

MEETING MINUTES

Riverside Park Community Association

Wednesday, 6 April, 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 Christina Copelli, Director Dave Coyle, Director Gabriel Gonzalez, Secretary	Roisin West, Director Kevin Wolfe, Director Terry Wood, Director
---	--

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. The links are available on the [website](#).

Kate also reviewed meeting procedures and encouraged collaborative and harassment-free participation.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Amendment to the agenda - no update on the dog park, and no transportation and transit update, but new announcement on community garage sale.

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

Motion carried.

4. Receipt of Minutes of the March 3, 2022 Board Meeting

Ro moved to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2022 Board Meeting. It was seconded by Christina.

Motion carried.

5. Presentation from City Staff

5.1. Presentation on the redevelopment of the Mooney's Bay Pavilion

5.1.1. Burl Walker and Kevin Wherry from the City of Ottawa presented the plans for the redevelopment of the Mooney's Bay Pavilion.

5.1.1.1. They gave a brief history of the existing pavilion, which was built in 1964 and renovated in 1984, and which currently consists of washrooms, changing rooms, a canteen, a lifeguard room, and a storage room. The Pavilion is past its lifecycle (typically 50 years for this type of building). Given that it has a relatively high Facility Condition Index, which is associated with higher repair and maintenance costs, the City intends to replace the building with a new one.

5.1.1.2. So far, an online survey was conducted in 2018, and the City submitted an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program in 2019 for funding from the Federal and Provincial governments. A preliminary conceptual site plan, preliminary program and a preliminary budget estimate of \$10 million were provided to support that application. The City has yet to hear back on this application.

5.1.1.3. The new pavilion building is proposed to be approximately 6,300 square feet in size, with a lobby, universal change rooms, washrooms, 2 multipurpose rooms, a lifeguard changing room as well as an observation room, a canteen / restaurant area, and storage, cleaning, garbage/recycling and mechanical rooms. The new building would be built on the same location as the existing one. A new washroom building near the Canada 150 playground was also included in the application. It would also include a parks operations garage. The City is being mindful of the location of that building following the tobogganing accident on the hill this winter.

5.1.1.4. The plan also includes additional parking spaces as well as a drop off area, bike parking, a pavilion entrance plaza and beach patio (including for the restaurant/canteen area), outdoor showers, a picnic shelter and new accessible pathways, as well as a realignment of the MUP.

5.1.1.5. In terms of next steps, the City will do a feasibility study, procure a consultant who will prepare schematic design options. The City will then conduct pre-application consultations with Dev. Review South and the NCC. There would also be a public consultation, as well as a new cost evaluation. The City will also conduct a topographic field survey this year. Funding is already allocated for the feasibility study but not for construction costs. There is no timeline yet for when construction would take place.

5.1.2. The presentation was followed by a Q&A:

5.1.2.1. Craig gave some historical context as the RPCA wrote to the local MP and MPP back in 2018 and they both supported the project. The City is aware of local support, but it has not heard a response to its application. Craig suggested that the RPCA and residents could submit letters to their representatives. Craig also asked where this project fits on the priority list and the City responded that while this project is a priority from the RCFS perspective, there is no numbered priority list. The City also has a very long-term lease agreement with the NCC and expects to continue using the site for a long time, it is also working with the NCC to update the rest of its beaches. Craig also asked about plans for the sustainability of the building and was told the City's criteria are evolving and it will be addressed in the design phase of the project.

5.1.2.2. Terry asked how the redevelopment of the pavilion will be coordinated with the much bigger redevelopment of the Confederation Heights, which includes Hogs Back. The City was not able to predict the timing of either redevelopment. While they are both unrelated, the City is aware of the need to coordinate efforts to avoid too big disruptions.

5.1.2.3. Karsten asked about plans to include charging stations for EVs in the new parking spot. The City does have an EV charging policy, but it applies to larger parkings and is only being rolled out now. There was no clear answer on the number of charging stations that would be available, and it would most likely

be a level 2 (not 3) charging station.

5.1.2.4. Teresa raised the traffic issues in the community that come from people using the Mooney's Bay Park and the poor transit connectivity. She asked whether the public transit part is being considered in the redevelopment plans, and the City replied it has not been considered so far but that it can be reviewed as the project moves forward. They also welcomed suggestions from the RPCA and residents on how to improve access to the site by transit, including through stop locations and pathways accessibility. They added that the drop-off loop means Para Transpo would be able to drop-off someone right at the location, but that they would need to work with Councilor Brockington on initiatives to improve public transit access to the site.

5.1.2.5. Carolyn hoped that the garage for park equipment would not impact the visual of the Canada 150 playground, especially as there is already an existing industrial area on the south end of the beach. She also stressed the need for shade and the importance of avoiding cutting the trees in the area. She also asked about plans to build a marina in the park, but the City was not aware of Parks Canada's plans for that. The City was also open to have discussions on the plans for the Canada 150 playground.

