

MEETING MINUTES

Riverside Park Community Association

Wednesday, 2 March, 2022

Location: Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kate at 7:04PM and introduced the board members. The following board members were present:

Kate Cathrae, President Travis Croken, Vice-President Gabriel Gonzalez, Secretary Dave Coyle, Director	Terry Wood, Director Roisin West, Director Kevin Wolfe, Director Christina Copelli, 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 collaborative and harassment-free participation.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

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

Motion carried.

4. Receipt of Minutes of the February 2, 2022 Board Meeting

Ro moved to accept the minutes of the February 2, 2022 Board Meeting. It was seconded by Terry.

Motion carried.

5. Board of Directors Discussion

5.1. Kate introduced the discussion on establishing a policy for the RPCA's response to requests for funding or contributions.

She indicated that there are established practices, mostly related to the RPCA's mandate, but not an established statement. The aim would also be to clarify how much money the RPCA needs to keep in its bank account for the future and how much it should be contributing back into the community.

5.1.2. The goal of this conversation was to come up with a few guidelines that can then be included into the RPCA's donation policy.

5.2. Kate reminded the board of the RPCA's mission statement:

- To represent the interests of the community at all levels of government as appropriate;
- To create awareness within the community of issues affecting it and the city as a whole;
- To facilitate the recreational and social life of the community;
- To maintain a liaison and coordination with other community associations and other groups;
- To maintain and enhance the quality of life of the community.

5.2.1. Kate added that first and foremost, the Board needs to make sure anything the RPCA contributes to meets one or more of the statements.

5.3. In the following discussion, Board members raised a number of aspects they'd like to see covered in the policy.

5.3.1. Travis stressed the importance of making sure that the Board reserves the right to make the final decision, even if a request meets all the parameters.

5.3.2. Ro hoped to see an intersectional analysis for donations to make sure that donations match the diversity of the community - making sure we reach every community within our community, and that we don't repeatedly fund the same projects or reach the same demographics while being guided by age, race, types of projects we're funding, geography etc. Ro suggested coming up with a matrix with a series of questions to evaluate the funding requests and keeping a record of projects that have been accepted, while also developing a better sense of who is in the community. Travis suggested this could be done by asking applicants to fill an application form.

5.3.3. Terry recalled that the RPCA gave a contribution to the Boys and Girls Club a few years ago and that working with organisations like that gives the RPCA a reach into different parts of the community. He added that working with such organisations often comes with the possibility of matching the funding, therefore amplifying the impact.

5.3.4. Kevin added that it would be practical to set a budget before the start of the year. Kate agreed on the need to decide how much money the RPCA can contribute back and let that guide part of the decision making as it is impossible to know in advance who will apply for funding.

5.3.4.1. Kate asked how much we can spend each year. Travis stressed the need to keep a buffer (keeping at least 50%) to keep the RPCA afloat in case of emergency. Kevin suggested automatically adding whatever money was not spent one year into the donation budget for the following year instead of continuing to build up a buffer. This would ensure that budget remains available for bigger asks (going back to 2014, Craig remembered that the biggest contribution from the RPCA was around \$5000 for the Victoria Day fireworks, while most donations are usually in the hundreds of dollars).

5.3.5. Christina suggested the application form should remain simple and come with a scoring system to make sure the process is unbiased and that the requirements are met.

5.3.6. Kate wondered whether small donations should not fall under different criteria. Travis asked whether there should be a cap on donations that would require a Board discussion to go over and whether that would include

charitable donations and things like flower boxes, murals, etc (i.e. higher cap for initiatives, lower cap for donations). Ro would still want to see some requirements for smaller donations. She gave the example of the Vancouver Neighborhood Small Grant as a resource to see how small packets of funds can be allocated transparently.

5.3.7. Kate added that the RPCA can make donations from its own budget, but it can also fundraise within the community for specific initiatives.

5.3.8. In the comments, someone suggested having a matching programme where community members could donate to an approved programme and the RPCA would match that donation. Kate supported that idea.

