

MEETING MINUTES

Riverside Park Community Association

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Location: Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kate at 7:04PM with the following Directors in attendance and wished the attendance a happy new year:

Kate Cathrae, President Dave Coyle, Director Travis Croken, Vice-President Gabriel Gonzalez, Secretary	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. The links are available on the website.

Kate also reviewed meeting procedures and encouraged participation.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Kate introduced new items under Any Other Business - renewal of the FCA membership, Dog Park and Engage Ottawa Opportunities.

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

Motion carried.

4. Receipt of Minutes of the [December 1, 2022 Board Meeting](#)

Kevin moved to accept the minutes of the December 1, 2021 Board Meeting. It was seconded by Travis.

Motion carried.

5. Board Reports

5.1. President's Report

5.1.2. Kate introduced the Christmas cheer activities. Cards were delivered to all St Pats residents and Kate thanked Katerina for her support in soliciting the school principals despite the busy end of the school year. Kate also thanked Donna for her help with the virtual card. It included a special message by Councilor Brockington. Other activities included story time with Santa's little elves, Travis' Christmas story, and Santa's nice list. Kate noted the positive feedback and thanked the community donors who sponsored the Santa list. As agreed at the previous meeting, the RPCA also made a donation to the Debra Dynes foodbank to help families in need.

5.1.3. Kate thanked community members Christina Copelli and Amelia Buchanan for volunteering to take over the RPCA Twitter feed and putting the newsletter content into Mailchimp.

5.1.4. Kate mentioned Dave's introduction of Google Workspace as a tool for collaborating and sharing files.

5.1.5. Rinks are finally open at Arnott Park, Paget Park and Pauline Vanier. Kate noted the pandemic restrictions to consider, including 2m distancing, masks and capacity limits. She thanked the volunteers who maintain the ice and get involved in general in community activities.

5.1.6. After Kate's presentation, Carolyn welcomed the Santa's List, she said it was very well done, and that the extra money was well spent. Craig indicated that CTV has been asking neighbours to highlight their rinks for them to come out.

5.2. Financial Report

5.2.1. Kevin informed of a small change in the reporting. From now on reporting will have one month delay to have all the information available. Nothing special to report in November, the bottom line changed by \$2 that month. This will change by December and will show in the next report. Same with finances in the banks.

5.3. Safety Report

5.3.1. Travis informed that there was a severe break and enter on Harkness Avenue over the holidays and that another house was robbed near Fielding and McCarthy on the same weekend. Police are investigating. He reminded the attendants to lock their windows and doors.

5.3.2. Travis also informed of two incidents with dogs in Pauline Vanier Park. He reminded people to be careful around unknown dogs and for owners to keep their dogs leashed in city parks. Technically, dogs are not allowed in Pauline Vanier park. Some details of one of the incidents, involving a cross country skier, were shared in the comments.

5.3.3. In the subsequent discussion, James informed that there are really good meet-ups that people can bring their dogs to to socialise, including one every week day from 12 to 1PM in Linton Park. There was a discussion, both on screen and in the comments, on what could be done to prevent a possible accident in the community. James offered to organise some sort of dog club or training resources. Kate suggested that information on best practices could be included in an upcoming newsletter and to continue the conversation on a possible training activity.

5.4. Transportation, Traffic Safety and Transit Subcommittee Report

5.4.1. Terry briefly reported on the release of the City's draft Transportation Master Plan. This will guide day-to-day

transportation planning, operations and funding until 2046. It's the first update of the plan since it was adopted in 2013 and it was significantly delayed by the pandemic. Terry informed that phase 3 consultations are now open to the public.

5.4.2. The city's efforts in 2022 will focus on the origin-destination surveys and the active transportation project lists. Ultimately it will be completed in 2024 with the adoption of the longer term capital plan which will influence where the TMP goes.

5.4.3. Like the official plan, this is a complex document with 15 main topics that the public is invited to comment on. Terry invited the audience to look at the topics (1 pagers are available) and to submit comments. Terry also highlighted the 11 policy themes (69 policies) included in the document.