5.1.2.6. Ro stressed the importance of Mooney's Bay for the entire city, but also for this community, which has a statistically high number of senior citizens, and asked whether the city would commit to an accessibility audit for the project. The City responded that a detailed accessibility assessment was prepared in 2012 that listed the updates needed for the pavilion to meet accessibility requirements. The City was also supportive of adding more seating throughout the park.

5.1.2.7. Councilor Brockington thanked the presenters for their leadership on this file and stressed the community's interest in having the pavilion rebuilt sooner than later. He offered to work with them to get the funding for the project. He highlighted that the pavilion is past its lifecycle and has significant issues as a result, including the washrooms that cannot handle the large events that take place in the park. He also expected the new pavilion to be a green building. He added that he would work with Burl and Kevin to work out the most effective way for residents to share their feedback with them. He agreed that transit issues are critical.

5.2. Presentation on the Mooney's Bay hill:

5.2.1. Following the accident in December 2021, the City hired a risk assessment consultant to review the hill. The City has yet to do the final report with recommendations, but it is clear that the hill as it stands today is not safe for sledding and therefore should not be opened for sledding in its current form. The City is looking at options to make it safer as part of the critical incident reporting.

5.2.2. Recommendations were received from the coroner's office and the consultant and they will have implications on sledding hills throughout the City.

5.2.3. For Mooney's Bay to reopen as a sledding hill, it needs drastic changes, because of unacceptable speed, and obstacles in the landing zones. Whatever changes are proposed will happen in consultation with the NCC. The City is fully responsible for the site but cannot make significant changes to the site without the NCC's approval.

5.2.4. Kate noted that most questions will come when we see the recommendations, but appreciated that the recommendations will be taken into consideration throughout the City, and involve different organisations.

5.2.5. In terms of timing, it appears unlikely that the necessary changes will be done in time for the 2022-23 winter, although some minor alterations could be done by then. Dave asked how the RPCA could help to expedite the process but the City representative preferred to wait for the final report before making predictions.

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 informed that there will be a commemoration, hopefully in the summer, in the North end of Mooney's Bay park in memory of the child who died on the hill. He also acknowledged Ramadan and Sikh heritage month and announced that the electronics waste depot will happen on April 23rd as part of Earth Day events. Given how successful the last edition of the depot was, it has been relocated to the Rio Can mall back parking lot. Other events detailed in the Councilor's report.

6.1.2. On the airport parkway widening and Walkley Pilot Project - Councilor Brockington will host an information session on April 28th. Information was sent to Riverside Park residents. This session is to inform the greater community who hasn't been engaged in the process so far. The Councilor will explain the pilot project that will simulate what Walkley will look like when the off-ramp opens. It will run for over 2 weeks with the City measuring a number of metrics before and during the pilot project.

6.1.3. The Councilor then reviewed school immunisation catch-up clinics happening in the community, which are in place for people who did not keep up with immunisation during the pandemic. Details are available in his report.

6.1.4. The Councilor reminded the participants that they can report potholes either online or by calling 311.

6.1.5. The City continues its work on a new solid waste master plan. The Councilor was against building another landfill but argued significant behavioural shifts still are needed to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill. One of the City's focus is residential dwellings that do not have green bins.

6.1.6. In his update on local development, the Councilor briefly mentioned Hydro One's efforts to increase the capacity of the Hydro lines between the Merivale and Hawthorne Transmission stations. He also indicated that occupancy at The Revalie is lower than expected, although they still expect to fill capacity with international students. Councilor Brockington was still waiting on concrete information on the businesses that will open in the ground floor retail space; but hoped it would include a grocery store and some medical cabinets. Phase 2 construction is still expected to start in the fall. Finally, the Councilor called for consolidated efforts between his office and the RPCA on outreach regarding Confederation Heights.

6.1.7. The Councilor then gave dates for the repaving of roads in the community:

- Hunt Club, Parkway to Paul Anka – Westbound Lanes - May 18 to June 17
- Riverside, Walkley to Brokefield – May 30 to August 5
- Carling, from Merivale, eastbound to Melrose – June 16 to July 15
- Fisher, Meadowlands to PoW – June 23 to August 19

6.1.8. The Councilor announced he will organise a Mothers Day high tea on May 7th at the community centre. He also reviewed all the events planned throughout the summer, details of which can be found in his report.

6.1.9. Q&A session:

6.1.9.1. Terry asked the Councilor how he foresaw the role of the RPCA in the April 28th consultation meeting, and also for updates on the kiss and ride at the Walkley Station. The Councilor asked the RPCA to provide an overview of any engagement to date, and present why the project is important, and what has been done so far, from the RPCA's perspective. He did not have any new information about the kiss and ride, although the City has struggled to acquire the necessary space for that. He indicated he will have more detailed update on the Walkley station construction at the May meeting.