5.3.9. Terry suggested a board member could put these suggestions to paper in a first draft that would flag some of the issues to be worked out. Gabriel volunteered to prepare a first draft, while Travis and Ro offered to be part of the process. Kevin will be called upon for the financial side.

6. Councilor's report and Q&A

6.1. The detail of the Councilor's updates is available in [his report](#).

6.1.1. The Councilor opened his presentation by addressing the occupation of the downtown core as it raised lots of questions. He stressed this was a difficult experience of Ottawa residents, notably those living in Centretown and in the Byward Market. He added that there will be a full scale independent assessment of what happened and that both the City Council and the Police Board have agreed to make sure this will never happen again. He added that a \$306 million private class action lawsuit was launched against the participants of the occupation to cover for loss of business and financial losses, as well as the impact on people living in the area and that courts have access to parts of the funds that were raised online.

6.1.2. The Councilor announced two events he is hosting in March. The first will be his annual International Women's Day Speaker's event on **Mar 10, 2022** from 6:30 to 8:00PM . The second will be a River Ward trivia night on March 18th (registration links for both events available in the Councilor's report).

6.1.3. Details of the COVID update are available on the Councilor report. He mentioned the lifting of restrictions and reminded the group that Riverward hosts Community clinics.

6.1.4. The Councilor then updated on the Mooney's Bay Hill safety review. He informed that the full report was delivered to the City on January 31st. The coroner has also provided a list of issues they want to see addressed on the Hill. The City has until August 10th to reply.

6.1.4.1. The independent consultant provided a list of issues that the City should address should the hill be used and sanctioned by the City. According to the consultants, the slope towards the river, the one towards the Canada 150 playground and the one towards the Terry Fox facility all present some issues (the consultant estimated that speeds could reach upwards of 80km/h depending on the quality of the snow). The City still has to absorb the consultant's recommendations, but the Councilor stressed he favours keeping at least part of the hill open if possible. He also indicated that he wants the RPCA to remain involved given the importance of Mooney's Bay in the community.

6.1.5. The Councilor then briefly referred to the Rideau river blasting that has started, and mentioned that OC Transpo service will be free for most of the month of March on any route that serves the downtown area.

6.1.6. The Councilor then brought up the widening of the airport parkway, indicating that Parsons (Consultant

Working Group with the City) has created a community working group with representatives of about 12 different groups from various communities affected. Terry was invited to participate. They had a first meeting in early March with representatives from West Walkley and Huntclub. The goal of these consultations is to bring opinions and feedback to the table as detailed design work for the project nears completion. A community information session is planned for September as the project nears the finishing line. The City expects the final design in October 2023. Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

6.1.7. On West Walkley Road modifications, the Councilor noted that as the airport parkway includes an off ramp at West Walkley Road and a new roundabout, the project includes funding to implement traffic calming measures on West Walkley Road between the parkway and McCarthy. The intended goal is to modify the road from four lanes of traffic to two and add bike lanes. A pilot project will be set in June to test the modifications and measure 10 different metrics before and after the pilot project to use as part of the final design phase. The Councilor will host an information session for the community in mid-April (post Easter). A flyer will be mailed to homes in Riverside Park and northern Huntclub to give people a heads up and make sure the greater community has a fulsome understanding of the work planned.

6.1.8. The Councilor quickly went over local development updates as there wasn't much news. The details can be found in his report. The main update was that the opening of retail outlets at the Revalie is now expected in the fall of 2022. There is no date set for the opening of the Mooney's Bay ChildCare Centre.

6.1.9. The Councilor reminded that the deadline for comments on the TMP has been extended to March 18th and encouraged participants to check the Engage Ottawa website (link in the report).

6.1.10. The City is engaging in a review of the solid waste master plan and wrestling with a few issues regarding waste management. According to the Councilor, one of the main issues is waste coming from mixed dwellings as the City does not have the authority to mandate green bins. The Councilor was against the opening of another landfill site.

6.1.11. Finally the Councilor confirmed that some of the main summer festivals will be back at Mooney's Bay (dates available in his report). The usual traffic restrictions will be put in place (the signage will stay up all summer but enforcement will only happen on festival days).

