

MEETING MINUTES

Riverside Park Community Association

Wednesday, 7 September, 2022
Location: Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Travis called the meeting to order at 7:04PM and introduced the board members.

Kate Cathrae, President Travis Croken, Vice-President Dave Coyle, Director Christina Copelli	Roisin West, Director Kevin Wolfe, Director Terry Wood, Director Katarina Descher, Director
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2. Land Acknowledgement and Introductory Statement

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

Travis also encouraged the attendees to renew their membership. The links are available on the [website](#).

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

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Kevin moved to add a treasury report.

Christina moved to adopt the agenda as amended and was seconded by Ro.

Motion carried.

4. Receipt of Minutes of the June 8th, 2022 Board Meeting

Ro moved to accept the minutes of the June 8th, 2022 Board Meeting and was seconded by Terry.

Motion carried.

5. Summer review

5.1. Travis did a brief recap of what happened during the summer, from progress on the Walkley Road transit bridge construction and the traffic calming pilot project, to the flower boxes tended by Katerina that are greeting people coming in and out of our community. The mural was also completed and is displayed. The Company of fools was supposed to attend the General Vanier Park but had to cancel the performance. Travis noted that traffic calming initiatives would be discussed at a later point in the meeting.

6. Councilor's report and Q&A

6.1. With the upcoming elections, the Councilor was not allowed to provide a written report. He nevertheless reported orally on relevant news:

6.1.1. On development:

6.1.1.1. Canoe Bay has not been able to find financing for their project on Riverside Drive. The property is now for sale. They are looking for a buyer to take it over and potentially the concept (no requirement). A new concept would have to go through the planning process. The Councilor hoped the site would not go through a significant redevelopment.

6.1.1.2. Brigil filed a new plan for the Riverside mall property, scaling back the plan from the original proposal. Four buildings are foreseen, with a 20 storey tower on the North corner, a six storey tower beside it and a four storey building abutting the condos and the ridgewood building dropped to four storeys. A fifth building was removed but retail is still foreseen. The project still needs to go through the planning process.

6.1.1.3. Phase two of Revalie is still going ahead. It will mirror phase one, abutting Hobson Road. Preliminary work will start in September (foundation work) but the bulk of construction will be in 2023/2024. Retail partnerships are expected to be announced soon. The Councilor did not have news further news on retail at the meeting.

6.1.1.4. Geotechnical testing is continuing at St Patrick's Home as they look into phase 2 which the Councilor supported. No construction will happen within a year.

6.1.2. On Mooney's Bay festivals the Councilor noted it was a busy season. While there were some outlier festivals that exceeded noise levels, it was an overall success. Parking restrictions will be removed after the last festival (Afro Fest). That festival went out of hand last year and they've been informed about expectations regarding sound.

6.1.3. The Ottawa public library is currently assessing the entire city for gaps in service. They have an online survey open until 15 September with the purpose of identifying gaps in terms of access to library branches and determining how they can be addressed. The Councilor noted there are no libraries in Riverward and he noted the need to increase those services.

6.1.4. Regarding upcoming events, the Councilor reported that on 14 September the Agriculture and Food museum offered a free day. 17 September the fall Festival and the Huntclub Riverside Park Community Centre.

6.1.5. Finally the Councilor noted that the Rideau River cycling and pedestrian bridge was lifted into place and that he would be pushing to get it opened this year. The NCC which looks after and maintains Vincent Massey Park has no desire to plow paths during the winter. The Councilor still wants to see the bridge open and maintained, even if the paths won't be.

6.2. Q&A:

6.2.1. Craig asked when retailers can be expected to move into Revalie. On festivals, he also asked whether those who exceeded noise limits would be issued permits in the future. The Councilor responded that retailers are expected sooner than later. The owner needs to announce the partnerships but it takes time for these retailers to get set up before opening. As for the festivals, the ones who were too loud were charged. Bylaw has a device that can measure base. The Councilor noted his belief that Rhythm and Flow has exceeded its welcome in the park as they were belligerent against bylaw. The Councilor then informed of the permits needed for these festivals. He called for a discussion on how many festivals Mooney's Bay park can realistically welcome each year and for the need to find the right balance as the community doesn't want to have festivals every weekend.