5.4.4. Terry stressed the importance of the origin-destination survey as the current one has not been updated in years. This will be a fundamental part of the TMP and the main focus of the work this year. This will ultimately indicate where traffic is going and how to address it.

5.4.5. Terry highlighted the different opportunities to submit comments on the TMP and encouraged those who do to copy the community association as well as the transportation subcommittee (transportation@riversidepark.ca) and Councillor Brockington. There will be a public open house early this year and a report by the end of the year.

5.4.6. Based on his initial read of the document, Terry commented that the updated TMP is more about re-engineering transportation values than seeking the most efficient movement of people and vehicles. The clear priority coming through in the plan is walking, cycling and transit in that order. Movement of goods and people in vehicles is a lower priority. Neighbourhoods will be ranked by priority and although a list is not yet available, the draft TMP contains a map showing proposed priority neighbourhoods. Priority neighbourhoods will get priority for active transportation, road safety and snow clearing.

5.4.3. Terry asked Councillor Brockington to share his own views on the TMP and suggested the city come give a presentation at some point.

5.4.3.1. Councillor Brockington indicated that his attention is primarily on active transportation. There is no need for new roadways but he would like to see more sidewalks and MUPs, as with the right infrastructure in place, people could decide to cycle downtown.

5.4.3.2. The community's main streets have already been identified for some projects. The Councillor would notably like to connect the western parts of Huntclub with the Mooney's Bay pathway network. MacCarthy is supposed to be repaved and staff would like to include cycling lanes and there are also plans to include these on Walkley.

5.4.3.3. Later in the meeting, the Councillor thanked Terry for his update on the TMP and invited everybody to go on the Engage Ottawa website to comment on the transportation master plan.

5.4.4. The Councillor indicated that there is staff lined up to come talk about the Mooney's Bay Park Pavilion in March and that it could be delayed to discuss the TMP instead. He urged the community to be engaged in this process. Terry agreed it would be useful to organise a briefing with city staff on the TMP at the February meeting.

5.4.5. In the comments, Teresa asked whether the RPCA will draft an official response. Terry said he would pursue that with the transportation subcommittee. Terry also added that as a comprehensive document the TMP also covers transit.

6. Mooney's Bay Toboggan Hill (19:40 - 8:00):

6.1. Kate introduced a discussion on the accident on the Mooney's Bay hill which resulted in the tragic loss of a child's life. Kate hoped this discussion could lead to some suggestions on what can be done to prevent such accidents in the future and would consider the different faces of the hill. Personally, Kate would favour a physical reorganisation of the hill, as signs and restrictions require enforcement which is not always possible. In making the changes to the hill, Kate stressed the importance of keeping in mind the full year of use. Options include hay bales, orange netting, or in the longer term, trees being planted.

6.2.1 Michael suggested that stationary objects that are in the way are dangerous and must be wrapped with protective barriers. He also indicated that reducing speed might also be useful.

6.2.2. Mike noted how frequent accidents are on toboggan hills, often due to collisions and head injuries. He wondered about the possibility of making it compulsory for children to wear helmets when using city hills.

6.2.3. James indicated that he saw city staff removing dangerous objects from the hill path the following day and stressed that there is no such thing as no-risk sledding but that those risks can be mitigated, with helmets for example, perhaps also by blocking the more dangerous trajectories down the hill. Kate reminded everybody that Mooney's not a sanctioned hill, explaining why the city had not removed obstacles prior to the accident.

6.2.4. Gabriel suggested making the hill sanctioned and installing some indication on the hill condition and even closing it when dangerous. He also suggested installing netting similar to what is available on skiing resorts as they are effective at absorbing impacts. Finally he suggested organising flows of people going down and those walking back up the hill.

6.2.5. Sarah asked whether the city is now looking at all hills and also mentioned that hay bales are not a good barrier as they freeze and turn hard. The Councillor will follow up.

