



COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER RILEY BROCKINGTON



Riverside Park Community Association January 10, 2024

Dear Members of the Riverside Park Community Association,

Happy New Year. My very best to the Board and members of the Riverside Park Community Association, wishing you a safe, prosperous and enjoyable year ahead. I look forward to working with you, to make our neighbourhood an even better place to call home.

Sincerely,

Riley

Walkley Road Update – Public Session Held January 8

On January 8, I hosted a well-attended public session in Ellwood Hall of the Jim Durrell Arena, whereby City staff and the Airport Parkway widening consultant, provided an update to the design of Walkley Road, part of the Walkley off-ramp project.

City Council, in March 2023, directed City staff to expediate the work associated with the Walkley off-ramp, including a new western MUP along the Parkway, Brookfield to Walkley and south of Walkley, a roundabout, associated bridge work and modifications to Walkley Road to McCarthy Road. The update provided an overview of the recent re-modelling undertaken in the summer of 2023, estimated travel times along the corridor, including queuing times at intersections and cut through volumes. A corridor illustration map was also available on hand for local residents to see the various proposed changes. Following the presentation, approximately two hours was dedicated to questions and comments from those in attendance. A copy of the actual presentation is available on demand.

A wide range of comments were received, ranging from questioning the overall utility and demand for the changes, to full embracement and requests to get on with the project. Other comments landed somewhere in between. As such, I noted the following for additional review:

- Travel times along the corridor will not be compromised, the outlier being extended wait time to turn southbound on McCarthy Road
- The intersection of Walkley/Wexford/private condos to the south will need to be reviewed for safety issues
- The afternoon rush hour left turn restriction on to Wexford will push travellers eastbound to Avoncourt. How will this impact flow on Avoncourt and even on Harkness in front of General Vanier PS?
- How will impacts of cut through traffic on Southmore Dr E, Thorndale and Provost be mitigated?

City staff are requesting public comments by January 22. You are welcome to share with me.

It was confirmed at the January 8 meeting that design plans will be completed in 2025 and construction is expected to take two years, 2026 and 2027.

River Ward Holiday Dinner – December 22

The Holiday Dinner was a huge success with approximately 420+ people in attendance for a traditional holiday meal and fellowship.

This was the largest indoor event I have hosted and I want to thank the RPCA for their generous financial support.

This event is expensive to host and all contributions were put to good use.

River Ward Office Changes

My Office Manager Courtney McRury gave birth to her first child with her partner Shane and is on maternity leave in 2024. Kerry-Ann Thompson is my Interim Office Manager and has been with the team since late November.

A new member will join the team later this month and will be introduced in the coming weeks.

Development Updates for Riverside Park – What to Watch

The Docks at Mooney's Bay – Quiet over the winter months, expect immediate work to begin in early spring by clearing the site of trees and grass, utility connections and the start of foundation work

The Revalie – Phase 2 was to commence in the winter of 2024. My office is trying to confirm dates to then conduct outreach in the immediate community.

Riverside Mall (Brigil) – With the last retail lease set to expire on May 31, 2024, Brigil intends to demolish the entire mall as early as June 2024. It is likely the mall will not be available for any festival related parking this year.

Festival Parking Restrictions Survey

As previously mentioned to the RPCA, I intend to mail a brief bulletin and survey to residents north of Walkley Road, to acquire their thoughts on potential revisions to the summer restrictions in the Mooney's Bay neighbourhood.

The proposal would be to retain restrictions on the streets closest to the park, and relax the summer-long restrictions on the outer streets and focus solely on the 10 day period between the HOPE Beach Volleyball and Ottawa Lebanese Festivals.

I believe after so long, with a moderate number of requests every year to amend the restrictions, to reach out to the community and ask for their feedback.

Mooney's Bay Toboggan Hill

In December 2022, City Council endorsed my motion directing staff to review the options of reopening part of the Hill for safe toboggan use. The motion requested a report with recommendations be provided by Q4-2023. The report was never delivered. As such, in January 2024, I wrote to the City Manager about this deadline not being met and requested an update. More information to follow.

General Vanier PS Visit

On December 11, I had the pleasure of visiting General Vanier PS which included a conversation with Principal Christina Rathier.

Ottawa Public Health Immunization Clinic

(No appointment needed)

Open for infants and children up to 18 years of age.

Routine immunizations for children should be kept up to date because any delay or omission in scheduled vaccines puts children at risk for common and serious childhood infections, such as pneumococcal disease, measles, and pertussis.

For more information on vaccines being offered, please visit the ParentingInOttawa.ca website.

Your child can attend if they identify with one or more of the following criteria:

1. Your child is a newcomer to Canada
2. Your child is without an OHIP card
3. Your child does not have a health care provider
4. Your child is currently unable to access vaccines through their health care provider.

Location: General Vanier PS, 1025 Harkness Avenue

Date/Time: January 15, 4-7pm

Meeting with the Ottawa Police Services re NRTs

On January 19 I will be meeting with the Ottawa Police Services Inspector responsible for the Neighbourhood Response Teams (NRT).

I have raised concerns with senior staff about the frequency that the units are redeployed out of communities for other priorities and the need for greater engagement with local leaders, groups and organizations.

I have also been in contact with the Sgt that oversees traffic enforcement, with similar concerns and plan to meet with him to review our neighbourhood's main traffic issues: speeding, turn restriction violations, stop sign running and amplified/modified car noise.

Looking Ahead

Carlington Movie Night

When: February 9, 6 pm

Where: Alexander Community Centre, 960 Silver St

Refreshments: hotdogs at 6 pm, juice and popcorn

Movie starts: 6:30 pm

Annual Rink Volunteer Breakfast

When: February 24, 8 am

Where: Ellwood Hall, Jim Durrell Arena, 1265 Walkley Rd

River Ward Trivia Night

When: March 2, 6 pm

Where: Alexander Community Centre, 960 Silver St

Pizza dinner: 5 pm

Trivia: 6 pm

River Ward Community Breakfast (Easter Weekend)

When: March 30 (*tentative*)

Where: Alexander Community Centre, 960 Silver St

Time: *to be determine*

Riley Brockington

January 10, 2024