

MEETING MINUTES

Riverside Park Community Association

Wednesday, 8 February, 2023

Location: Via Zoom

Board members attendance	
Dave Coyle, President Kevin Wolfe, Treasurer	Terry Wood, Director Rob, Director

1. Call to Order and agenda approval

1.1. Dave called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the unceded land of the Algonquin people, and reviewed the agenda (published on the website).

After the arrival of Rob (no quorum until then) Kevin moved to adopt the agenda and was seconded by Rob.

Motion carried.

2. Receipt of Minutes of the December 14th, 2022 Board Meeting and review of actions

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

Kevin moved to approve the minutes. He was seconded by Dave.

Motion carried.

2.2. Dave highlighted the monthly newsletter.

2.3. Dave then reviewed the list of actions from the January meeting.

2.2.1. Updates on park mapping - Andrew suggested coming back with dates to have a meeting with the Councilor. Jenn and Vince came forward to be part of these discussions. Dave suggested having the strategic review of parks either on March 8th or April 12th. It would be a hybrid meeting at the Riverside United Church.

2.2.1.1. There was then a discussion on the situation of the Paget park proposal. Dave recalled that a review was launched in 2020. Jenn then highlighted that several neighbours

raised concerns over the use of Paget park for the community gardens and recalled that Councilor Brockington had suggested a comprehensive review of parks in the community before advancing this project.

The Councilor requested that the City look at all green spaces north of Walkley Road and asked for some basic information on optimal locations for dog parks, splash pads and community gardens. The City listed the Ernie Calcutt and Paget parks as the best options if a water source is needed. He also reiterated his willingness to have a conversation with the community and the RPCA. No final decision can be made without community consultation.

Jenn also stressed the need to keep the open space and play structure for kids in Paget park, especially in the context of densification of the area and suggested focusing efforts on Ernie Calcutt as it currently does not have any built infrastructure. Carolyn stressed that the membership of the RPCA might not be representative of the community in any consultation on this matter. She asked for the meeting to be open and led by the Councilor or Parks and Recreation.

The Councilor asked the board to clarify the objectives the RPCA is trying to achieve before moving forward. He will work with the RPCA and local residents regardless.

Kevin stressed that the role of the RPCA at this stage is not to support one idea or the other but rather to facilitate discussions. Terry suggested that a next step could be inviting the parks department to give the community a briefing on the parks north of Walkley Road and explain what may or may not be possible in each of those parks. Councilor Brockington invited Dave to meet offline and agree on next steps.

Dave asked the attendance how to create a quorum of representative people for such a consultation to advance the process on these parks? Jenn suggested that the RPCA should champion the community gardens and consult the City to find the best options and consult the community based on that.

Wrapping up the discussion, Craig underscored the importance for the RPCA to continue focusing on residents rather than on members in this context.

2.2.3. The Councilor met with Parks and Recreation and By-Law events central and allocations. His objective was to discuss the quantity of festivals and special events in Mooney's Bay and his desire to see a limit to events after Labour Day. There was a recognition that this is a well used park and staff agreed on a limit after Labour Day. There is one event scheduled after Labour Day and the Councilor asked AfroFest to review their date if possible. Rhythm and Flow won't be returning. The Councilor suggested an offline meeting to Dave to discuss a strategy for noise and parking issues.

2.2.4. Dave asked Terry to reach out to the community police officer to invite him to an upcoming meeting. Terry agreed.

2.2.5. Terry informed that OC Transpo will be giving a briefing on the Trillium line on 16 February and he encouraged everybody to attend. The details were circulated by the Councilor and posted on the RPCA website.

2.2.6. Dave called for volunteers to revive the social and cultural committee.

3. Councilor's report and Q&A

3.1. The Councilor acknowledged the Black History Month. His report included a number of links to events celebrating black achievements.

3.2. The draft City budget was released on 1 February, kicking off a month-long process of consultations. The budget will total \$5.5b.

3.3. The Ottawa Hospital held a consultation on phase 3 and 4 of the new hospital on 9 February. The site plan for the hospital was presented during that consultation. The Councilor will also host a consultation on the Trillium line on 16 February. The Consultation will focus on local stations and infrastructure. The Councilor will also host his first post-COVID movie night on 10 February. In March he will host his annual International Women's Day speaker series on 7 March.

3.4. The Councilor then gave an update on local developments. City is about to sign off on the Springland and Norberry project. St Patrick's Home is still progressing with due diligence - construction likely next year. Phase 2 of the Youth Services Bureau has been put on the back burner. Brigil continues to refine their submission - no dates for planning committee. Bids are still being assessed for Canoe Bay. The Councilor also did not have new updates on the Revalie.

