

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, June 2, 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. The following directors were in attendance (7)

- Joel Duff, President
- Kate Cathrae, Director
- Travis Croken, Vice-President
- Katie Raso, Director
- Michael Simms, Director
- Mark Staz, Secretary
- Terry Wood, Director

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

- Andrew Wintonic, Director

1.3 The following community members were in attendance (30):

- Karen Craven
- Kevin Adams
- Eleonore Benesch
- Jeff Bowes
- Sandra Boyko
- George Brown
- Sean Carter
- Bonnie Charron
- Judy Chow
- Lorraine Demers
- Mark Eley
- Marilyn Ellis
- Linda Finley
- Gabriel González
- Roger Howard
- Marvin Kaplansky
- Bob Laird
- Geraint Lewis
- Marika Magro
- Stephanie McNeely
- Sarah Mitchell
- Ron Moir
- Bob Moon
- Cynthia N
- Paul O’Grady
- Scott Pedlar
- Erica Redler

- Linda Rossman
- John Singlehurst
- Teresa van den Boogaard

1.4 The following guests were in attendance (3):

- Riley Brockington, River Ward Councillor
- Erin McCracken, Councillor's Office, City of Ottawa
- Stephanie McNeely, Forêt Capitale Forest

1.5 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.

2. Agenda

2.1 It was moved by Katie and seconded by Terry to accept the [agenda](#).

Motion Carried

3. Minutes of the May 5, 2021 Board Meeting

3.1 It was moved by Travis and seconded by Katie to accept the [minutes](#) of the May 5, 2021 Board Meeting.

Motion Carried

4. Presentation: Forêt Capitale Forest – Planting trees with a plan!

4.1 Joel introduced Stephanie McNeely of Forêt Capitale Forest (FCF).

4.1.1 Stephanie reported on the FCF team, mission and goals, FCF's Afforestation Workplan, and their study area to determine available hectares for planting. A pilot site has been offered by the NCC at Hog's Back Park, close to the Sir Charles Tupper Building. FCF needs help with organizing planting days, then monitoring afterwards for pests and other issues.

- 4.1.2 FCF is asking for help from a planting support standpoint and for long-term stewardship.
- 4.1.3 Joel asked whether we could promote this to Brookfield High School, perhaps through a joint letter to the principal and teachers.
- 4.1.4 There was agreement from community members about Brookfield, especially since students need to acquire 40 volunteer hours.
- 4.1.5 Kate, on behalf of the gardening committee, offered support for FCF's plan, particularly by helping to source volunteers.

5. Brigil Development Proposal

- 5.1 A discussion was held in follow-up to the Councillor's Public Information Meeting on the Brigil development proposal for the Riverside Mall at 729-753 Ridgewood Ave.
 - 5.1.1 Joel clarified that the RPCA is not endorsing anything, but is reporting out while ensuring that we have the information we need and offering an opportunity for community members to share reactions.
 - 5.1.2 Joel gave a brief overview of the [Brigil presentation](#) (click to download).
 - 5.1.3 Terry noted that the development is a four to six year project and emphasized the need for the development to be "done right."
 - 5.1.4 Katie expressed appreciation for Brigil's efforts to engage with the community and work to meet needs. She expressed concern about affordability of retail space, asking whether there is room for consideration of the type of retail and whether community-based stores could be prioritized.
- Joel noted that Canoe Bay has shown us how difficult it is to attract retail to our neighbourhood because of the lack of interest in that development. This is a more desirable property, given proximity to the beach and the Norberry next door. Hopefully this shows value for retail. Without speaking on behalf of Brigil, Joel noted that they said during a pre-meeting last month that they may be open to incentives (e.g., reduced rent). They have also been asking community members about what they would like to see.

- 5.1.5 Terry also noted a section in the Councillor's Report which states that now that the community meeting has taken place, Brigil will be submitting application forms to seek approvals for developments. The approval process is expected to take approximately two years.

6. Presentation: River Ward Councillor Report

- 6.1 Councillor Brockington presented a summary of his [Councillor's Report](#) (click to download).

6.1.1 As part of the report, the Councillor noted safety issues at Mooney's Bay related to inappropriate and disrespectful conduct that goes against expectations and bylaws at the park, including smoking, pets, and alcohol. Bylaw officers do not feel comfortable enforcing bylaws after dark. Local police lack the resources to monitor and enforce. There is currently not believed to be a public health issue, but Councillor Brockington wants to bring order back to a park that is being overrun at night. He is asking for a discussion with the board and community.

