issue, but its current program is limited to residential waste. The costs of the program will be included in the property tax base, starting in 2010. The ultimate goal of this program, and improvements to it that will be made over the coming years, is to raise the proportion of waste collected in Ottawa that is diverted away from landfill and into recycling and composting up to the provincial target of 60%. The City is currently at roughly 32%, one of the lowest in the province, so we have some way to go to achieve this goal. More details on the green bin program are available on the City's website.

The Councillor updated the meeting on the City's 2010 Budget process. During late October and early November each of the City's standing committees reviewed and discussed programs and priorities for the coming year in their area of responsibility and prepared draft budgets. Starting November 17, the committee budget estimates were discussed at the Audit, Budget and Finance Committee (ABFC), which is a new committee of Council composed of the chairs of all Council committees and chaired by the Mayor. The goal is to have a consolidated 2010 draft budget tabled at Council by December 9. Council discussion of the budget, beginning with Committee of the

Whole , at which delegations and presentations will be heard, will begin on January 25. Final Council debate on the budget, with approval of the 2010 budget, will take place on January 28 and 29. More details on the 2010 budget process are available on the City website.

The budget this year benefits from roughly \$19 million in costs that are being uploaded to the Province. These consist of expenses which are currently paid by the City but which will be assumed by the Province, part of a long term process to move a range of expenditures which are more appropriately handled by the province away from the municipalities. This will align practice in Ontario with the practice followed in most other provinces.

The first part of the budget process, the preparation of a draft budget document by the ABFC, is in the final stages, and a document will be presented to Council on December 9. The final document, which incorporates a tax increase of 3.99%, differs from the early drafts prepared by the various Council committees in several ways. Among the differences:

- The final draft to go to Council will include an estimate for the cost of hiring an additional 23 paramedics, to account for the additional needs generated by growth, but has been pared back from the original estimate of 63 additional paramedic staff, which was intended to get response times down.
- In the area of transit, changes to the student bus pass system, the elimination of a number of bus routes and changes to others, and a fare increase of 7.5% are included in the draft budget to be sent to Council. Details of these proposed cuts are available on the City website and on the Councillor's website.
- The City will continue to cut down trees on private property, if they constitute a hazard, but will no longer assume the cost of removing the stumps
- In the area of health the draft includes cuts in spending on communicable disease programs, and the elimination of the well baby program.
- The draft budget also proposes to eliminate funding for Crime Prevention Ottawa.

The Bay Ward public consultation meeting on the City's draft 2010 budget will be held on Thursday January 14, 2010, at 7 pm, at the Ron Kolbus-Lakeside Centre, in the main hall. Details on the draft 2010 capital and operating budgets will be distributed at this meeting, but will also be available through the City's website in advance of this meeting.

The Councillor updated the meeting on the situation with respect to St. Thomas School. The December 9 meeting of City Council will deal with a report from Corporate Services & Economic Development Committee dealing with the purchase of this school pursuant to the City's Policy for Surplus Schools, where the City is to indicate an interest in purchasing a surplus school site when it has been declared surplus by a school board.

The City has 90 days to indicate its interest when a school site is declared surplus - for St. Thomas this happened on September 24, and we need to respond by December 24. Following the City's declaration of interest, negotiations for acquisition would begin, and a subsequent report would

come back to Committee and Council.

The City's Policy for Surplus Schools has been used to purchase Grant School and Bayview School. Grant School is on the way to becoming a francophone community centre where the Centre multiservices francophones de l'ouest d'Ottawa (CMFO) is expected to assume the renovation and operating costs of this site. Bayview School is to be subdivided and the sports field retained by the City and the balance sold for development to help re-coup costs.

Given the importance to the community of the St. Thomas site, it is hoped that similar arrangements can be worked out to keep this property in the public domain for community use. The exact details of these arrangements are still to be worked out, and may involve selling off part of the property, renovating or rebuilding the rest of the property and using the playground for recreational space. This may involve a Special Services Levy, in an amount still to be determined. In other words the City would buy the site and recover its cost through the Special Services Levy which the local community would pay on their property taxes over 10 years.

A public meeting on this issue will held in the community in the new year, date to be announced. More details on this issue are available on the Councillor's website, or directly from the Councillor's office at 613-580-2477.

Next Bay Ward Council Meeting:

Next Bay Ward Council meeting will be held Wednesday January 6, 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.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.