6.2.6. Michael suggested the installation of a magic carpet, saying it could be a revenue making operation, which could then be reinvested into safety measures or the Mooney's pavilion itself. Kate asked whether there is already a magic carpet at the Carlington hill. Riley said it is no longer in use, and that a previous suggestion that Mont Cascade could run the hill was not well received by the community.

6.2.7. Travis mentioned people's comments to cut off the top of the hill. He suggested perhaps cordoning off the top of the hill so that sledders cannot gain as much speed. In the comments, James also suggested sharing best practices on safe sledding on the community online resources. He also offered to take on a "safe sledding" clinic should there be interest in the community.

6.2.8. Carolyn remarked that that hill has existed for more than 50 years and that kids and teenagers will find a way to use it. This is a fast hill, and the only safe part is towards the training facility. She suggested the hill could be divided into different sections. She also suggested that the association could donate some helmets to people who cannot afford them. A number of people agreed with this last suggestion in the comments.

7. Mooney's Bay Toboggan Hill Presentation: Riley Brockington

7.1. The Councillor briefly explained what happened that led to the tragic accident. He added that there are 5 sides

of the hill, two aren't used. The north side towards Terry Fox is slower but people were hitting the fence, there's the steep part, and a middle side heading towards the Canada 150 park.

7.2. He stressed that this will continue to be used as a toboggan hill. Even if it is sanctioned, he said the onus is on the City to arrange a professional assessment of the hill and provide recommendations to the City on how to make it safer. It could mean making the slope more gradual, also some sort of warning on the slope condition.

7.3. The Councillor indicated that city staff has gone out to add protective padding and remove any obstacles. He added that the same attention should be given to other hills around the city to ensure the safety of all.

7.4. The Councillor indicated that he wants the RPCA to be involved in this discussion. Kate thanked all of those who offered suggestions and agreed that some professionals should be involved in making recommendations to the city.

7.5. When asked by Greg, the Councillor noted that "closed" and "unsanctioned" have different meanings. The latter means the hill is not promoted as one of the city's official sledding sites, because there are dangers and the city is not comfortable promoting it. Last year, there were significant crowds not social distancing on the hill so staff closed the hill and may have used safety reasons of the past as additional reasons. There was an outcry and the Councillor passed a motion in Council asking staff to assess the safety issues with the hill and reopen it to the satisfaction of the general manager. He added that city staff would like to restrict tobogganing on the north west section facing the Canada 150 park, but staff did not eliminate the dangers prior to this winter to allow for the hill to be sanctioned this winter.

8. Councillor's Report (20:00 - 20:20) Questions (20:20 - 20:30)

8.1. The Councillor wished everybody a happy new year and started with a shout out to the association. The Councillor was very pleased with the Christmas outreach organised by the association which has a positive impact in the community.

8.2. The [Councillor's report](#) has information on the current COVID measures. The Councillor also called on all those who are not yet fully vaccinated to get their shots (or boosters). He added that the Community centre will remain open during closure, for the vaccination clinic, a care clinic, and a library resource.

8.3. On local development, he noted that Brigil will be a big one in 2022. They will likely not get to the planning committee until the spring and the Councillor welcomed their willingness to continue to be open to making additional changes to the height of buildings.

8.3.1. The Revalie phase 2 construction won't start until June 2022. There are a number of site plan issues that remain pending from phase 1, including the HVAC system on the roof and the flow of water in their backyard.

8.3.2. Canoe Bay continues to struggle with financing. The concept has not changed, nor has the number of units.

8.3.3. Norbery revised their site plan. They want to add a second covered garage, which explains why the revised site plan is still in the works with the city. They will probably start working mid to late 2022.

8.3.4. Work continues at the Mooney's Bay childcare centre but the Councillor did not yet have an opening date.

8.3.5. The Councillor also expected Taggart to come back this winter with a new application to develop a residential community on Riverside at Huntclub. This development will include houses and apartment buildings. The Councillor will share information with the RPCA once available. He also highlighted that the protected land along the river will not be touched. Similarly, 30+ acres of city land are going up for sale on the south side of Huntclub, but all the forested land along the river remains protected in the public domain.

