

# MINUTES

## Riverside Park Community Association RPCA November Meeting of the Board of Directors

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Wednesday, February 3, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting Location: Zoom

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### 1. Call to Order

1.1 The meeting was called to order by Joel at 7:01 p.m. The following directors were in attendance (8):

- Kate Cathrae, Director
- Travis Croken, Vice-President
- Joel Duff, President
- Ethila Palit Parna, Director
- Katie Raso, Director
- Mark Staz, Secretary
- Andrew Wintonic, Director
- Terry Wood, Director

1.2 Joel opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and acknowledging that we are on the traditional unceded land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe. He expressed gratitude for the privilege of living on this land.

He explained the dual purpose of the meeting to address board business and provide open community discussion. He invited community members participate and explained the meeting procedures.

1.3 The following community members were in attendance (42):

- Suzanne Appleton
- Sandra Boyko
- Sarah Brickell
- Donna Bueckert
- Celine Caron
- Laurence Charron
- Robin Claridge
- Victoria Díaz
- Phillip Douglas
- Adrian Fournier
- Gabriel González
- Jeanine González
- Roger Howard
- Cathie Jedlinski

- Marvin Kaplansky
- Alan Kuszel
- Eva Kuszel
- Bob Laird
- Barbara MacDonald Moore
- Jenn MacInnis-Vettoretti
- Marika Magro
- Stephen Magro
- Ron Moir
- Rob Murray
- Paul O’Grady
- Bryan Parker
- Scott Pedlar
- Tara Peel
- Paul Penna
- Carolyn Percy-Searle
- Sarah Pettenuzzo
- Geoff Powell
- Erica Redler
- Linda Rossman
- Craig Searle
- Michael Simms
- John Singlehurst
- Doug Thompson
- Teresa Van Den Boogaard
- Sarah van den Hoven
- Donna Warner
- Gillian Wintonic

1.4 The following guests were in attendance (2):

- Riley Brockington, River Ward Councillor
- Erin McCracken, Councillor’s Office

## 2. Agenda

2.1 It was moved by Andrew and seconded by Kate to accept the agenda.

2.1.1 It was moved by Joel and seconded by Kate to add the “Snow Angel Challenge” under Other Business.

**Motion Carried**

2.1.2 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Kate to add the Tewin Development Proposal under Other Business.

**Motion Carried**

### **3. Minutes of the January 6, 2020 Board Meeting**

- 3.1 It was moved by Andrew and seconded by Katie to accept the minutes of the January 6, 2021 Board Meeting.

**Motion Carried**

### **4. Minutes of January 2021 Electronic Motions**

- 4.1 It was moved by Andrew and seconded by Travis to accept the minutes of the January Electronic Motions.

**Motion Carried**

### **5. Report: Riley Brockington, River Ward Councillor**

- 5.1 Councillor Riley Brockington gave an oral presentation of his Councillor's Report: <https://riversidepark.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.02.02-RPT-RiverWardCouncillor.pdf>
- 5.2 Terry raised concerns about Walkley Road at the Airport Parkway offramp, noting that the red light is extremely long. He asked whether it will now be a vehicle actuated signal. Councillor Brockington noted that this is already the case; it will only stop Walkley road traffic if someone is sitting in the queue. Nevertheless, given the length of the red signal, Councillor Brockington undertook to follow-up with the City to see if the light is functioning properly.
- 5.3 Suzanne Appleton asked whether the city could set up summer student jobs for park supervisors in the same way this occurs for rinks in the winter. They could help with contact tracing and other tasks while also cleaning up. Councillor Brockington called the suggestion sensible and helpful in that it would create additional safe summer opportunities for young people.
- 5.4 Donna Bueckert asked whether there are established timelines for the Walkley traffic calming pilot. The Councillor suggested aiming for October 2021. It is probably not feasible during this school year since schools are not going back to a normal level of students. It will also hinge on vaccination levels over the summer. If rates are sufficiently high, it would likely create greater volumes of traffic which could better inform decisions.

## **6. Report: RPCA Board of Directors**

### **6.1 President's Report**

- 6.1.1 Joel presented the President's Report: <https://riversidepark.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.02.03-RPT-President.pdf>
- 6.1.2 It was noted that a recording of the community consultation held at the last meeting was posted publicly to the RPCA website.

