

MEETING MINUTES

Riverside Park Community Association

Wednesday, 9 November, 2022

Location: Via Zoom

Board members attendance	
Dave Coyle, President Kevin Wolfe, Treasurer Gabriel Gonzalez Secretary	Terry Wood, Director Katarina Descher, Director Tony Tran, Director

1. Call to Order and community discussion

1.1. Dave called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. He reviewed the agenda and opened with a new format allowing members of the community to introduce themselves, bring up ideas and discuss issues freely at the beginning of the meeting.

1.2. He listed a number of items he would like to keep better track of, including the community budget (beyond the finances of the association) and notably the impact of the City's deficit on the community, affordability and mobility.

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

Motion carried.

2. Land Acknowledgement and Introductory Statement

2.1. Dave acknowledged the unceded land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe on which the meeting took place and recognized Indigenous Veterans Day and the forthcoming Remembrance Day. Dave also thanked volunteers for their contributions to this community.

2.2. Dave also went through a number of issues raised by residents directly with him as President. The issues themselves are listed in the agenda.

2.2.1. Terry responded to a couple of them, including a proposal to make Linton park a fenced in dog park. He also suggested that anybody who sees dangerous driving in progress report it to the police and Councilor Brockington to build a better database of the situation in the neighbourhood. As for the question about speed bumps on Springland Drive, Terry suggested the need for a traffic calming study on that street. He called on the RPCA to support such a request to the City.

2.2.2. Gabriel suggested inviting the group of neighbours who proposed a fenced-in dog park

earlier in the year to update the community at a coming meeting.

3. Receipt of Minutes of the October 5th, 2022 Board Meeting

3.1. Dave suggested adding an action list at the bottom of the minutes.

4. Finance report

4.1. Kevin introduced a new method of reporting the monthly finances. His report covered the three months ending on 31 October 2022, with not much going on. He reviewed the different lines, including advertising, fees, insurance and other expenses. The association currently has over \$31,000 in the bank, down \$1,000 from last year but Kevin expected it would be back in the positive once membership dues and money for the rinks would come in.

4.1.1. Terry noted that as a community association the RPCA is supposed to be non-profit and suggested using “income” and “expenses” rather than “profit” and “loss”.

4.1.2. Gabriel raised a previously asked question on the payment for the mural. Dave responded that he asked the artist, who said she had been paid by the association. Follow-up is still needed to see how the RPCA can pay MASC (Jessica Ruano).

Terry moved to adopt the finance report and was seconded by Tony.

Motion carried.

4.2. Dave then introduced a new section looking at the impact of the City deficit on the community, land use, transportation, the impact of Bill 23, and the approval of the new Official Plan. He asked whether the RPCA should start tracking all of this.

4.2.1. Terry underscored the need for a Planning and Development Committee to help facilitate and frame how the RPCA approaches some of these issues. For example, he noted that the new legislation passed by the Province reduces development charges and it is these kinds of charges that are supposed to fund projects like the expansion of the airport parkway for example.

Dave moved a motion to relaunch the Planning and Development Committee. It was seconded by Terry.

Motion carried.

5. Councilor's report and Q&A

5.1. Dave congratulated the Councilor. The Councilor congratulated Dave back and all the Directors, recalling that he served on the board of this association for 7 years. He predicted a busy term for Riverside Park.

The Councilor's full report is available [here](#).

5.1.2. He did not have much to report on development. The Brigil development still has to go through the UDRP process for their final project. There is no date yet for the planning committee which could be a number of months

away. On Canoe Bay, the bidding closed on September 15th and a real estate firm is assessing the bids. The process remains confidential.

5.1.3. On Mooney's Bay hill, the Councilor recalled last year's tragedy. He asked the City to engage an independent consultant to assess the hill, which happened quickly in January of 2022. The coroner also provided recommendations in his report, so did the City. The hill is no stranger to accidents and injuries and the City is concerned about this. Some attempts were made in the past to decrease collisions with hay bales and signage. In 2017, the hill was unsanctioned and no longer promoted by the City. It was nevertheless still used by people. Staff concluded that the hill should continue to be closed for the upcoming winter. Durable fencing was recommended by the consultant to prevent tobogganing during winter months. The City recognizes that this decision is disappointing but despite previous measures, accidents continued to happen. The independent risk assessment report that was produced said that to allow tobogganing to continue, it should be on the side that faces the Terry Fox athletic centre as it is the shortest slope and the side of the hill that could be physically altered to make it safer. The Councilor still believed tobogganing should be allowed but understood that the City is in a bind as they've sought a professional risk assessment and it acknowledged the risks. This will require the intervention of the City Council. The Councilor recognized the risks but also wanted to see it open to the public and hoped this would be a short term closure.