Other smaller developments include the 805 Walkley Road vacant lot where there is no application yet. 2930 McCarthy Road, consent was granted to divide the original lot into two. The Councilor expects stacked townhomes although no plans exist yet. 3358 Riverside Drive, consent was granted to create four lots in 2016 but its no active application yet.

On the Airport Parkway widening project and Walkley Road modifications, the Councilor met with south-end Councilors. There are some concerns over the necessity of the project at this time. He acknowledged the benefits of this project but asked the senior transportation planners for more data. The Councilor's specific questions are listed in his report. The Councilor's office also has compiled a list of issues with the planned modifications to West Walkley Road. The plan is to review them, next steps and strategy with Terry before getting back to the City for the final design. City staff reached out to the Councilor about a potential extension of the MUP to the paved pathway at Cromwell Drive. Consultation will be needed with the immediate community. He also noted that he would provide an update on the Airport Parkway widening and West Walkley Road as part of his reports to future meetings in view of the continuing level of community interest.

3.5. The Councilor then briefly reviewed the rest of his report, including a reminder to clear snow from vents and the gas metre, and upcoming water main repairs on Springland (this summer). He also gave a heads up on a charity that has been operating out of the Country Grocer, called House to Home, which works with refugees to help them find home supplies. He also identified the local rinks and thanked the volunteers who keep them open.

3.6. Finally, the Councilor had a conversation with the General Manager of OC Transpo on the impact of the Trillium line on bus routes. He said that he does not anticipate any changes to bus routes north of Huntclub Road.

3.7. The Councilor's report was followed by a Q&A session:

3.7.1. Terry commented on the idea of the MUP connection with Cromwell. The proposal on the West MUP itself is controversial as it is a duplication of existing infrastructure. The connection did come up in the Airport Parkway Widening project Community Working Group. The City said such a connection would need to be about 4 to 5 metres wide, meaning some green space would have to be removed and there would need to be an entryway between the noise barrier and the MUP. He also called for close consultation with local residents.

3.7.2. Carolyn wondered whether other businesses around the Country Grocer would also shut down by April. The Councilor had no answer and will follow up, although Brigil always wanted to keep the businesses as long as possible. He also did not expect construction to start this year.

4. Investments and grants

4.1. Community gardens have to apply for grants. Dave called on volunteers to support applications for grants. Marianne informed that OSEAN is preparing a survey and that upcoming activities will include information sessions on invasive species, bringing more native species into people's yards, the pumpkins for the planet will be back. OSEAN will also have education towards heat pumps.

4.2. Dave asked the Councilor why the City does not talk about hydro revenue when talking about the budget. Riverside Park is one of the biggest GHG generator in the city. He also noted that Hydro Ottawa's revenue increases, while the City is also advocating for switching from gas to electricity. Electrification of transport is a contributor to reducing GHG emissions, but buildings are also a very large portion and the City is calling on homeowners to at least consider the value of a heat pump.

The Councilor noted Hydro Ottawa is a separate entity, even though it is owned by the City. Hydro contributes a significant portion of its dividends to the City and a portion of it goes to climate reduction strategies.

5. Festivals

5.1. Dave asked what will be the formalisation of protecting people's rights / the best strategy to deal with festivals and densification.

The Councilor asked the association to identify any chronic issues with festivals so he can raise them with the City. Intensification will be longer-term, starting with the periphery and Walkley Road. He hoped compromise could be reached on such occasions. He raised the example of the early editions of the Lebanese festival, with lots of issues that were eventually ironed out.

6. Finance report

6.1. Kevin went through the January revenue, with the second payment from the City for the rinks. Sponsorship came from Brigil for the mural - the \$2000 will be paid out. In terms of operating expenses, the RPCA paid the supervisors for the rinks, accounting software, and gas and shovels for the rinks.

The RPCA still has around \$6943 in the bank. No changes to investments. The board also met with the bank to register signatories.

6.2. Terry asked what the fiscal end of year date. It is on July 30th.

Terry moved to approve the report, it was seconded by Rob.

Motion carried.

7. Rink updates

7.1. Rob praised the work of the volunteers who worked hard to remove the snow. The rinks were nevertheless closed because of the weather.

He also indicated that supervisors are available to answer questions: Arnott Park - Sat/Sun 2-5PM and Mon/Fri from 4:30-7:30PM and at Pauline Vanier - Sat/Sun 1:30-5PM and Mon/Fri 7:30-10:30PM. Everyone is welcome to request a rink permit. The status of the rinks is available on a website.



8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9th, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

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

Motion carried.

END.