6.2.2. On Canoe Bay, Carolyn asked if there would be any way for the city park to be advanced before construction. The Councilor responded that Canoe Bay was expected to build that park (\$900,000). He speculated that a new owner will come in and have to review what was included in the plan. He personally hoped the park would remain, even if it would realistically be constructed last.

6.2.3. Ro asked for updates on the Bank street redevelopment project. The Councilor explained it is delayed because of a new requirement needing the reassessment of the entire project. It is still going ahead, and there should be another public session before shovels hit the ground. Despite attempts by a number of Councilors to bury hydro lines, that will not be part of the project. As a follow-up, Terry mentioned that there is a sub development plan for the Walkley Road intersection with Bank Street and asked if that would also be revisited. The Councilor responded he will check whether the reassessment will impact the design of the street, the intersection and the surrounding area.

7. Board reports

7.1. Financial report (full report available on the website)

7.1.1. Kevin gave an overview of the full calendar year. Revenues were down, almost solely because of events. Rink revenues were up, sponsorships were down, but memberships were relatively stable. For the expenses, there were no new activities but costs went down, notably for the rink. Donations were also down slightly. Ended with \$3000 more than the previous year.

7.2. Transportation, traffic safety and transit subcommittee report

7.2.1. Terry started his presentation by looking at basic aspects of traffic calming and what it is meant to do, including reducing the negative effects of motor vehicle use, altering driver behaviour and improving conditions for non-motorized street users. He also noted the benefits in reducing the number of collisions and their severity and how traffic calming has impacts for users beyond car-users and as such is an important part in developing a safe and inclusive community.

7.2.2. Terry then noted that speeding has been an issue on West Walkley Road, with speeds often over double the posted speed limit. The speed is often problematic both ways and Terry listed a number of negative impacts of speeding, including impact on safety perception, deterring pedestrians and cyclists, increased noise pollution. More information on the sources Terry used for his presentation are available on the city's website (link in Terry's presentation).

7.2.3. Terry then gave some context for the traffic calming pilot on West Walkley Road, including the airport parkway expansion and the new southbound exit onto Walkley Road. He noted that the goal of the traffic calming

initiative is to improve safety and provide better active transportation. He also detailed the proposed changes, including the addition of bike lanes on each side and a middle turning lane.

7.2.4. Terry stressed that information on the pilot project was circulated widely before its implementation and that it had the full support of the RPCA. He stressed that the pilot could not implement the middle-turning lane, making the test incomplete to some extent. The city measured a number of metrics during the project and Terry noted the city has a high level of confidence in the collected data, even though it was not shared yet. The data will be used to drive the decision making, along with public input.

7.2.5. Terry added that the measures will be reviewed 1 year after their implementation, with additional public consultations taking place then. He then listed the anticipated benefits of the traffic-calming project according to the 2015 environmental assessment, including improved cycling and walking, better driveway access for residents, but also maintaining adequate vehicle capacity.

7.2.6. Terry then explained that even without the middle turning lane, the pilot was successful and largely validated the anticipated benefits envisaged in the EA. Vehicle speeds were significantly reduced, there was a reduction in noise levels and cycling was safer. It nevertheless was not without its issues. Some reported problems with longer wait times turning onto Walkley Road from side streets. Some people reported more congestion on West Walkley Road, but city transportation officials disagree. In fact, they believe there was still excess capacity in both directions during the pilot project.

7.2.7. Terry noted that the construction and lane reductions on the transit bridge certainly did cause congestion which, along with the lack of a middle turning lane, might have contributed to the perception of congestion. He added that city transportation officials continue to estimate that West Walkley Road will have the capacity to handle the increased traffic from the airport parkway expansion.

7.2.8. Terry then gave an update on traffic calming measures for Southmore drive East. The city had an outreach on that street in March 2022. 74% of responses supported the initially proposed measures (speed cushions and edge lines). As a result of the strong feedback, the city is now proposing additional measures, including a raised crosswalk with ladder markings at the intersection with West Walkley Road, a new sidewalk from Walkley to Garwood, ladder markings at the intersection with McCarthy and the removal of on-street parking for two short sections of the street..

7.2.9. After Terry's presentation, the Councilor provided further context on the pilot project, noting there was no ideal timing to implement it as the goal was to have it before the opening of the off-ramp and while schools were in session. He noted that some residents sent him a letter raising concerns with the pilot and the proposed modifications to Walkley Road. He added the letter focused on perceived negatives of the project and did not acknowledge the intent of initiative. The letter was sent to 750 households in the neighbourhood and the Councilor received many calls from residents arguing the traffic calming would have a net negative impact.