5.1.4. On the Mooney's Bay pavilion, the Councilor said work is on-going with a planner coordinating the various parties engaged in the process. They are looking into the parking lot expansion, washrooms by the Canada 150 playground, fire route, drop off area, what will happen to the playground next to the pavilion, and water servicing as current infrastructure cannot keep up with the summer usage. The Councilor asked the City to make sure that the work is done all at once and not to piecemeal the project as it will significantly impact park usage for what will likely be a full calendar year.

5.1.5. Road resurfacing - the Councilor noted that a number of roads were not resurfaced as planned. There was a strike of workers in July and contractors that bid on work bit off more than they could chew. McCarthy is one of the six roads in riverward that didn't make it.

5.1.6. Still on roads, the Councilor reported that seasonal traffic calming measures are being removed for the winter.

5.1.7. On the official plan, the Minister Steven Clark approved Ottawa's OP (about a year after it was sent). There were some significant changes and he received a report on what this means. There was an expansion of the urban boundary, there were concerns over minor corridor roads, which were capped to 4 stories. The minister reversed it back to six, this impacts Walkley in the community, also Fisher and Carlington in the ward. The Councilor agreed to share details with the RPCA.

5.1.8. The Councilor brought up Bill 23 (the Build more homes quicker Act) which talks about R1 communities. He expected this would have an impact as it would allow greater density in R1 neighbourhoods with duplexes and triplexes. These details were shared with community associations in early November.

5.1.9. Other sections of the Councilor's report acknowledge Remembrance week, the launch of Ottawa Public Health's flu campaign and the entry into force of the new vacant property by-law. The Councilor's report also included information about the new police chief and the modernisation of collision reporting.

5.1.10. The Councilor then reviewed on-going public consultations. There is one on e-scooters as the City is in the 3rd year of a 5 year pilot project. The Councilor called on neighbours to give their opinion (link in the report).

On the Airport Parkway, working with the City and Parsons, and following the public reaction to the pilot project on

West Walkley Road, the Councilor pushed for a Town Hall on West Walkley Road. City staff and Parsons will host a public information session on November 23rd to talk about the project as a whole. A second meeting will take place on December 6th focusing more specifically on West Walkley Road. City staff and Parsons will go through a detailed presentation, including recommendations coming out of the EA, tweaks to the design, including bus bays. The community told the Councilor that they want an opportunity to share feedback and better understand the project. He encouraged neighbours to attend both meetings.

The Councilor then stressed that this project is not being paid by tax dollars, but out of development charges that developers pay when they build things around the City. These charges contribute to the cost of growth. When City Council approved this project in 2013, it was determined that it would be paid for through development charge revenues. The reason it hasn't been built yet is because they haven't accrued the necessary funds. In the meantime, the cost to do so has gone up 75% and we're at a point where the city needs to justify this investment. Some residents have asked about the necessity and the City needs to come up with arguments. Construction would take two years and might not start until 2027. Staff will clarify that.

5.1.11. On coyotes, since the last meeting the wildlife specialist hired by the City recommended trapping two coyotes. It took a while to get permission from Hydro One. The coyotes outsmarted the trappers for a while. The traps were paused and restarted last week and three coyotes were eventually caught. They were confirmed to be the ones they were looking for and they were removed. It is not all the coyotes, they will continue living in our community. There will be an extensive communication campaign on how to manage coyotes. The Councilor stressed not to engage with coyotes and not feed them. There will be a coyote management strategy by the City next year. City staff would like to consult with the community.

5.1.12. Upcoming events - there will be a final e-waste depot behind the Metro on McCarthy on Saturday. The Councilor will be hosting a Christmas dinner on December 22nd. Free of charge. 5 o'clock seating. Great response last time it was done.

5.2. Q&A:

5.2.1. There were a number of question on the Airport Parkway and West Walkley Road projects:

Terry asked whether it is too early to say whether development charges for 2023/2024 are going to be sufficient or are we looking at further delays? The Councilor's understanding was that the full cost of phase one will not be realised before January 2024. Staff has not made any decision but they could start some components of that work (i.e. off-ramp, roundabout, etc). He expected this to come up at the sessions.

Gabriel asked how the lack of funding impacts plans for West Walkley Road and expressed concern that some parts might be built (i.e. off-ramp and roundabout) without the traffic calming measures being put in place. The Councilor responded that if the off-ramp opens, it has to be bundled with the roundabout and the modifications to West Walkley road. These modifications are up for discussion and input might lead to changes in the design, but it doesn't make sense that if these modifications are agreed upon that they do not happen at the same time as the off-ramp.

Jamieson asked whether the decision to piecemeal the project would come from the City Council or the public. The Councilor reminded him that Council has already approved the project. So far the design budget has been approved, but as long as the construction budget is approved, then staff already have the authority to go ahead. He suggested raising this issue at the upcoming consultations. Jamieson then added that the City will be taking feedback on this project until December 2nd.

