

# MEETING MINUTES

## Riverside Park Community Association

Wednesday, 14 December 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 7:05PM and reviewed the agenda (published on the website).

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

**Motion carried.**

### 2. Receipt of Minutes of the November 9th, 2022 Board Meeting and review of actions

2.1. Dave invited all participants to review the minutes of the November meeting (published on the website) and to contact Gabriel with any comments.

2.2. Dave then reviewed the list of actions from the November meeting. This notably led to a discussion on dog parks and the plans for the community gardens at Paget park. A number of neighbours voiced their concerns over plans for the park and their impact on the play area given the limited space there and stressed the need for proper consultation before moving ahead.

2.2.1. Councilor Brockington suggested that the association, with his office's assistance, take the time to map out all the parks in the neighbourhood, listing all the amenities that each park offers and determine through a community discussion what the main gaps are throughout Riverside Park in terms of parks. He argued this would form a greater foundation for community consultations.

2.2.2. If the Association wants to focus on Paget, he asked that he be contacted so that he could obtain information from the city on feasibility and cost before consulting the public.

Terry moved to adopt the minutes and was seconded by Kevin.

### **3. Approval of new board Director**

3.1. Rob expressed interest in joining the Board due to his role as rings manager.

Kevin moved a motion to welcome Rob to the Board. It was seconded by Terry.

**Motion carried.**

3.2. Terry welcomed Rob and proposed that the Board welcome Rob by acclamation. He also underscored that as with any Board member joining outside of an election, that member's term expires at the next annual meeting of the members.

Rob joined the Board by acclamation and, along with Katarina, will represent the Mooney's Bay area.

### **4. Finance report / future planning**

4.1. Kevin introduced more information to his new reporting format. He explained that the monthly revenue came from the memberships. The only expenses were cashback on the credit card and expenses for the gardens. For the month of November the accounts are positive by \$650.

4.1.2 Current bank account and investments - not much changes. The only liability is the credit card which is paid every month. Overall the association has over \$31,000 in equity.

4.2. On MASC, the RPCA has been talking to all parties and is now on the hunt for money. \$4,000 outstanding as Brigil had agreed to give \$2,000, the city \$1,000 and the RPCA the last \$1,000. Craig asked whether Claudia was paid. She was paid through MASC.

4.3. Terry asked about the agreement on the \$500 donation for the Councilor's Christmas dinner. This will be included in the December report.

4.4. Kevin mentioned that some of the money would be placed in an investment that would produce a bit more money. A large part will remain available.

Terry moved a motion to approve the report. It was seconded by Gabriel.

**Motion carried.**

4.5. Moving on to future planning, Kevin presented a proposed 2022/2023 budget and noted that much remains up in the air, except for the guaranteed revenue from the City for the rinks. No revenue was put down for sponsorship yet. Garden fees will remain. Revenues look lower but it is because they don't include anything that is not set in stone. Kevin then went through the whole expenses. It might be a negative balance but that is partly because money from the mural didn't go out in 2022.

4.5.1. Carolyn asked about the plans for the flower buckets and suggested more budget be allocated to that. She also recalled discussions on banners welcoming people into the neighbourhood which had overwhelming support. She suggested some of that money should be invested in promoting the neighbourhood in a positive way. Kevin responded that this is just a budget and that it can evolve as the year progresses. Dave was willing to discuss approaches to the banners. He agreed the money should be invested appropriately according to community involvement. Terry recalled that the discussion ended with the idea to seek a sponsor for the welcoming banners. More specifically a

realtor (Mr. Creppin) had previously sponsored banners and the idea was to follow up with them.

## 5. Councilor's report and Q&A

5.1. The Councilor went through highlights of his report. His full report is available [here](#).

5.1.1. The Councilor welcomed the festive season and noted the busy schedule at City Hall with decisions on committee memberships. He also re-introduced his staff, including his office manager Courtney McCrury, Andrew Sutton (Ward relations - east of the river) and Mary Young (Ward relations - west of the river).

5.1.2. He then promoted the Riverward holiday dinner that he will be hosting and thanked the Community Associations for contributing some of the costs. He invited everyone to RSVP through his office.

5.1.3. The Councilor then noted the two public consultations on the airport parkway expansion and Walkley Road road modifications. He notably highlighted all the modifications proposed for West Walkley Road between Riverside Drive and Bank Street, including some he had not previously seen. He will be meeting with other Councillors to discuss concerns both on the Airport Parkway expansion and West Walkley Road.

5.1.3.1. He called for the RPCA and his office to have discussions on next steps. The final design for West Walkley Road is not expected for another year. The construction itself is not expected to start until 2027, but there are some rumours that the city could advance some work, including the MUP, off-ramp, roundabout, and perhaps the West Walkley Road modifications ahead of time. He expected the topic to remain on the agenda for the coming year.

