

MEETING MINUTES

Riverside Park Community Association

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kate at 7:04PM with the following Directors in attendance:

Kate Cathrae, President Dave Coyle, Director Travis Croken, Vice-President	Michael Simms Director Terry Wood, Director
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2. Land Acknowledgement and Introductory Statement

Kate acknowledged the unceded land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe on which the meeting took place.

Kate also encouraged the attendees to renew their membership for 2021-22.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Kate introduced an amendment to add an oral report on rinks under board reports (item 7.4).

Terry moved to adopt the agenda and was seconded by Travis.

Motion carried.

4. Receipt of [Minutes of the November 3, 2021 Board Meeting](#)

Terry moved to accept the minutes of the November 3, 2021 Board Meeting. It was seconded by Dave.

Motion carried.

5. In person meetings to resume- hybrid model proposed for February 2022

5.1. Kate introduced the idea of resuming in person meetings at the church along with hybrid attendance. She indicated that the church is ready to welcome the meetings, although maximum attendance numbers have changed.

5.2. In the ensuing discussion, Terry and Travis, along with a number of other members expressed concerns over the idea, notably because of the most recent developments with variants, but also because of the

success and convenience of the online format. Comments were also made on the need to make sure in-person attendees are vaccinated and wear masks.

5.3. There was a general consensus on the need to follow OPH guidelines and to continue this conversation when it's safe to do so.

5.4. The RPCA will also have the proper setup to ensure that hybrid meetings work well and that those attending online can hear and participate.

6. Christmas activities

6.1. Kate suggested repeating last year's successful activities such as StoryTime with Santa's Elves, the Riverside Park Christmas Story, as they are easy to do and involve community members. She also indicated that all the holiday activities will be compiled into one email that will go out to the community.

6.2. Digital cards for seniors - Donna offered to make a digital card as last year's was well received in seniors home in and around the community. This year, instead of singing, she suggested people could send still pictures of their families doing holiday related activities that she will then compile into a digital video card.

6.2.1. Kate offered to reach out to local schools to involve them in the digital card activity. Meanwhile, Kay offered her partner's contribution as a magician.

6.2.2. Initial contributions can be sent to president@riversidepark.ca. Donna's email will be included in the holiday activities email.

6.3. Travis' Christmas story will be shared on Facebook live.

6.4. It was agreed that the sequence of activities will be similar to last year's - Santa's Elves will read their stories, then Travis will read his, then Santa will do the Nice List.

6.5. Santa's list is the only activity that has a cost. While there was an agreement on repeating the activity as it was very well received last year, and on hiring the same Santa, there was a discussion on its cost. Dave offered to look for a sponsor to cover the cost (\$500), and Terry suggested that if a sponsor was found, a donation of a similar amount could be made to a local food bank. In the past the RPCA has donated to the Debra Dynes food bank but it is open to other suggestions.

6.5.1. The board agreed to finalise the details via email, as well as to seek the approval of Mike and Kevin for the cost of the Santa and/or the donation to a local food bank before moving forward.

7. Board reports

7.1. President's report

7.1.1. Kate indicated that she had a chance to get oriented in her new role as Board President as well as to meet with other associations to find out what they are working on during the breakfast of community associations hosted by the Councillor.

7.1.2. Kate attended the preliminary engagement sessions on Confederation Heights and highlighted the importance of this development project and the need to be ready to be involved. She noted we are still at the very beginning of the project, with a draft concept expected to come out in 2022. She hoped the RPCA will be able to take part in the next planning session in the spring of 2022 and noted this is a 25 year plan.

7.1.3. Amongst key takeaways, Kate noted plans to have a mix of residential, commercial and office space,

as well as a focus on affordability, accessibility, and environmental balance. She also indicated that concerns were raised during the meeting about losing park space and clarified that the Confederation Heights project encompasses Hogs back and Vincent Massey park. She also indicated her interest in the developers plans to consult with Indigenous groups and how they will make sure the development reflects its historic significance.

