

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Zoom

1. Call to Order

1.1 The meeting was called to order by Joel at 7:01 p.m.

1.2 The following directors were in attendance (9):

- Sarah Brickell, Director
- Kate Cathrae, Director
- Travis Croken, Vice-President
- Joel Duff, President
- Ethila Palit Parna, Director
- Michael Simms, Director
- Mark Staz, Secretary/Treasurer
- Andrew Wintonic, Director
- Terry Wood, Director

1.3 The following directors were absent with regrets (1):

- Katie Raso, Director

1.4 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.

1.5 The following community members were in attendance (49):

- Alex Beauvais
- Heather Bennett
- Wayne Bennett
- Sandra Boyko
- Zach Brain
- George Brown
- Donna Bueckert
- Lewis Burpee
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Céline Charron

- Laurence Charron
- Karen Craven
- Terry Cullinan
- Mark Eley
- Ruby Funnell
- Gabriel González
- Sharlene Goveas
- Roger Howard
- Andrea Jedlinski
- Cathie Jedlinski
- Kallyan Kanti Das
- Marvin Kaplansky
- Norma Knight
- Ron Koomas
- Bob Laird
- Geraint Lewis
- Marika Magro
- Lou Ann Maldon Squire
- Sarah Mitchell
- Anne Morrison
- Rob Murray
- Paul O’Grady
- Scott Pedlar
- Paul Penna
- Carolyn Percy-Searle
- Erica Redler
- Craig Searle
- Paul Siebert
- John Singlehurst
- Marcia Stephens
- Douglas Thompson
- Moira Toomey
- Teresa van den Boogaard
- Ligia Velazquez
- Beth Webster
- Janet Wilkinson

1.6 The following guests were in attendance (2):

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

2. Agenda

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

Motion Carried

3. Minutes of the April 7, 2021 Board Meeting

3.1 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Michael to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2020 Board Meeting.

Motion Carried

4. Report: Riley Brockington, River Ward Councillor

- 4.1 Councillor Riley Brockington gave an oral presentation of his Councillor's Report (click [here](#) to download).
- 4.2 In response to safety issues noted in the Councillor's report, Joel mentioned that the Public Forum on Community Policing in Riverside Park held in March of 2020 proved informative and helpful. Given the recent spike in racing activity in our community, a new conversation with the Ottawa Police Service at an upcoming meeting would be beneficial.
- 4.3 Joel also suggested that tennis court refurbishment around Arnott Park should include pickleball lines to cater to a broader range of communities.
- 4.4 A community member praised the idea in the Councillor's Report about an EMS toolkit for the RPCA, City staff, and other councillors in the event of an emergency. Communication of the Response Network was also encouraged.

The Councillor agreed, emphasizing the importance of emergency planning, and expressed worry that another natural disaster could befall our region like the tornados that touched down in 2018. His plans include taking an inventory of what local institutions can offer in terms of shared spaces and other amenities, and which local residents would be willing and able to help through use of barbecues, chainsaws to break down trees, and other resources.

- 4.5 The Councillor was asked about where funding for the proposed new wing of St. Patrick's Home will come from given that the wing will cater to a different population with fewer and less complex care needs.

The Councillor was not certain about funding sources, but anticipates that the provincial government will be a major contributor. Also, the model involves several shared spaces which are made possible given the greater degree of independence among residents.

5. Report: RPCA Board of Directors

5.1 President's Report

5.1.1 Joel presented the President's Report (click [here](#) to download).

5.1.3 It was moved by Mark and seconded by Kate to accept the President's Report.

Motion Carried

5.2 Financial Update

5.2.1 Michael presented the Financial Update (click [here](#) to download).

5.2.2 There was a question about the purpose of the reserve in members' equity. Joel responded that this was from an accumulated surplus, inherited from the previous RPCA board, and that much of it comes from rink revenue. The current board does not plan to maintain a large reserve, but rather has been scaling up activities in recent years and investigating initiatives and events to fund. While one of these initiatives (the Halloween activities from 2020) resulted in a surplus, additional funds were donated to the Debra Dynes Family House and used to help fund winter holiday activities.

5.2.3 It was moved by Joel and seconded by Andrew to accept the Financial Update.

Motion Carried

5.3 Gardening Committee Report

5.3.1 Kate presented the Community Safety Committee Report (click [here](#) to download).

5.3.2 Kate was asked about when the gardens will be moved to Paget Park. She responded that the RPCA has been told to expect approximately two years for formal approval to move the gardens. The proposal is in the first round of the City's approval process.

5.3.3 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Mark to accept the Gardening Committee Report.

Motion Carried

5.4 Transportation, Transit, and Traffic Safety Sub-Committee Report

5.4.1 Terry presented the Planning and Development Committee Report (click [here](#) to download).

5.4.2 As part of his report, Terry noted the continued speeding on West Walkley Road and the need for a follow up meeting with City staff. Several community members echoed Terry's concerns about speed on West Walkley, adding that 18-wheelers seem to be arriving with greater frequency, cycling on West Walkley is becoming less safe, and enforcement does not seem to be occurring outside of rush-hour times.