6.1.2 Concern was expressed that closing parking at Mooney's Bay Park could force people to park on residential streets, coming back to their vehicles late at night, potentially intoxicated. This could exacerbate existing problems with later-night visitors to Mooney's Bay Park who have been relieving themselves in Ernie Calcutt park.

The Councillor preferred not to put a port-a-potty in Ernie Calcutt Park, but also wants to avoid residents having to deal with human waste in their nearby park. Signage is being considered and other councillors will be consulted for ideas.

6.1.3 The issue of restrooms at other parks was raised. The Councillor reported that the Canada 150 playground will soon have port-a-potties and the Mooney's Bay rebuild will include a permanent bathroom for the park. Port-a-potties have been delivered at other parks, but the monthly rental rate went from \$200 to \$700 for port-a-potties when the pandemic began. They also now have to be cleaned daily, whereas that was not the case pre-pandemic. Whenever there is a water feature at a park, efforts are made to include a port-a-potty.

- 6.1.4 Terry introduced a motion to call on the city of Ottawa, bylaw, and the OPS to strengthen security in Mooney's Bay Park to address chronic issues, specifically in the evening hours that are threatening public safety.

Katie suggested an amendment to include a preemptive communication strategy that includes warning before enforcement given data showing that police are more likely to engage with marginalized and racialized members of the community.

- 6.1.5 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Kate that the RPCA call on the City of Ottawa, Ottawa By-Law, and the Ottawa Police Service to address chronic issues that are becoming more serious and threatening public safety at Mooney's Bay Park, particularly after dark, through a multi-pronged non-discriminatory strategy that begins with community outreach and communication of park rules and implementation of measures to reduce the volume of park visitors, followed by strengthened park security and enforcement after dark.

Motion Carried

- 6.1.6 The new boulders at Flannery Park were mentioned because of worries that one of them is in the middle of the little pathway, causing riders and drivers to make erratic movements.

The Councillor will investigate the issue.

- 6.1.7 The Councillor will also investigate whether the "Kiss and Ride" at Walkley and the Airport Parkway will be installed. He considers it mandatory and would be willing to give up some of the median to ensure it remains.

- 6.1.8 Terry noted that next steps from the February meeting with traffic planners included scheduling a conversation about the West Walkley Road traffic calming pilot and setting a pilot date.

The Councillor reaffirmed his commitment to having a meeting about the traffic calming pilot in June.

6.1.9 The Councillor provided additional information about the City's New Official Plan. The planning department will provide public transect-based meetings as part of the "As We Heard It" report. A meeting on the Outer-Urban transect will be held on June 23rd and another on the Inner-Urban transect on June 28th. The as we heard it document is expected to be released next week.

6.1.10 In response to a comment that a flex stick is missing at the Holy Cross crosswalk, the Councillor stated that he will remind Public Works.

7. Presentation: RPCA Board of Directors Report

7.1 President's Report

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

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

Motion Carried

7.2 Financial Update

7.2.1 Mike presented the [Financial Update](#) (click to download).

7.2.2 A community member asked about the RPCA's surplus. In response, Joel noted the board's ambitious two-year [Action Plan](#) (available on the RPCA website) which will require funding. He also reiterated the board's desire to spend the surplus to benefit community projects and causes.

7.2.2 It was moved by Katie and seconded by Terry to accept the Financial Update.

Motion Carried

7.3 Community Safety Report

7.3.1 Mark presented the [Community Safety Report](#) (click to download).

7.3.2 It was moved by Travis and seconded by Terry to accept the Community Safety Report.

Motion Carried

7.4 Gardening Committee Report

7.4.1 Kate presented the [Gardening Committee Report](#) (click to download).

7.4.2 Kate reported on many positive comments received about the Garden Giveaway. It was a very successful and appreciated initiative.

7.4.3 Joel moved that the RPCA formalize the Garden Giveaway and support it with additional promotion in subsequent years, including through lawn signs placed by sidewalks at busy intersections. Funds of \$1,000 will be allocated to the community wide Garden Giveaway in 2022, with the possibility of a garage sale as well. The motion was seconded by Travis.