### **6.2 Vice-President's Report**

- 6.2.1 Travis presented the Vice-President's Report: <https://riversidepark.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.02.03-RPT-VP.pdf>
- 6.2.2 It was moved by Travis and seconded by Kate to give a mandate to the Events and Culture Committee to engage in community consultations during the month of February on about future events in order to present recommendations at the March meeting.

**Motion Carried**

### **6.3 Financial Update**

- 6.3.1 Joel presented the Financial Update: <https://riversidepark.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.02.03-RPT-FinancialUpdate.pdf>

### **6.4 Communications and Outreach Committee Report**

- 6.4.1 Joel presented the Communications and Outreach Committee Report: <https://riversidepark.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.02.03-RPT-Communications.pdf>
- 6.4.2 Joel said that volunteers were being sought to provide French language content for RPCA communications.
- 6.4.3 Members discussed the benefits of RPCA membership and the impressive number of new members being attracted because of community outreach and initiatives.

### **6.5 Rinks and Recreation Committee Report**

- 6.5.1 Andrew presented the Rinks and Recreation Committee Report: <https://riversidepark.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.02.03-RPT-Rinks.pdf>

- 6.5.2 Andrew announced that the Committee now has a new assistant manager for Pauline Vanier rink and invited Suzanne Appleton to introduce herself. Suzanne will be helping with coordination of volunteer hours and has created a supervisor's report to add efficiencies for tracking hours and other tasks.
- 6.5.3 Joel recognized the valuable efforts being made at Pauline Vanier for contact tracing.

## **6.6 Gardening Committee Report**

- 6.6.1 Kate presented the Gardening Committee Report: <https://riversidepark.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.02.03-RPT-Gardening.pdf>

## **6.7 Planning and Development Sub-Committee Report**

- 6.7.1 Katie presented the Planning and Development Sub-Committee Report: <https://riversidepark.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.02.03-RPT-Planning.pdf>

## **6.8 Transportation, Transit, and Traffic Safety Sub-Committee Report**

- 6.8.1 Terry presented the Transportation, Transit, and Traffic Safety Sub-Committee Report: <https://riversidepark.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021.02.03-RPT-LUDT-Transportation.pdf>

- 6.9 It was moved by Andrew and seconded by Mark to accept the Board of Directors Reports.

**Motion Carried**

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Director and Officer Elections**

- 7.1.1 Joel reported that Barbara Haines (Treasurer and Director representing Area 2, Riverside Park West) and Paul Willetts (Director representing Area 5, Revelstoke) had resigned from the Board for personal reasons and acknowledged their contributions to the RPCA. A Nominations Committee was appointed and a [call for nominations](#) was issued, with a deadline of 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.
- 7.1.2 As Chair of the Nominations Committee, Joel reported that two nominations were received and reviewed. He presented a [slate of](#)

[candidates](#) recommending that Michael Simms and Sarah Brickell be appointed to fill the interim vacancies. He noted that both candidates were members in good standing.

7.1.3 Both candidates introduced themselves and expressed their interest in joining the Board of Directors.

7.1.4 It was moved by Mark and seconded by Katie that Michael Simms be appointed as a Director representing Area 2, Riverside Park West, and Sarah Brickell be appointed as a Director representing Area 5, Revelstoke, for a term lasting until the Annual Meeting of the Members in October, 2021.

#### **Motion Carried**

7.1.5 Joel explained that Michael Simms, who is a professional accountant, expressed a willingness to maintain the RPCA financial books, but was unable to serve as Treasurer because of restrictions associated with his professional designation. However, he noted that the By-Laws allowed for one officer to fill both of the Secretary and the Treasurer positions. Joel confirmed that Secretary Mark Staz agreed to take on the additional officer role of Treasurer, on the condition that the Board create an appointed position for a Bookkeeper, which would act as an additional signing authority and primary liaison with the association's financial institutions. He also confirmed that Michael Simms had agreed to accept an appointment as RPCA Bookkeeper.

7.1.6 It was moved by Travis and seconded by Terry that Mark Staz be appointed as Treasurer and Michael Simms be appointed as Bookkeeper for the Riverside Park Community Association.