5.2.2. Susana asked about the previous discussion on the dog park. She was informed that Dave and Gabriel will reach out to the Facebook group and HuntClub group to see where things stand about the dog park.

6. Update on gardens and rinks

6.1. Sarah reported that the gardens are being moved away from the Brigil site ahead of construction. The garden beds have been donated to schools/daycare in the community and the gardens will be relocated to Paget park. Community volunteers are in contact with Just Food. The plan there is to have 24 beds on two sides of the park and 4 accessible beds along the pathway. They are waiting to hear from the City to see what will be approved. Sarah then invited anybody to join the garden committee. Email garden@riversidepark.ca for more information.

6.2. Dave then reflected on the opportunity to connect gardens, rinks and splash pads. It would be a great project to combine all of them as it would be a great contribution to youth engagement, sports and sustainability. He added that the RPCA will be starting a campaign to find volunteers to maintain rinks. Dave then asked how the community could go about getting an approved structure at Paget park. The Councilor said this need to be acted upon immediately if it is to happen this season and that he is willing to assist and invited both Dave and Sarah to reach out. ? Like a shed? If you are looking for this coming season, it needs an immediate meeting (Councilor) will do whatever I can to assist. Invited Dave and Sarah to reach out.

7. Halloween, Christmas and Festivals

7.1. Dave explained his interest in better managing the over subscription of summer festivals. On Halloween, he noted the success of the pumpkin drop off at Ernie Calcutt Park and added that the RPCA had organised the spooky story and a costume/decorations competition. Three submissions meeting the qualifications were received

Terry moved a motion to offer \$25 Tim Hortons gift cards. It was seconded by Kevin. All board members voted in favour.

Motion passed.

7.2. On Christmas, Dave wondered whether to repeat the Santa Clause. Terry asked how it would be funded as it was done through sponsorship last year (\$500).

Kevin moved a motion to fund it if we can't find outside sponsors. Seconded by Gabriel. All voted in favour.

Motion passed.

8. Transportation update

8.1. In his presentation, Terry reported on the Southmore Drive East traffic calming study and on the second consultation meeting on the Airport Parkway expansion project.

8.2. On the Southmore Drive East traffic calming study, when last reported, there were some uncertainties about design. The City has now completed the final design plan and construction is expected in late 2023 or summer of 2024. Terry added that the traffic calming initiatives are to be funded by the City's regular transportation budget.

The whole report, including the complete final functional design plan, is online (link in the report).

As for the recommended functional design, Terry reported that previous uncertainties have been resolved in the

final functional design, including the location of the new sidewalk between West Walkley Road and Garwood Avenue on the west side of Southmore Drive. Parking on that side will be removed to accommodate the new sidewalk and the roadway will be reduced by 2 metres (sidewalk to be built on existing road space). Parking will also be removed on the North side of Linton road just after the stop sign to improve vision of incoming traffic. Ladder markings at the McCarthy and Southmore Drive intersection will only be on McCarthy road. The curbs at the intersection of McCarthy Road and Southmore Drive will also be rebuilt for accessibility purposes.

8.3. On the airport parkway expansion project, the first meeting of the community working group was last March, the one last week was the second of three planned meetings. Since the first meeting Terry received some concerns and issues which he put forward at the meeting and which were addressed by the City and Parsons.

Terry then highlighted the two upcoming consultations - on November 23 on phase one of the project from Brookfield to Huntclub, the design of which is 1/3rd completed and on December 6 focusing on West Walkley Road. Terry believed the December meeting would also be an opportunity to get the results of the June West Walkley Road traffic calming project.

Some local issues came up during the community working group meeting. First about the impact on the green space to the East of Cromwell Drive (northern constraint segment). On that part, the roadway will be pushed as far East as possible given the proximity of residences to the West. The roadway can only go so far because of the creek. The expanded roadway will not go any further to the West and will instead be added to the East. That being said, due to the new MUP on the West side and associated drainage ditch, as well as the planned sound barrier, the green space to the West will end up being reduced by about 14 metres. The City is trying to maximise the use of the available space. As a result there will be no median in that part of the Parkway, only a middle barrier.

As for light pollution, there will be new lighting installed but the City will try to focus the lighting downwards and towards the East as much as possible. It is not yet clear whether this lighting will only be for the Parkway or whether it will also cover the West side MUP.

Finally, the last local issue is noise mitigation. There will be a sound wall built East of the Cromwell area. The original plan calls for a 2.5 metres high barrier, but residents on Cromwell would prefer a higher fence (at least 3 metres). The City agreed to study the technical aspects of that petition, but it remains to be determined. On the Linton Park segment, there are no mitigation measures planned. Terry proposed that the berm to the East of Linton Park playing field be extended to the hydro corridor. According to the City, it could be done with the fill from parkway construction and will be considered in further plans. NCC may need to be involved as they own the green space.