6.2.1. During the Q&A with the Councilor, there was a discussion on the occupation of Ottawa and the involvement of members of the police board. The Councilor noted that with the latest resignations of the provincial appointees, the board no longer has a quorum (the City has one vacancy, the Province has 3). He also added that the public deserves to know what happened during the occupation, as well as on some high profile projects such as the LRT and warned that things might get messier but that it's needed to move forward. He added that the fall election will be an opportunity to elect not just councillors but also a new mayor.

6.2.1.2. Sarah Pettenuzzo thanked the Councilor for his interventions during the meeting of the police board, as well as his participation in the counter protests on Bank Street and the protest in favour of Ukraine.

6.2.2. On solid waste, the Councilor informed that the City continues working on the recycling of plastic waste and a presentation was made to the environmental committee before Christmas. The City is actively trying to look at the various technologies out there to deal with waste.

6.2.3. Carolyn asked whether a small memorial plaque could be placed at the top of the Mooney's Bay Hill and whether the RPCA could be involved in it. The Councilor responded that the City promotes a number of in memoriam commemorations, whether it is with trees or benches. He will raise the topic when meeting with the

family but noted that it will be important to follow the guidance of the family.

7. Board reports

7.1. President's

7.1.1. Kate mentioned that the RPCA did promote the statement of the FCA on the occupation and that Ro published a great resource on community safety information posted via social media. Updates were also posted on the RPCA's social media channels throughout the occupation.

7.1.2. The RPCA submitted a request to be part of the public advisory committee for the Confederation Heights meeting. In addition to being part of the committee, the RPCA was approached by a group looking to make specific agreements between the communities abutting the development. Kate informed that the RPCA would need to be represented in this group that will involve other community associations and groups. They are interested in presenting to our community. Look up community benefits agreements and see the work they are doing.

7.1.2.1. Kate is looking for people who want to be part of it. Looking for feedback on how we can best represent people's interests and views.

7.1.2.2. More information on this group can be found [here](#).

7.2 Finance

7.2.1. Kevin informed the Board that he will go back to reporting on the previous month and that his report covered January and February.

7.2.2. The main income in January and February was from the rinks with two payments from the City. One more payment is expected in March on the condition of returning the equipment to the City as the rinks are no longer maintained. Not much more revenue, except some revenue from the City for the Walkley Road pollinator project at Fielding. This is a one time grant.

7.2.3. The main expenses were for the rink supervisors. Despite that, Kevin reported that finances are tracking ahead of last year.

7.2.4. Kevin added that current interest rates are practically nonexistent and that it might be worth looking at other options.

7.2.5. Terry moved a motion to accept the report, it was seconded by Christina.

Motion carried.

7.3 Transportation, Traffic Safety and Transit Subcommittee

7.3.1. The transportation subcommittee had a meeting in early February and welcomed two new members. Terry noted that as mentioned by the Councilor, the subcommittee put forward detailed comments on the TMP which

were submitted to the City after approval by the Board. One of the things that came out of this exercise was the need for a community transportation plan. Terry submitted a request for a meeting with the City as they suggested in their briefing to the RPCA. At the time of the meeting, he had not yet heard back.

7.3.2. The subcommittee also discussed a number of safety traffic initiatives.

7.3.3. Terry then mentioned the Southmore Drive East traffic calming study. The board had endorsed the initiative in principle during the November 2021 meeting and followed up with a letter that is posted on the RPCA website.

7.3.4. Terry then brought up the airport parkway expansion project and summarised the letter of invitation he received to participate in the Community Working Group. The group is intended to be an informal consultative group to exchange information. During the meeting he asked about terms of reference and was told the meeting would be informal. A dozen people attended the meeting, including half from the City and project consultants. Other half included community groups and other stakeholders (including a biking group).

7.3.4.1. Terry then described phase 1 of the work. He underscored a reference to the work being done on West Walkley Road as being a "complete street modification." The other term used during the meeting was "between the curbs." Terry then stressed that a complete street modification of West Walkley Road will not happen until the under road infrastructure needs to be replaced. The airport parkway work will nevertheless involve the implementation of many of the aspects that comprise a complete street project.