#### **Motion Carried**

## **7.2 Community Discussion: Responding to Ottawa's Draft New Official Plan**

7.2.1 Katie provided some background information about the City's New Official Plan (OP), as well as an overview of comments collected by the RPCA thus far. She expressed profound concerns about the city's planning and consultation process, and these concerns were shared by many other community associations. She explained that the RPCA had been working closely with the FCA and other community associations to identify common priorities and concerns. She explained that the RPCA submission would be structured around to the city's "Five Big Moves" (Growth, Mobility, Urban Design, Resiliency, Economy).

7.2.2 Katie identified several priority concerns to be reflected in the RPCA response, including:

- Differing transect designations for the communities on either side of Walkley Road that would effectively divide the neighbourhood;
- The mis-classification of Walkley Road as a “Corridor - Mainstreet”, while Riverside Drive is classified as a “Corridor – Minor”;
- The city’s emphasis on minimum densities, without consideration of maximum densities;
- The lack of accountability and metrics for the evaluation of success;
- The lack of accessibility of the new Official Plan, both in content and distribution;
- The need to apply an equity lens to the impact of the Official Plan;
- The need to promote public and affordable housing, as well as social infrastructure, across the city; and
- Concern that the application of a city-wide quota to the OP’s stated commitment to maintain a 40% tree canopy, fails to protect tree cover across the city.

7.2.3 Community members commended Katie on her proposed response and shared frustrations with the city planner’s presentation at the last meeting, as well as the dense and inaccessible structure of the city’s Official Plan document.

7.2.4 Community members discussed the following additional points of concern:

- The dangers of gentrification, which seemed to be motivating the city’s Official Plan; and
- The city seemed intent on designating more of Riverside Park as “inner urban” in order to promote increased density, which was expressly opposed by the community.

7.2.5 Community members recommended that the RPCA:

- Accept enhanced development along Riverside Dr and Brookfield Rd, while defending the integrity of the interior of our neighbourhood;

- Call for all of Riverside Park to be designated as “outer-urban”, with the boundary moved from Walkley Road to Brookfield;
- Failing this, the community should call for the boundary for the inner-urban transect North of Walkley to be moved from the Airport Parkway to the railway line, in order to reclassify the General Vanier Neighbourhood as “outer-urban”; and
- Demand that the city’s deliberations on the new Official Plan be delayed to allow for greater community consultation and input.

7.2.6 Councillor Brockington noted that the city’s response to the community questions indicated that the “main street/corridor” designation of Walkley Road appeared to refer to densities, not traffic flows and the emphasis on Walkley Road as a “design priority” would place positive constraints on development.

7.2.7 Terry reported that the Transportation Committee would be reviewing the OP through a transportation lens.

7.2.8 The Councillor pledged to defend the interests of the community, offering to arrange a facilitated session with senior staff who can answer detailed questions and to request more time to submit comments, while still encouraging the Association to submit comments by the deadline.

7.2.9 Community members were referred to the RPCA website to see the city’s response to the questions posed by Councillor Brockington on the community’s behalf. They were also referred to the series of one-pagers, available on the Official Plan website.

7.2.10 Residents were encouraged to sending feedback to [newop@ottawa.ca](mailto:newop@ottawa.ca) and to copy [planning@riversidepark.ca](mailto:planning@riversidepark.ca).

### 7.3 Presentation: 2021-2023 Action Plan

7.3.1 Joel explained that the RPCA Board held two virtual retreats on January 9 and 24 to develop a two-year action plan. The [draft 2021-2023 Action Plan](#) was presented by each committee chair.

7.3.2 Community members discussed the merits of the Action Plan and emphasized the need to reflect the interests of all residents, including home owners and renters. The role of builders and developers was also discussed.



7.3.3 Regarding the Transportation, Traffic Safety and Transit Subcommittee's proposed Action Plan, traffic calming concerns across the neighbourhood were discussed, with emphasis on West Walkley Road, Riverside Drive, and spillover traffic on neighbouring streets.

7.3.4 It was moved by Katie and seconded by Kate to adopt the 2021-2023 Action Plan.

**Motion Carried**

#### **7.4 Presentation: Information Technology and Information Management Proposal**

7.4.1 The RPCA Information Technology Manager, Sarah Brickell, presented a [draft Information Technology and Information Management Proposal](#) for discussion and adoption.

7.4.2 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Travis to adopt the proposal.