5.1.4. On Bank Street, the Councilor reported that all of the street will be redesigned from Wellington to Rideau River and Rideau river. Work to begin with the intersections between Riverside and Bank as early as next year. Construction will not reach Walkley before 5 years and the City has to make sure construction on Bank street does not take place at the same time as Airport Parkway construction.

5.1.5. Coyotes continue to be an issue. There have been unsanctioned traps installed on the hydro corridor and parts of the McCarthy woods. These are unauthorised snares. As of last week, the City is working on removing these snares. The City never attempted to remove all coyotes from the area and will conduct consultations in riverward about their upcoming strategy.

5.1.6. On upcoming development - Brigid is expected to submit a third revision of their plan but there is no date for its evaluation in the planning Committee. On the Revalie, the Councilor reported that phase 1 has reached 100% occupancy. Construction on phase 2 will start at the end of February and mirror phase 1. He also shared some information on retailers that have signed on, which will include food, groceries and professional services. Andrew has been collecting information on the community for prospective businesses. The Taggart development at Riverside and Huntclub will be mixed use and has been reduced in size. There will also be a new MUP from the Huntclub bridge to the Quintera riverwood community as well as some road modification to Riverside Drive. Taggart hopes to file by the end of December and the Councilor will host a public session in the winter.

5.1.7. The Council then reported on updates from City Hall and the Committees he will sit on this term.

5.1.8. He also commented on the final report of the light rail inquiry and expected a City response to this report to be published at some point in the winter and called for the full implementation of recommendations implemented.

5.1.9. The Councilor then brought up the Mooney's Bay Hill. He brought a motion to the City Council as staff have been firm in their decision to not reopen Mooney's Bay hill. The motion did not pass (failed by 1 vote) and the City's lawyer argues there is too much liability. All the other amenities remain open.

5.1.10. He also reminded participants that Council passed a motion on vacant housing tax. This is part of an effort to increase housing supply as there are an estimated 2000 empty residences in Ottawa that are not someone's primary residence. The City will identify vacant residences, and if they are not used for 6 months of the year, the owners will be taxed 1% of the estimated value of the property, in addition to property taxes. 330,000 homeowners will have to fill this every year. The Councilor did not support the tax but understands the need to create new residences.

5.1.11. Finally, the Councilor reported that the Jim Durrell arena will be used as a shelter again this winter as downtown shelters are at capacity. The arena itself is out of service as the cooling rods need to be replaced and were not going to be fixed in time for winter use.

## 5.2. Q&A:

5.2.1. The Councilor was asked about the results of the expression of interest for new property owners at Canoe Bay. He did not have any new information. He is no longer a Director at the Ottawa Community Lands Development Corporation but expects to get some information soon. Brigil is still some months out before reaching the Planning Committee and the Revalie has revised its construction start time. The Councilor also addressed the need to reduce the number of vehicles who stop at rush hour for drop off in front of the Revalie building. He notably discussed with City staff the addition of no stop signs and the need for dedicated loading zones and spaces for businesses and also services to residents.

5.2.2. Craig asked about accountability for the LRT as the main players have left, and for an update on Tudor Hall. The Councilor has not formally sought professional advice on how to hold departed employees or officials accountable for what came out in the report. Council will need to fully understand what happened and hold people accountable as such. The Councilor was not sure what it will look like. He also stressed that the longer this process takes, the more confidence will be lost. On Tudor Hall, the number of units was increased while parking spaces went down. As Tudor Hall is not near public transit, the Councilor stressed that the likelihood of people needing cars is fair. He had no date for Tudor Hall to appear before the Planning Committee. Craig stressed the importance for some accountability.

## 6. Gardens and rinks

6.1. Sarah reported on the Mooney's bay community gardens. This year the 18 beds were used, showing the high demand for gardens in the community. Most of the users came from the Norberry apartments. As Brigil could not guarantee that the beds would be able to stay in the same place for the full season next year, the beds were donated to local schools and daycares. The gardeners are now looking for a new site and have determined that the Paget park would be an ideal location because it has an existing water access and remains in the vicinity of the previous gardens. They prepared a proposal to ensure that the beds would take the least amount of space possible, with 24 beds and 4 accessible raised beds along the path. There would be large water totes that the gardeners could use to water their plants. A shed is also envisaged to store garden and rink materials. The plan also foresees a pollinator patch on the south side of the park and a compost would be near the shed.

6.1.1. In terms of timelines, plans to move the gardens were started in 2020. In August of 2022 the proposal was submitted to Just Food (liaison to the city). No community gardens were approved. The plan was updated and it was resubmitted in November 2022. Moving forward timelines are fuzzier. The City is working on a staff report that is expected at some point in the winter.