7.1.4. Amongst questions raised at the meeting, Kate noted recurring topics such as wildlife, green space, park land vs undeveloped land, 15 minute neighbourhoods and complete communities, accountability, indigenous engagement, affordability targets, links to bank street and billings, off ramps, public transit, pedestrian connections, parking, density and impact on traffic in our community.

7.1.5. Kate recommended people check the project [website](#) and Terry added that this is a very large project which also includes the RA centre.

7.2. Gardening Report

7.2.1. Kate announced a new location for the pollinator project. With the support of the Community Environmental Project Grants Programme (CEPGP) and in partnership with the Fielding School (pending approval of the school board), the pollinator could be planted on the school's property along Walkley. Kate hoped to get the approval in time to plant in the springtime.

7.2.2. Kate thanked the Bernies who have been working on tidying the community garden space.

7.3. Transportation Report

7.3.1. Terry updated on the Southmore Drive East traffic calming initiative discussed at the last meeting. He indicated that he provided Kim Pierce with a summary of the concerns and issues raised during the meeting and that she has already provided a thorough response, which was posted on the RPCA [website](#).

7.3.2. In consultation with the Sub-Committee on Transportation, Traffic Safety and Transit, Kate confirmed that she had signed and sent a letter provided by the Subcommittee to Councillor Brockington summarizing concerns about the Southmore Drive East raised at the November Board meeting.

7.3.3. The city informed that community consultations on the Southmore Drive East traffic calming initiative, including a survey, are planned for early next year.

7.4. Rinks update

7.4.1. Kate informed that while the rinks are set up and ready, very specific weather conditions are needed to prepare the ice (-10°C during the day and -20°C at nighttime). Once the city informs that it's time, the association will have two weeks to get the rinks in order. Application for funding is pending for the Paget park rink.

8. Councillor's report

8.1. The Councillor opened his intervention by recognizing the busy month of celebrations (Hannukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa). Following the earlier conversation, he also indicated that the city plans on starting hybrid meetings in the new year. He also encouraged people to make financial contributions to a charity of their choice and offered his office's help to connect those in need with the appropriate organizations.

8.1.2. The Councillor also reminded the attendees of the Holly Jolly Jamboree taking place on December 11th from 13:00 to 15:00 in Mooney's Bay.

8.2. COVID update - The Councillor reminded the group that vaccinations for children 5-11 are now open with a number of vaccination clinics throughout the city, including in schools in the neighbourhood (after

school hours). Information on the vaccination and third doses are included in the Councillors [report](#).

8.3. OC Transpo - The Councillor highlighted that transit will be free in recognition of the challenges linked to the LRT and the inconvenience that passengers have had to go through. This is not covered by taxpayers but by the normal monthly maintenance payments that the city would usually have made to RTG. He encouraged people to take transit at least once this month.

8.3.1. He noted service changes due to the holidays (notably reduced service), details of which are included in his [report](#)

8.3.2. The Councillor also highlighted the launch of the city's first electric bus as part of efforts to replace existing buses that are reaching the end of their life. He added that he made sure that any new bus purchase is adapted to the Canadian winter climate (snow tires, battery drainage).

8.4. St Pat's home - City council approved the zoning by-law amendment on 10th November. They will have to go through a site plan but there was no opposition. Someone spoke during the meeting to raise impacts during construction and wanted better consultation during the building of phase 2. Councillor will hold a construction mitigation meeting.

8.5. Confederation heights master plan - Canada Lands Company hosted a public engagement session. A very large area (465 acres) will be redeveloped, although not all buildings will come down, and NCC space (parks) will not be impacted. As Kate did earlier in the meeting, the Councillor stressed the need for the community to be engaged in the 25-30 year project. He added that other councillors are also engaged in this project as it spills into other wards.

8.6 Infrastructure updates

8.6.1. The Councillor informed that the repaving of Riverside will be a priority for the Spring of 2022.

8.6.2. LRT construction will impact Huntclub road with some airport parkway ramp closures that will have an impact on traffic, even though the city is working on avoiding major congestion in the area. This project is being worked 24h a day 7 days a week. It's a major project with challenges and a tight timeline. More details on closures in the Councillor's [report](#). The Councillor did not expect these closures to affect traffic in the community.