7.3.4.2. In terms of noise mitigation, the consultant advised that the plan is still to have three hard walls as noise attenuation running opposite of Ramsgate Private, Cromwell Drive and Plante Drive, which are the three streets closest to the parkway. Terry added that he requested the extension of the berm on the east side of Linton Park until the hydro corridor as noise mitigation, underscoring that the sound for the parkway is already bad in that part of the community extension of the berm, would be an environmentally friendly option.

7.3.4.3. During the meeting, Terry also raised the lack of integrated planning for West Walkley Road as the Community was not shown even a preliminary design plan for the part between the new exit/roundabout to the transit station, particularly in the context of the airport parkway expansion. Terry reminded the group that the Bank street redesign has a design plan up to the transit station, while the airport parkway project itself includes the redesign of West Walkley Road all the way to the McCarthy intersection. The consultant suggested an offline discussion focused on West Walkley Road. Terry believed that a better way to look into that would be in the context of the proposed community transportation plan.

7.3.4.4. On the roundabout design, concerns were previously raised on the technical feasibility because of the grade of the land. The concern is that the grade will be there and the roundabout might be a hazard in the winter and at sunset. The consultant and the City agreed to take that on board and see how it can be addressed.

7.3.4.5. Terry added that with the modifications on West Walkley Road there would no longer be any street parking, which he believed is a new development. The Councilor clarified that bike lanes come with an automatic requirement of no parking.

7.3.4.6. There was also a discussion on how the project relates to the West Walkley Road traffic calming pilot project. There will be three meetings of the community consulting group and Terry hoped the next meeting would take place at a time that would allow to take into consideration the outcome of the pilot project.

7.3.4.7. Finally, on key dates for construction, Terry said that the City expects to have 1/3 of the detailed design of the airport parkway expansion project finished by June. They expect to have a preliminary design completed by September, which will be the basis of a public open house in September for the Community. 2/3 of the detailed design will be finished by the end of this year. By June 2023, they expect to have the complete detailed design finished, which will be the basis for a second public meeting in August 2023. The next step will be issuing the request for tender in October 2023. Notionally, construction would start 2024 but that depends on the City's capital funding.

7.3.4.8. Terry will circulate minutes of that meeting and encourage anyone with questions or concerns to submit them at transportation@riversidepark.ca with a copy to the Councilor.

7.3.4.9. Adding to Terry's presentation, the Councilor informed that he was able to move the path of the airport parkway eastward to save part of the forest on the west side of the road. He also supported the idea of meeting with Terry before the second consultation meeting to talk about Walkley Road.

7.3.4.10. Kate agreed on the need to see an integrated plan for the community as there are so many different projects going on that will have ripple effects in the coming years. On that, Terry invited anyone who wants further information on what he has in mind for a community transportation plan, to check the comments submitted for the TMP. The plan laid out is still in early stages. He added that representatives from neighbouring communities support this plan as they often have to drive through our community.

7.3.5. On other topics, Terry briefly updated on traffic calming initiatives. The transportation subcommittee notably agreed with the recommendation to retain the existing turn restrictions at West Walkley Road and Springland Drive. He brought up some suggestions regarding Otterson Drive such as adding a local traffic only sign at the entrance. Concerns were raised about the safety of the Walkley and McCarthy intersection, a suggestion was to restore the left turning signal. Concerns were also raised about the Ranking St/Fielding Drive intersection because of school cut-through traffic. One of the ideas there could be some new signage at the intersection and the addition of a crosswalk. The subcommittee also supported the idea of painted bike lanes on wider streets. Views and comments can be submitted to transportation@riversidepark.ca.

7.3.6. Ro moved a motion to accept the report, it was seconded by Travis.

Motion carried.

7.4 Gardening

7.4.1. Kate provided an update on where things stand with moving the community gardens from the area of the Brigil development to Paget Park.

7.4.1.1. She informed that the City had little records on what happened over the past two years and that there is a new liaison officer so she had to resubmit the application. More pressure will be needed to be put on the various departments who need to approve the new placement and Kate hoped that the Councilor's office would support these efforts, especially since these discussions have been going on for two years.