Other community members mentioned seeing police at multiple different times in the day and suggested that the new "fake police officer" that has been stationed on the North side of Walkley might help calm traffic, while introduction of the "complete street" model (defined as a user-friendly 15-minute community servicing everyone's needs conveniently and safely) could improve cycling safety. It was also noted that upon reporting 18-wheelers to the police, a response was received that a ban on 18-wheelers is not being enforced as long as they are taking the shortest distance to the truck's next location.

5.4.3 Terry provided additional clarification about proposals for West Walkley, including reducing the lanes from four to three and retaining an extra lane between Airport Parkway and McCarthy as a bike lane. The City is also expected to develop a bike path from Riverside Drive to Bank Street (or at least the LRT station).

Terry noted that in February, RPCA directors met with City traffic staff to present 12 specific proposals for dealing with traffic safety on West Walkley. In this meeting, City officials undertook to follow up and Terry would like to seek a follow-up meeting on the proposals in June. As part of this, discussions need to occur on whether to proceed with traffic calming measures to test the lane reductions that will be introduced as part of the Airport Parkway expansion.

5.4.4 The Councillor added that West Walkley will not be a complete street in the same way as Main Street or Bank Street. Rather, it will focus on fewer travel lanes and more bike lanes. Proposals for additional bike lanes will be financed through the City budget and

are expected to have a similar look and feel to those that will lead from the Airport Parkway to Riverside Drive.

The Councillor expressed support for having the traffic unit of the Ottawa Police Service come attend a meeting of the RPCA to hear about chronic issues and help the community better understand how these have been addressed to date by the OPS. A discussion of their strategy for roads like Walkley and Riverside Drive, as well as school zones would also be helpful.

- 5.4.2 It was moved by Joel and seconded by Mark to accept the Planning and Development Committee Report.

Motion Carried

6. New Business

6.1 Revelstoke Director Nominations

- 6.1.1 Following the resignation of Revelstoke Directors Sarah Brickell, the RPCA will appoint a Nominations Committee and open the nominations process for a new Revelstoke Director appointment.

Joel noted that Sarah will be moving her family to the East Coast to be closer to family and will be moving out of the city. He thanked Sarah for her service to the Association and her advocacy in the community.

- 6.1.2 Ethila Palit Parna notified the board that her family has purchased an apartment outside of Riverside Park and she will therefore have to step down from the board.

Joel commented that Ethila has been a great benefit to the Association, particularly in terms of resources and initiatives related to the Norberry Residences.

- 6.1.3 It was moved by Joel and seconded by Kate that a Nominations Committee be struck to seek Directors for the Mooney's Bay and Revelstoke Areas. The Committee shall be comprised of Joel Duff (Chair) and Terry Wood.

Motion Carried

6.2. West Walkley Road Beautification Project

- 6.2.1 Kate provided an update about plans to calm traffic and beautify West Walkley Road. She previously reported on an effort to beautify West Walkley Road through a pollinator rain garden.
- 6.2.2 Joel said that after the suggestion at last month's meeting about installing planters along WWR, Councillor Brockington had confirmed that he would cover the cost of six 3'x3' planters; three on either side of the train bridge. He brought asked the RPCA to assume responsibility for planting and maintenance, and an agreement to that effect had been signed.
- 6.2.3 Joel also announced that the RPCA is exploring the possibility of installing "Welcome to Riverside Park" banner signs along West Walkley Road, with the support of Councillor Brockington and a local realtor.
- 6.2.4 Terry asked about timelines for the planters. Councillor Brockington asked the City when the signed agreement was submitted and is still awaiting a response. He noted that he looked into this option in Carlington in recent years and learned that the most significant expense relates to the brackets that need to affix banners to every pole. He will seek a realistic quote and report back to the RPCA.
- 6.2.5 In response to questions about number, location and design of banners, Joel responded that all ideas are welcome.

Terry Cullinan, Cathie Jedlinski, and Laurence Charron offered to help.

6.3. Toy Bins for Local Parks

- 6.3.1 Kate reported that a final budget for the installation of toy bins at local parks has been written and she would like to begin this initiative soon, if feasible given the state of the pandemic.

Potential parks include Stanstead, Arnott, Pauline Vanier, and Paget (which already has a bin). Bins cost approximately \$100 each. They will be affixed to a solid structure, so the budget includes chains and signage to denote who is responsible for them.

- 6.3.2 Joel suggested submitting a list of locations to Councillor Brockington to notify city staff know why the bins are there and where they came from. Toys can be donated through the local buy-nothing website.

6.4. Active Transportation Priorities

6.4.1 City Councilors have been asked to identify Active Transportation Priorities in each ward. Councillor Brockington will convey ideas expressed during today's meeting and has asked that any additional ideas for priorities be submitted to him in advance of the May 26 deadline.