6.1.2. While there was overall support for the gardens as a community building project, an opportunity to involve kids and also to feed neighbours as prices are going up, the suggestion to move the gardens to Paget park was largely rejected by neighbours from that area. The lack of community consultation before submitting the proposal to the City was widely questioned, and a number of participants argued the gardens would severely limit space for kids to play as the park itself is not big enough and Paget is the only kid oriented park in the neighbourhood. Some participants also pointed out that mixing the gardens with a play

area could become a source of conflict as kids might start playing in the beds.

6.1.3. Kevin stressed that having this discussion during the meeting did not mean the proposal had the support or the approval of the Community Association, and invited all neighbours interested in getting involved to join the RPCA and the board. Dave recommended that all parties contact the RPCA and took Riley and Andrew's offer to facilitate the discussion.

6.2. Rob gave an update on the rink needs. Pauline Vanier park boards are up. Looking for volunteers for the Pauline Vanier area. Arnett Park also needs volunteers. Some folks would like to see that structure become permanent. Hoping for a shed at Paget park to store materials. At Paget park people are interested in picnic tables, an accessible park bench, some lights and possibly a splash pad.

6.2.1. Riley asked for the presentation to be emailed to him. He was asked to provide funds for minor amenities at Paget, but adding one picnic table is estimated to cost \$10,000 because it has to be accessible and needs a paved pathway to it.

## **7. Business improvement**

7.1. After the lengthy discussion on community gardens, George offered to move his presentation to the January meeting, but briefly indicated that he is planning a community survey to identify the needs within the community. Dave indicated that the presentation was uploaded on the website and that George is looking for some feedback from the community.

7.2. George also explained that he has developed a good relationship with Carleton after the study on invasive species that was done during the summer and that more projects will be happening for the benefit of the community.

7.3. In the ensuing discussion, while agreeing with the usefulness of such a survey, Craig asked under what auspices the survey is being done and noted a possible conflict of interest given George's involvement with Brigil. George stressed that this work is separate from his work with Brigil. Craig argued it should be the RPCA determining whether there is a conflict of interest or not, to which Dave responded that the RPCA is keen to ensure that there is no conflict of interest, but also recognizes the insight provided by such a survey would be useful. Both Dave and Terry gave their full support to George.

## **8. Festivals**

8.1. Dave was approached by a group of residents who have concerns about festivals in the area. He argued the community reached a tipping point when two large festivals happened on the same weekend last summer and that there needs to be a better way to manage these festivals.

8.1.1. The Councilor asked the association to articulate its main concerns - the two festivals on the same weekend were Hope festival and Lebanese festival. These happened to be on the same weekend. There are legacy issues that come up with our long-running festivals such as parking, noise, garbage, public urination. There is an infrastructure in place in the city where festivals have to go through approval. Some of the problematic events were brand new that registered later in the season and caught everyone off guard. Some things work well like parking restrictions.

8.1.2. Dave and the Councilor invited concerned neighbours to put their concerns in writing and contact both the RPCA and the Councilor's office.

## **9. Transportation**

9.1. Terry gave a summary of recent developments and a summary of two specific recommendations, noting that 2022 has been a busy and important year for the airport parkway expansion project and the West Walkley Road

9.1.1. Terry stressed the upcoming deadlines to send comments to the City on both projects and invited everyone to check the slides of the West Walkley Road presentation on the City's website. He also noted that construction has been delayed until 2027.

9.1.2. Terry welcomed the City's presentation which, for the first time, proposed a coherent vision for Walkley Road from Riverside Drive to Bank Street. This vision is centred around 10 specific projects either under way or planned (listed in Terry's presentation). The elephant in the room is the expansion of the airport parkway and the off-ramp onto Walkley Road. One of the elements presented - a tentative plan for bicycle lanes from the roundabout to the LRT station - was completely new. He also welcomed plans to add cycling lanes from Bank Street to the LRT station. Terry then quickly reviewed the design plans.

9.1.3. Terry then presented to specific recommendations - That RPCA:

1. Support the proposed "vision" for WWR along the lines presented by the City at the December 6th townhall meeting and request the City to implement the various project elements comprising the "vision" as soon as possible and separate from the widening of the Airport Parkway and construction of the off-ramp, roundabout and west-side MUP; and,
2. Request the City undertake a comprehensive review of the Airport Parkway widening itself, given its continued delay, significant escalation in costs and various other uncertainties and unanswered questions, with the scope of the review also to include the off-ramp, roundabout and west-side MUP.

9.1.4. Terry stressed that not moving forward on this vision could lead to a worsening of the situation as traffic volumes return to their pre-pandemic levels. He argued not moving now might mean the traffic calming vision on West Walkley Road may never happen.