7.4.1.1. In the meantime the garden will continue in its current location and Kate expected the new COVID policy would be less restrictive.

7.4.2. Kate informed that there are still a couple of vacancies, and one gardening member has come aboard to take on the administrative duties.

7.4.3. March is seed starting time and Kate hoped people would consider planting extra seeds for donations to the Debra Dynees food bank. If you are starting, go nuts and get back to us and we'll get back with a plan on how to get food and plants shared within the community.

7.4.4. Finally, Kate flagged an OSEAN initiative as they are looking for volunteer plant babysitters for their Pollinator Patch Program. Those interested can email OSEAN.info@gmail.com for more information.

7.4.5. The Councilor responded that George brought the application to his attention and that he reached out to Just Foods and is waiting for a response. He also mentioned produce theft in other community gardens and offered to create some signage indicating that people in need can contact the RPCA or the Councilor's office. Kate agreed that more signage would be welcome as fencing is not allowed. The Councilor also suggested people can follow "Friends of the Farms" series on how to start your own garden.

7.4.6. Terry moved a motion to accept the report, it was seconded by Ro and Christina.

Motion carried.

8. New Business

8.1. Dog Park

8.1.1. Benji reported on progress with their efforts to get a dog part in the community. He mentioned that he has been in contact with the City and started a Facebook group together with Cathy. They held a few information sessions to get feedback from neighbours and had meetings with the Councillor's office to figure out what the community is looking for.

8.1.2. Potential locations have been narrowed down to two:

8.1.2.1. The first is the hydro corridor south of Southmore, by McCarthy. The location is great, there is tons of green space, and it is walkable. They reached out to Hydro One who has a project where they encourage communities to submit proposals for multi use facilities near the corridors (there are a few examples of these in Ottawa, including the pollinator field in the West end). The proposal was submitted in early March and they are waiting to hear back from Hydro One. Hydro One should assign a representative that will help with the application process.

8.1.2.2. The second location is at Hogs Back on NCC land. There is a lot of space there and a parking lot nearby, but the location is not as walkable, which explains why the main focus is on the hydro corridor.

8.1.3. In the following discussion, Terry noted that the work being done on the corridor now could potentially mean any grading or fencing work that needs to be done for the dog park would be easier. Ro flagged the proximity with the train tracks, although Benji seemed confident the risk could be mitigated with proper fencing and double gates.

8.1.4. The Councilor stressed the need to conduct proper community consultations about the location and offered the help of his office to do so once Hydro One responds.

8.2. Arts initiative

8.2.1. It's finally here! The new mural is coming to Riverside Park. Travis was happy to report that of the \$8,000 cost of this project, \$7,000 have already been funded - \$4,000 coming from MASC, \$2,000 plus installation coming from Brigil, and \$1,000 from the Councilor's office. Travis stressed that while the previous mural ran into issues with insurance, this will not be the case this time as it will not be on City property.

8.2.2. The project will be done by Claudia Salguero, who already did the mural at the Hunt Club community centre. She is one of Ottawa's top muralists.

8.2.3. A community brainstorm will be organised on March 14th. Email: volunteer@riversidepark.ca to register. The community is also invited to participate in the painting of the mural from March 29th to April 7th.

8.2.4. Jessica Ruano, the community programme director at MASC presented Claudia Salguero and the next steps of the project. Claudia is a Colombian-Canadian, community engaged artist, so the majority of her art involves people in the community. She brings her experience, and people bring their hearts and connection to their own community. Claudia makes art that is colourful and beautiful, but she manages to throw in a message too as is visible in the mural that is up near Billings Bridge which includes a massive sunflower, the official flower of Ukraine. That mural also includes hundreds of stars representing missing and murdered indigenous women.

8.2.5. MASC is now looking for people to be involved, starting with the community brainstorm on March 14th where people will have a chance to decide what this mural will be, what is important to the community and how it can be displayed visually. Beyond that there will be an opportunity to paint at the end of the month.