7.2.10. The Councilor explained to concerned residents the intent of the project and committed to host a town hall on Walkley Road in November to give residents an opportunity to go through the pilot data. Traffic assessment experts will be available at the meeting to address concerns. He added that he had not seen the final data but committed to sharing the results with all residents. All concerns received by the Councilor were shared with the city. A final design public consultation meeting will take place after the town hall. It will cover the whole project, from the airport parkway expansion, the off-ramp and Walkley Road.

7.2.11. Q&A:

7.2.11.1. Travis opened the Q&A by reading comments from the comment section, including questions on the validity of the pilot and access to bus stops. Terry responded that his report was prepared with the

subcommittee and that their assessment was that the pilot validated the anticipated benefits of the traffic calming measures. He also stressed that the assessment that the pilot did not create added congestion comes from city transportation experts and is based on data collected during the pilot.. Both Terry and the Councilor agreed that the final design will still need some improvement, including for bus stops.

7.2.11.2. Carolyn noted that a number of schools are located near Walkley and that students cross that road, leading to some potentially dangerous situation. Terry responded that if traffic calming measures are not implemented now East of McCarthy road, they will never happen West of McCarthy road. He said there are aspirations for similar measures to be implemented all the way to Springland, but those would never happen if they're not implemented up to McCarthy now. The Councilor also stressed that it is not possible to put a crosswalk through a four-lane arterial road. He also added that he cannot put a speed camera on Walkley as it is not designated as a school zone. If returned to office, he said he would look into having the street designated as a safety zone, which would allow speed enforcement technology.

7.2.11.3. Erica then asked about on-street parking on Walkley Road. The Councilor confirmed parking would not be permitted once the traffic calming measures are implemented.

7.2.11.4. Terry offered to share more information from the 2015 environmental assessment, part of which he used for his own presentation.

7.2.11.5. There was a question on the impact of the LRT on traffic. Terry noted that the next big thing for the city is the revision of the transportation master plan, which is slated for consideration by Council next year. A key component of that plan will be an origin-destination study, which will be the best source of information on current travel patterns. He stressed the importance of making sure the origin-destination study includes as much information relevant to our community. The Councilor added that some people questioned the need to widen the airport parkway and that staff provided detailed responses on the need to expand that road. He offered to share those details.

7.2.11.6. Someone in the comment section argued the traffic calming project is a waste of city resources and an inconvenience to residents as the speeding issue could be fixed with cameras. Also in the comments, Bob lamented that this discussion has been going on for some time, with consensus reached multiple times only for the discussion to be relaunched at a later point. Marika also recalled that the West Walkley Road traffic calming measures were a compromise for the south-bound off ramp at the airport parkway. The Councilor agreed that change is needed and status quo is not an option. He added that he will facilitate discussions on the design and that the town hall will not further delay the process.

7.2.11.7. Terry highlighted that the last call for comments on the Southmore Drive East traffic calming measures is on 14 September and called for comments to be sent to the board or the Councilor.

7.2.11.8. Travis suggested that anybody with further questions could email the board and attend the November Town Hall meeting.

8. Annual Members Meeting

8.1. Travis explained that the next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and that board elections will take place then. A nomination committee was set up, composed of Travis, Terry and Gabriel and members of the community were invited to join.

Travis informed that there will be turnover in the board, with the President stepping down and other vacancies. He called on the community to join and find volunteers for the board. The positions to be filled are: President, Vice-President. Ro will also not run again. Travis also explained how the election would proceed.

8.2. Carolyn asked whether some token of gratitude would be prepared for Kate. The board had that conversation when Joel

left and decided not to do so. Terry noted that the annual meeting of the members would be the appropriate time to express gratitude to Kate and other board members who are leaving.

8.3. Christina asked how people can put their name forward for consideration. Travis invited everyone to talk to board members in the community. Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the annual meeting, the only caveat being that people have to be members in good standing.

8.4. On the return of in person meetings, Travis noted this is a discussion to come, although how it will happen is not clear.

9. AOB

9.1. Carolyn thanked the board for the planters on Walkley Road. She also asked about banners to be put on Walkley Road as are visible in other neighbourhoods.

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 5th, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Christina motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Kevin.

Motion carried.

END.