6.5. Gateway Zone Signage for General Vanier Neighbourhood

6.5.1 A discussion was held on a proposal to install specialized gateway zone signs reducing traffic speed to 40 km/hr for all streets in the General Vanier neighbourhood. The initiative would involve a defined area where the community is assigned a default speed on all streets. It would take effect later this spring at the entrances to the General Vanier neighbourhood, at Walkley Road and Wexford Way and at Walkley Road and Avoncourt Way.

6.5.2 The Councillor was asked whether the speed could be further reduced to 30km/hr and noted that while it would be possible, this would require Council approval.

6.5.3 It was also noted that this area lacks sidewalks and would benefit from additional signs alerting traffic to slow down.

6.5.4 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Travis that the proposal to install gateway zone signage and a reduced speed limit of 40 km/hr for the General Vanier neighbourhood be endorsed.

Motion Carried

6.6. Traffic Calming on Provost Dr.

6.6.1 A discussion was held on a proposal from Councillor Brockington to install seasonal traffic calming flex sticks on Provost Drive.

6.6.2 Terry thanked the Councillor for his proposal, noting its significance for those who live in Riverside Park East. There are only two ways to reach McCarthy at rush hour and Provost is one of them.

6.6.3 There was support expressed for the proposal by community members, some of whom live on Provost and have small children who often ride bikes and play close to the street.

There was also support for gathering data and a question about how metrics would be applied.

Mark suggested working with École George-Etienne Cartier to provide messaging to students and parents about traffic safety on Provost.

- 6.6.4 Other community members expressed concerns about the seasonal nature of the flex sticks, associated confusion, the resulting no-parking zones where they do not currently exist, and the fact that they can cause erratic driving, potentially making it dangerous for children walking or biking in the area.
- 6.6.5 There was a suggestion for creating a restricted right turn lane from McCarthy onto Provost during morning rush hour. It was also suggested that a speed bump would be more effective than a flex stick.
- 6.6.6 The Councillor responded that messaging through George Etienne Cartier has occurred in the past, but that this is a good idea a couple of times per year. He also noted that a restricted right turn would still leave the street vulnerable to excessive or inappropriate speeds in the afternoon. The effectiveness of the pilot could be measured by multiple means, but would likely focus on measuring speed.
- 6.6.7 With respect to a speed bump, since this is a pilot, the cost of a speed bump (\$10,000) and its permanence would be prohibitive, whereas a flex stick comes at a cost of \$500 and can be removed. The Councillor expressed a preference for less invasive and less permanent solutions during pilot phases.
- 6.6.8 It was moved by Joel and seconded by Terry that the pilot project proposal to install traffic calming flex sticks on Provost be endorsed.

Motion Carried

6.7. Preparation for Riverside Mall Public Consultation

- 6.7.1 Councillor Brockington announced that he will mail invitations to all residences North of Walkley to a discussion of plans for Brigil Construction's upcoming public consultation on the Riverside Mall site plan to be held on Monday, May 31 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- 6.7.2 Joel raised the idea of a community survey for the immediate neighbourhood about the types of amenities residents would like to see (not for a specific neighbourhood or project, but in general). He noted that Brigil has said that they would consider incentivising retail, for example through rent waivers.

6.8. Membership in the Federation of Citizens Associations

6.8.1 Discussion was held on a proposal to renew membership in the Federation of Citizens Associations, at a cost of \$35, and the appointment of two RPCA representatives to the FCA.

6.8.2 It was moved by Joel and seconded by Terry that RPCA renew membership in the Federation of Citizens Associations annually, and that Katie and Terry be appointed as the RPCA representatives to the FCA for this term.

Motion Carried

7. Other Business

7.1 Terry noted that when the Transportation, Traffic Safety and Transit Subcommittee met with City traffic safety officials last February, it was agreed that it would be desirable to make a decision about the traffic calming pilot. He therefore proposes to set a meeting with them in June.

Councillor Brockington noted the request and said that Erin McCracken has garnered a number of responses to issues Terry raised. These will be shared with the RPCA before discussing the planning of a June meeting.

Joel also proposed a motion to make traffic safety the theme for the next meeting and have the traffic safety unit of OPS attend for a community consultation. Michael seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

8. Announcements

- Special Discussion on Cycling Infrastructure: Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m.
- Curbside Garden Giveaway: Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23 (all day)
- Public Consultation on Riverside Mall: Monday, May 31 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

9. Next Board of Directors Meeting

- 10.1 The next meeting of the RPCA Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

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

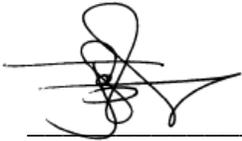
Motion Carried

- 11.2 The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Meeting minutes were prepared by:

Mark Staz

Minutes confirmed by:



Joel Duff, President



Mark Staz