8.4. The Councillor intends to host a wide scale information meeting with the public for the Walkley Road Traffic Calming Project to inform the public before the pilot project proceeds later this year. There is pressure to get this pilot project done before the widening of the airport parkway.

8.5. The Councillor indicated that \$6 million will be allocated in the 2022 budget for road resurfacing. All roads that were planned for 2021 will go first as soon as the heavy trucks are permitted on the roads again. \$1.5 million were allocated to repair bridges and culvert and budget was also allocated to redo the stairs at the Walkley Road transit station. Renovation will also happen in local parks, including resurfacing of tennis and basketball courts.

8.6. Finally, the Councillor drew attention to upcoming town hall meetings (January 15th and 20th) as part of the city's anti-racism strategy. Information is included in his report.

8.7. Terry asked about rehabilitation of the rail line alongside the corridor and the status of its planned closure. The Councillor said the City is interested in acquiring that line for future consideration. The price also seems affordable. The Councillor will follow up to see where that stands.

8.8. There was a discussion on Canoe Bay, including the possibility of them selling the land. The Councillor noted that they have financial challenges and they have operating expenses and that at some point they'll have to make a decision. He also indicated that he would rather not go through the process again. The City has the first right to buy back the land at a discounted price. They would probably put it right back on sale, although that's not being discussed yet as the City is trying to help Canoe Bay alleviate the pressures.

8.8.1. As a realtor, James was surprised to hear the issues Canoe Bay is facing and indicated he knows a number of people in the neighborhood who would love to downsize and move there. He wondered whether Canoe Bay has been working with the realtor's association to help sell pre-development properties. The Councillor indicated he's not engaged in making those connections on behalf of Canoe Bay, but he thought they might sell part of the land to other developers who might build some of the project as approved in the concept plan. James will reach out to Canoe Bay to see if there would be interest. Greg added that Canoe Bay already has a long list of prospective buyers.

8.8.2. James also asked what kind of improvements are foreseen for the Terry Fox facility. The Councillor indicated it needs a lot of improvements and that the facility will not host any more major events until that is done. He has been working with Councillor Matt Fleury and they've tried to partner with Universities and other potential partners who could invest in the facility.

8.8.3. Marianne wondered if there are any plans to make a connection from Walkley to the MUP at the transitway station. The Councillor will look to see if there is any way to get cyclists from the Sawmill Creek MUP up to Walkley road, and indicated a new MUP will be built on the other side of the station. The Councillor also thanked Marianne for organising the Pumpkins for Pigs collection after Halloween.

9. Other Business (20:30 - 20:40)

9.1. Kate indicated that the RPCA has been involved with the FCA and we must renew its membership. We must also name our official representative to the FCA. Terry responded that Ro is the official representative (he has been following their work in her absence) and that the membership is incredibly good value as it offers a huge window on what happens in the city.

9.1.2. Terry moved that the membership be renewed. It was seconded by Travis. The motion was carried after a unanimous vote.

9.2. Cathie Jedlinski brought back the dog park proposal. She indicated that she started a Facebook page proposing a dog park in the general area, but not necessarily in Pauline Vanier Park. She was open to suggestions and also for support from the community. Travis and Gabriel indicated their interest in working with her to look at the different options. Terry indicated that he would be strongly opposed to having Linton Park designated as a dog park as it is a multi-use facility which would not work well with the designation. The Councillor will support the process and volunteered Andrew Sutton to define the basic criteria needed to make a dog park and look at the map of the community to find spaces that meet the criteria. The Councillor also warned that this will need extensive community consultation.

9.2.1. Kate offered to continue this conversation at an upcoming meeting.

10. Announcements: (20:40 - 20:50)

10.1. Kate highlighted the upcoming anti-racism virtual town halls on January 15th and 20th.

11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. (20:55 - 21:00)

12. Adjournment (21:00)

12.1 Travis motioned to adjourn, it was seconded by Terry.

Motion carried.

END.