Moving on to the impact of the Airport Parkway expansion on West Walkley Road, Terry highlighted that there are no less than 8 projects involving West Walkley road going on, all of which will be briefly summarised at the townhall meeting. This really underlines the need for good integrated planning. We need to see a single integrated design covering the entirety of West Walkley Road from Riverside Drive to Bank street. The City has yet to produce such an integrated plan.

The City has done a suite of traffic studies and projections on the impact of the increased traffic on the Airport Parkway and specifically arising from the new southbound off ramp. The new exit ramp could result in an additional 100 vehicles per hour Westbound increase during peak hours. At the same time, it could result in a reduction of up to 75 vehicles per weekday peak hour in east bound traffic.

A minor increase in delays to East/West traffic flows is also expected (10 second per vehicle) which will result in slower traffic speeds but no gridlock. There will also be a minor increase in delays to access West Walkley Road from side streets. There will also be longer turning queues for westbound traffic turning onto McCarthy that extend

across Wexford Way but little change to traffic on McCarthy Road itself. Terry noted that some people may question the numbers and noted that pre-pandemic traffic flows were used as base in these models. Terry believed these numbers may be soft but still provide a good indication of what future trends could be.

Looking at how to address these changes, Terry went over the proposed design changes, including the reduction to three traffic lanes and turn restrictions that will be proposed for afternoon peak hours for East-bound traffic turning left onto Wexford Way and for West-bound turning left onto Southmore Drive East. The City is also looking at the possibility of a left-turn signal for East-bound traffic onto Avoncourt Way. Lastly, Terry noted that the latest proposal takes into account the results of the June West Walkley Road traffic calming pilot project.

As for the proposed complete street modifications, Terry noted the improved protection for bike lanes on both sides of West Walkley Road with a combination of pinned curves, flex posts and painted buffers as well as ride over curb extensions for bus stops. There will be physical islands at select locations to help direct traffic and there will be no parking allowed at any time.

Terry then shared a series of slides on what the main intersections would look like as well as the proposed roundabout. Terry also shared an example of a buffered bike lane with pinned curbs.

In his final comment, Terry noted that a piecemeal construction involving just the off-ramp and the roundabout would be the absolute worst case scenario as there has been a longstanding need for traffic calming measures on West Walkley Road. He added that there could be some advantages to the project being delayed until 2027 as the LRT would then be functional for a number of years and factual data on its impact on the Airport Parkway traffic flows would then be available. It would give more time to take a deeper look at traffic flows and trends. We would also have the results of the origin-destination study foreseen as part of the transportation master plan.

9. Spratt School of Business

9.1. Dave mentioned that in meetings with City representatives, he learnt that they have never looked at traffic patterns within a specific community. For Riverside Park, it is estimated that less than 6% of car trips stay within the community. Most trips head north out of the community. With this information, Dave segwayed into the work led by George Brown on the kind of businesses that the community needs.

9.2. George gave a brief overview of his work. He had previously reached out to Carleton's Centre for Community Engagement where they give students practical experience working with community groups on community projects. OSEAN had a Carleton student spend the summer doing an invasive species study in Ernie Calcutt Park. The student prepared a detailed study of their findings and will present them with a plan on how to get on top of it.

George had also brainstormed with Kate a whole bunch of other projects as the community is transforming into an urban village with major planned developments. We can't call ourselves that if we don't have a coffee shop or pub, although George expected we could end up with those in the Brookfield properties. It would also be nice to have hybrid grocery stores or doctors offices back in the community.

The idea of working with Spratt was to develop a survey and George would need the assistance of RPCA and Councilor and developers to do a community survey in early December. A draft will be sent to RPCA board directors shortly. It will focus on basic demographics/income/shopping habits and George was particularly interested in hearing from renters. It will also include some specific business options.

George is looking at how the survey can reach neighbours in the apartment buildings, etc. He would be happy to share the results with Brigil and Revalie who are also trying to bring businesses into the community. He asked for

quick responses from Board directors on anything that might be missing. Get it out in December and get the results in the new year.

9.3. George also mentioned that he is talking to the head of the history department at Carleton about the possibility of writing up the story of the community.

9.4. Dave welcomed this effort and suggested that Huntclub should also be included. Terry believed this survey would be a great follow-up to the previous work of the RPCA on the Official Plan and visioning exercise.

10. AOB

10.1. Gabriel asked why the time of the meetings changed. Dave explained that it was moved to the second wednesday of the month to avoid conflicts with the FCA planning and zoning group and to give Kevin time to give more detailed financials.

10.2. Jamieson asked whether there is any formal procedure to join RPCA committees. The answer is no.

11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Gabriel moved a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Terry.

Motion carried.

END.