**Motion Carried**

#### **7.5 Hydro Corridor “Reconductoring”**

7.5.1 Terry updated the Board on an application submitted by Hydro One to the Ontario Energy Board to “reconductor” the large twin trunk transmission line (i.e., doubling their capacity) in the hydro corridor adjacent to the railroad tracks. Health and safety considerations are not part of the OEB regulatory approval process and the deadline for submissions is imminent.

7.5.2 Councillor Brockington noted that the OEB’s review will focus on three things: the cost of alternative options to doubling the capacity on existing infrastructure, the quality of electricity provision, and its reliability. Other options involve burying the line for \$300M or circumventing the community for \$500M. Given these costs, it is likely that the application will be approved.

7.5.3 The Councillor addressed safety concerns due to the production of electromagnetic fields, noting that Health Canada guidelines specify a limit of 10,000mg for occupational exposure and 2,000mg for non-occupational exposure. The current exposure in Riverside Park is 16mg and it will be raised to 18 when additional capacity is added.

7.5.4 Terry's moved and Joel seconded the following motion:

*With regard to Hydro One's proposed project to "reconductor" the twin transmission lines in the hydro corridor between its Hawthorne to Merivale transmission stations (Ontario Energy Board application EB-2020-0265), the RPCA support efforts to address and pursue the potential health, safety, and environmental implications of the proposed reconductoring on Riverside Park residents and neighbouring greenspaces.*

**Motion Carried**

7.5.5 Councillor Brockington argued that the proposal is reasonable with respect to health and safety concerns, but expressed support for greater community information and input. He offered to distribute a notice to every resident on Linton Road, Southmore Drive, Dickinson Avenue, and Fielding Court to raise awareness about the application.

## 8. Other Business

### 8.1 Operation Snow Angel

8.1.1 Joel said the RPCA had been approached by the Ottawa Snowsuit Fund to support its Operation Snow Angel campaign to raise money snowsuits for underprivileged children.

8.1.2 It was moved by Joel and seconded by Kate that the RPCA endorse and promote the Operation Snow Angel fundraising campaign in our neighbourhood.

**Motion Carried**

### 8.2 Tewin Development Proposal

8.2.1 Terry outlined environmental concerns about the Tewin development proposal and the opposition of certain Indigenous communities. He thanked Councillor Brockington for his action on the project.

8.2.2 The Councillor explained that an independent assessment led by planning staff had taken place to examine which parcels of land abutting current boundaries could be subject to expansion, and noted that the Tewin parcel had not considered as part of the assessment. The Tewin project was proposed on the floor at the eleventh hour. The Councillor voted in opposition because he could not justify giving an

advantage to one group over another and he did not feel it made good planning sense to proceed. He expressed desire for a productive relationship with the Algonquin people moving forward, but this situation is not helpful in that regard. He stated that he will not be supporting the development of these lands.

8.2.2 Terry noted that the RPCA passed a motion at its May 2020 meeting calling on the city to prioritize intensification over expansion, and to keep strong limits on urban boundary expansion into green space. He argued that an adequate explanation had not been provided to justify the connection between this project and indigenous reconciliation. He argued that the project seemed ill-conceived, last-minute, and contradictory to the city's stated planning rationale. He proposed that the RPCA write a letter to oppose the project.

8.2.3 The Councillor confirmed that a letter from the RPCA would be helpful in that it would be included in the pre-council reading package. He argued that municipal services do not reach the proposed development site, so residents would need to pay to service the community. He confirmed his opposition to the current proposal.

8.2.4 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Katie that:

*Further to the motion adopted by the RPCA Board at its May 5, 2020, meeting on the need to minimize the addition of new lands, particularly greenspace lands, to Ottawa's urban boundary, the Board supports the opposition of the FCA and other stakeholders to the recommendation by the City Planning Committee to include 445 hectares of new land in Ottawa's urban boundary for future urban development as part of the "Tewin" project.*

**Motion Carried**

## **9. Announcements**

9.1 There were no announcements.

## **10. Next Board Meeting**

10.1 The next meeting of the RPCA Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

## 11. Adjournment

11.1 It was moved by Kate and seconded by Sarah to adjourn the meeting.


**Motion Carried**

11.2 The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Meeting minutes were prepared by:

Mark Staz

Minutes confirmed by:



Joel Duff, President



Mark Staz