9.1.5. On the June traffic calming pilot itself, Terry noted that many found it validated the benefits of some proposed traffic mitigation measures, while also helping identify problems the City sought to address in its presentation. Did the result support the corridor vision? Yes according to the City for reasons detailed in Terry's presentation.

9.1.6. With regards to the second recommendation, Terry gave a series of reasons why the Transportation Committee believes the Airport Parkway expansion project should be revisited. He argued that the 2016 environmental assessment does provide for a review of the Airport Parkway expansion project. He added that the traffic forecasts that the City is using to justify the widening are based on pre-pandemic data but there will be new data available in the next couple of years, such as the results of the OD survey. The Trillium line will enter into service in late 2023 next year and we'll be able to measure its impact on the parkway traffic. Other studies that the community is doing too, such as community mobility study and the desire to reduce travel outside of the community. The policy context has also changed - more importance is now being placed on sustainable transportation alternatives at a time of growing environmental emergency. The parkway widening will have a negative impact on some of the green space. The City's new transportation master plan also has a specific policy which stipulates that new road or highway capacity that directly competes with LRT should be avoided. Last but not least, costs for this project have gone up 75%.

9.1.7. Terry added that while the first recommendation might seem a first strong on first reading, the City indicated that it would move ahead with the various elements regardless and that it would be useful for the RPCA now, especially with comments due, to express a vision in support, including for moving ahead separately from the airport parkway. Secondly, the city undertake a comprehensive review of the airport parkway expansion itself. The scope of this review also to include off-ramp, MUP, roundabout.

9.2. Q&A:



9.2.1. Councilor Brockington reminded the RPCA that he will meet with three local Councilors to discuss the expansion of the airport parkway and they'll talk about what we like and what we're uncomfortable with. Are there parts that can be supported while others are impossible? He noted that he's been asked multiple times for justification for the widening of the Airport Parkway. One thing that will likely come out of this meeting is a formal request for the City to provide hard data and evidence that the demand today and tomorrow substantiates the significant investment, or that the city completes the design components and then shelves the project until the Airport Parkway is over capacity.

9.2.1.1. The Councilor also noted that there are definitely mixed reactions in Riverside Park regarding the proposed West Walkley Road traffic calming modifications. The bulk of opposition is directed towards the plan for Walkley Road. Some people were led to believe that the impacts would be a lot worse than reality. He nevertheless agreed that there are some components that we learnt about on December 6th that need to be discussed as a community before a final design is approved. He would welcome any input from the RPCA, including any information the Association would like to see.

9.2.2. Kevin stressed the need to consider the section of West Walkley Road between McCarthy and Riverside Drive as traffic volumes increase, in particular the intersection with Riverside Drive which often sees long queues for left turns onto Riverside Drive.

9.2.3. Terry stressed that with comments due by December 23rd and the City moving ahead with these elements and argued it is time to see whether the RPCA can adopt a position on the proposed changes. The vision as presented in the recommendation is very high level. There are lots of details to be addressed, as heard from the Councilor and in proposing the adoption of the vision, the RPCA is not calling for every specific detail and item of the proposal to be endorsed. Instead, it would mark the RPCA's support for the vision, separate from what happens on Airport Parkway. There are so many questions on the Airport Parkway that a second look should be taken.

Terry moved a motion to approve the recommendations presented by the transportation Committee. It was seconded by Gabriel. Dave also supported it as a step forward towards the right design, despite existing reservations.

#### Recommendations:

1. Support the proposed "vision" for WWR along the lines presented by the City at the Dec 6 Townhall meeting and request the City to implement the various project elements comprising the "vision" as soon as possible and separate from the widening of the Airport Parkway and construction of the off-ramp, roundabout and west-side MUP; and,
2. Request that the City undertake a comprehensive review of the Airport Parkway widening itself, given its continued delay, significant escalation in cost and various other uncertainties and unanswered questions, with the scope of the review also to include the off-ramp, roundabout and west-side MUP.

**The motion was adopted by consensus.**

9.2.4. After adoption of the motion, Terry recommended, and the Board agreed, that the Transportation Committee prepare comments to the City advising on the two recommendations and following-up on the Nov 23 and Dec 6 public information meetings on the Airport Parkway Widening Project and WWR. Terry advised that he would draft the comments in consultation with the Transportation Committee and the Board with a view to submitting them by the City's Dec 23 deadline.

## 10.AOB

10.1. Dave announced the creation of a planning committee. It will focus on a number of issues, including mobility, parks, development, etc. Called on those interested to email [planning@riversidepark.ca](mailto:planning@riversidepark.ca).



10.2. He also indicated that after consultations with the Presidents of other Community Associations, there are discussions to create a President's Council to talk about planning issues that affect communities.

**11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 11th, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**

**12. Adjournment**

Dave moved a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Gabriel.

**Motion carried.**

END.