8.6.3. Walkley Road challenges continue because of the lack of turning lane on the airport parkway bridge. The Councillor nevertheless stressed that this is not a fair comparison with the proposed West Walkley Road traffic "diet" (lane reductions) and added the current layout on the transit bridge will be reconfigured on December 17th when lanes are switched to the north side of the street.

8.6.4. Work in the Hydro One corridor will continue in 2022/23. A number of hydro poles have also been replaced on Riverside Drive and Walkley Road.

8.6.5. The Community Centre is open and will offer full programming in January, including sports activities, before and after school care, camps, and room rental. Information available online on pool openings.

8.6.6. The Mooney's Bay hill will be open this winter. The ban has been lifted and more signage will be installed by the city warning users about risks. The city also wrapped trees and installed hay bales.

8.6.7. Terry Fox Athletic Centre - the walking pathway through Mooney's bay will be groomed, but not plowed to the asphalt.

8.6.8. The South Keys Mall redevelopment is in its initial phase to repurpose underutilized space around the movie theatre. The theatre will remain, but the shops to the immediate north will be torn down and two 21

towers with ground floor retail will be developed, just outside the south keys transit station.

8.6.9. The Councillor highlighted upcoming events, including the need for volunteers for the Holly Jolly Jamboree, as well as the upcoming mitten tree at the Riverside United Church.

8.7. In the ensuing Q&A, Terry asked whether the widening of the Walkley Road Bridge will facilitate the kiss and ride at the new Trillium Line station. The Councillor informed that both projects are unrelated and that the city still plans to install the kiss and ride in front of the Residence Inn. The Councillor also indicated that there will be no restrictions on getting on to the airport parkway once the layout is reconfigured. He indicated that he will get a breakdown of the remaining work and timelines and how traffic flows will be improved.

8.7.1. On the opening of the early learning centre, the Councillor indicated there is no new official update, although an early January opening seems unlikely given the remaining work. More information to come on the possibility of organising an opening event.

8.7.2. On the Mooney's Bay pavilion, the Councillor suggested to the RPCA the organisation of a presentation by Parks and Rec during an upcoming board meeting to discuss what is envisioned and where things stand. There are so many things that should be done at the same time (replacing water supply, review parking, all season washroom) as the pavilion replacement and for some reason the staff is only focusing on the pavilion. Kate agreed to continue discussions offline and make arrangements for the January meeting.

8.7.3. There was a brief discussion on greenhouse gas emissions within the community. The Councillor indicated that city staff will be in touch with his office to get more information on the source of the latest data.

8.7.4. Dave also asked the Councillor about Hydro Ottawa rate increases and the Councillor agreed to follow-up.

9. Other business

9.1. Awesome Arts update

9.1.1. Travis indicated that he is still waiting for a follow up meeting with Awesome Arts. The plan is to create a mural for the community. There will be a financial request to the board, but Travis is still waiting on Awesome Arts to indicate how much that will be. The plan is to have the mural ready by March for an unveiling event, but in the meantime we still need to find an indoor space to paint as well as volunteers. Painting needs to start in the new year so the timeline is rather tight. There will be some money coming from other funders in addition to the RPCA contribution.

9.1.2. Travis will update the board by mid-December and prepare a bigger update for the January meeting.

9.1.3. There was a following discussion on where the mural would go, which is still one of the points to finalize. The mural would also not create insurance problems as long as it is not installed on city property.

9.2. Dog park

9.2.1. Cathie asked about the possibility of having a fenced dog park in the Pauline Vanier park. While the Pauline Vanier park is not necessarily the ideal location (most of it is actually owned by the school), the board agreed to have a discussion on this issue. The Councillor indicated that this topic has been discussed in the past and it needs to be discussed and agreed by the community.

10. Announcements:

10.1. Kate reminded the attendants of the upcoming Mitten Tree at the Church.



11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 5th, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment:

10.1.Travis moved a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mike.

Motion carried.

END.