8.2.6. Jessica also presented the Awesome Arts Festival, which usually takes place in Lowertown and Sandy Hill, but this year, partly because of the pandemic, additional mural projects are going up beyond the usual programming. All the programming is free. The Riverside Park mural will be showcased in the virtual festival.

8.2.7. Budgetwise, Jessica underscored that Claudia would appreciate a bit of wiggle room as the mural will be quite big. They will nevertheless be able to work with whatever is available.

8.2.8. Travis highlighted Brigil's commitment with this project and that they will try to find a permanent home for this mural within their development project.

8.2.9. In the following conversation, Terry asked how big the mural will be and whether it would be possible to see a budget for the entire project to see where the RPCA's contribution would be going. Jessica responded, saying that the mural will be composed of six 8x8 squares and broke down the costs as follows: \$2,859.006 for the materials (ACM fire resistant aluminium panels, primer, outdoor acrylic professional paint and varnishing, art and cleaning supplies); \$4,500 to pay the artist for two mid days brainstorming sessions, nine production days and one day of design. Insurance will be \$200, bringing the total to \$7,359.00 + taxes.

8.2.10. Kate noted the need to have as broad outreach as possible on this project, potentially going through schools and social media.

8.2.11. At the end of the discussion, Travis put forward a formal motion requesting that the RPCA donate \$1,000 to the Riverside Park mural project with MASC and to be open to considering donating more should it be necessary down the road. The motion was approved unanimously (Kevin, Ro, Christina, Gabriel, Dave, Terry, Travis and Kate).

8.2.12. Jessica shared a video in the chat: <https://www.masconline.ca/event/awesome-arts-festival/>

8.3. Planning for Cleaning Up the Capital 2022

8.3.1. In 2019 the board organised Cleaning Up the Capital and outreached looking for children to drop posters inviting residents to organise to clean up five parks. Kate called on volunteers to revive this initiative. Registrations start on March 15th and the clean up campaign will take place at the end of April/early May.

8.3.2. Kate wondered whether the board should lead organising efforts or just promote the campaign. Terry offered to lead efforts in Linton Park. Travis and Keving also volunteered to help out. Christina volunteered to coordinate community efforts. In the comments, Jocelyn offered to help promote the initiative at fielding to help with Arnott Park and the school yard.

8.4. Invitation to collaborate - Attracting Business to Riverside Park

8.4.1. Dave presented his idea of exploring ways to attract businesses to the community and getting a better understanding of the kind of businesses the community would like to see. With the number of developments going in the community or nearby, the RPCA could develop a better vision for businesses and network with developers.

8.4.2. Dave imagined there could be a way to apply the business case included in the City's climate change master plan (every \$5 invested in fighting climate change has a \$8 return) to the Riverside Park community to the residents benefit.

8.4.3. Invitation to businesses to collaborate could start with developers involved in local projects and focus on a sustainable social justice environment. The new census data could support this effort.

8.4.4. Dave invited those interested to email him (davecoyle@riversidepark.ca) to start the conversation.

8.4.5. Terry noted that there is a real dearth of services and business interest in Riverside Park, while the community has huge assets in terms of infrastructure, quality of life and natural attractions that need leveraging. He pointed this goes back to the need to have an overarching vision of the community we want.

8.4.6. Ro agreed on the need to think about that "third space" that is becoming more important as people spend more time at home and many will not be returning to offices. Ro also wondered why Revelie is having a hard time filling its retail space given the attractiveness of the community and highlighted the importance of community benefit agreements to make sure those who build in the community are committed to getting people in the spaces.

8.4.7. The Councilor added that there is great opportunity in the community benefit agreements and that Heron Gate will serve as a test in Ottawa and that we need developers who are respectful of the community and it is in everybody's interest for businesses to serve the community. With Confederation Heights around the corner, now is the time to have this kind of conversation.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 6th, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

12.1 Christina motioned to adjourn, it was seconded by Ro.

Motion carried.

RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



RPCA c/o HUNT CLUB-RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE, 3320 PAUL ANKA DR, OTTAWA ON K1V 0J9

END.