6.1.9.2. Ro asked the Councilor for an update on wild parsnip removal in Linton park and recovery of the areas that have been wiped out by the Hydro One construction. The Councilor responded that he has not yet been updated by the City on Wild Parsnip removal. He also indicated that Hydro One has not updated his office, and said he would ask them about their remedial plan once the project is completed.

6.1.9.3. Gabriel asked the Councilor how the future increase in people living and working in the Confederation Heights area is taken into account with regards to the upgrade of the Trilium line station there and whether this increase is also taken into consideration in plans to upgrade the Mooney's Bay Park. The Councilor indicated that there has been discussions between the federal government and the City on whether to relocate the station to the North side of Heron Road. The Councilor himself argued in favour of keeping the station where it currently stands, as the Confederation Heights redevelopment will take place over 25 years. He added that there are considerations to increase connectivity to Vincent Massey Park.

7. Board reports

7.1. President's

7.1.1. Kate asked who would be participating in the Public Advisory Committee for Confederation Heights. She said the process is interesting and involves representatives from associations such as Ageing Ottawa or Bike Ottawa, as well as Indigenous and neighbouring communities representatives, as well as the local Councilors. Kate also noted that the Confederation Heights project is expected to take 25 years and should start in the part closest to Riverside Park.

7.1.1.1. The design goals for the project is to create connections, promote access to nature and recreation, celebrate culture, ensure climate resiliency, develop a complete community, design with people in mind and be inclusive, and accessible for everyone. Kate stressed the importance of getting involved in this project to make sure the needs of the Community are taken into consideration. The link to the website is included in [Kate's report](#).

7.1.1.2. Dave asked what are the plans for the parking spaces on the site and Kate responded that those will be the main areas that will be redeveloped as part of this project.

7.1.2. Kate reminded everyone of the mural painting that will be installed by April 12th and thanked Christina for organising the volunteers for the painting sessions.

7.1.3. Kate then announced that the community gardens are ready to open again. Many gardeners are returning from previous years, but there are a couple of open spots. You just need to live in Riverside Park and pay \$25 for the location rental. Email garden@riversidepark.ca for more information or to register.

Ro moved to adopt the report, it was seconded by Terry

Motion carried.

7.2 Finance

7.2.1. Kevin reported that the rinks were opened a bit longer, with extra costs. The final cheque for the season was received, there was not much else revenue apart from some memberships. Expenses were mostly linked to the rinks, as well as a bit of advertising. Bank account has strong cash, not invested and not touched. Tracking continues to be better than last year. Some money will be coming in for April for the garden plots.

Ro motion, seconded by Gabriel

Motion carried.

8. New Business

8.1. OSEAN

8.1.1. Erin from OSEAN informed that they have secured a micro-grant to remove invasive species. They will be organising a webinar on how to identify and remove them. First webinar will be on April 26th (on identifying and removing invasive species) and action events will take place on May 14th (on dog strangling vine and garlic mustard removal in Riverview Park) and 29th (on buckthorn removal in Brewer's park), and July 4th (on dog strangling vine removal in Brookfield High School).

8.1.2. Erin shared some Facebook pages in the chat, including [OSEAN's page](#), a [group](#) for people who want to volunteer, and a [link](#) to register for the webinar.

8.2. George Brown history collaboration

8.2.1. George Brown presented his idea for a collaboration with Carleton University students. They have programs to place students to support community associations on certain projects, and the University's geography department would like to do projects in this community. One example would be for traffic engineering students to help with the community's plans. George will be meeting this month with university representatives and will update the board as needed.

8.2.2. Teresa (a graduate from that department) would be happy to be part of this project, Terry and Dave were interested too.

8.3. Garage sale

8.3.1. The garage sale will be happening on May 7th. The RPCA will put out promotion as we get closer.

8.4. Cleaning up the Capital

8.4.1. Christina reported that Cleaning the Capital will be happening at 4 parks (Linton, Pauline Vanier, Paget and Arnott) on April 30th at 10AM. She was still looking for park captains and will drop off the materials ahead of time. Those interested can email at volunteer@riversidepark.ca.

8.5. AOB

8.5.1. George asked about the community gardens at Paget Park. Kate responded that there has been some progress but nothing to report yet as they are currently doing the drawings again. Timelines have not been established and there will be a full season at the current location.

8.5.2. Bob made a suggestion for another donation to a food bank. Kate welcomed the idea and informed him that the RPCA does regular donations, including at Christmas and that some of the food grown in the community garden is also donated to the Debra Dynes food bank.

8.5.3. There was a question in the chat on a possible community BBQ at Pauline Vanier park but nobody had more information on that. Kate suggested to contact the Neighborhood Watch Captain Joe for more information.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 4th, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**9. Adjournment**

Ro motioned to adjourn, it was seconded by Christina.

Motion carried.

RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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

END.