Motion Carried

7.5.1 It was moved by Mark and seconded by Katie to accept the Gardening Committee Report.

Motion Carried

8. Director Appointments and 2021-2023 Board Elections

8.1 Following the resignation of two directors (representing Mooney's Bay and Revelstoke), the RPCA issued a call for nominations, with a deadline of 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

8.1.1 Gabriel González expressed interest in discussing a board position but would like to have a more detailed conversation about what it would entail before coming to a decision.

9. Appointment of a Financial Review Committee

9.1 Mark reported that in anticipation of the Fiscal Year End of July 31, 2021, the RPCA proposes to strike a Financial Review Committee to prepare a Financial Report to be presented at the October 6 Meeting of the Members.

9.1.1 Scott Pedlar, a community member with extensive financial experience, has volunteered to support the RPCA's efforts.

9.1.2 It was moved by Mark and seconded by Joel that a Financial Review Committee be created to prepare a compilation of the financial statements of the RPCA, to be presented at the next Meeting of the Members. The Committee would be comprised of Mark Staz (Treasurer), Michael Simms (Bookkeeper) and Scott Pedlar (non-board member).

10. Planning for the 2021 Meeting of the Members

10.1 The Board discussed plans for the 2021 Meeting of the Members of the RPCA to be held on October 6, 2021.

10.1.1 Joel asked for suggestions about a potential theme that could be paired with the meeting.

10.1.2 Suggestions focused on "Riverside Park Post-pandemic," which would include surveying about desired community amenities and brainstorming about a vision for Riverside Park. This could include involving a community development expert, different facilitation techniques, and breakout/focus groups.

10.1.3 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Katie to brand the upcoming Meeting of the Members as a public brainstorming session on establishing a vision for Riverside Park.

Motion Carried

11. Other Business

11.1 Request for Sponsorship: General Vanier Grade 3 Leaving Ceremony

11.1.1 The General Vanier PS Parent Council has requested a \$250 donation in support for this year's Grade 3 Leaving Ceremony/Graduation. The donation would support treat bags for a cohort of 50 neighbourhood children.

11.1.2 It was moved by Travis and seconded by Kate to provide the requested \$250 in support of General Vanier Public School's Leaving Ceremony/Graduation.

Motion Carried

11.2 West Walkley Road Cycling Proposal

11.2.1 The City of Ottawa is working on a cycling design for West Walkley Road, covering the entire stretch from Riverside Drive to Bank Street. The Board considered a proposal to invite city officials to share their vision for this proposal at the RPCA's September meeting.

11.2.2 Councillor Brockington noted that a plan is in the works to provide cycling infrastructure between Riverside Drive and Bank Street. The work around the Airport Parkway and the LRT are presenting challenges, as is the plan to remove a lane between Airport Parkway and McCarthy Road. The Councillor wants it to have a consistent look and feel between Bank and Riverside, and thinks it would be beneficial to have a presentation from the city about the vision for Walkley Road. This will be a priority for the Councillor's active transportation plan, as well as connecting to Mooney's Bay. It could also provide an opportunity to give the public an update about our intentions for the traffic calming pilot project which is likely to take place next fall or early next spring.

11.2.3 Terry added his support for the proposal to have this addressed at the September meeting, as well as having cycling lanes from Riverside Drive to Bank Street.

At the May 27th meeting, Phil Laundry mentioned "tapering" West Walkley from Springland to McCarthy from 4 lanes to 2. Terry will pursue this possibility with him since it was one of our traffic calming proposals.

The Councillor also noted the possibility of a formal crosswalk for West Walkley, just east of the train bridge. This could be indicative of City support for traffic calming on West Walkley.

- 11.2.4 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Joel to invite city officials to share their vision for West Walkley Road at the RPCA's September meeting.

Motion Carried

11.3 Cow Tunnel Community Mural

- 11.3.1 Travis introduced the idea of funding murals in both cow tunnels in Riverside Park. He proposed working with Claudia Salguero to create a mural in the north tunnel. This would require power washing, sealing, and priming, before painting.

- 11.3.2 Travis will continue to engage in discussions about murals with George Brown and Claudia, and will report back to association with more information on additional costs and requirements.

- 11.3.3 It was proposed that consideration be given to the model used under the Bronson Bridge, in case cost savings and a more efficient process can be achieved.

The Councillor responded that if the city facilitates an opportunity and an artist does not take ownership of the space, then the city takes it on, provides space, and encourages artists to use it for tasteful art. In this case, the community association would be responsible for the upkeep to make sure it is not created and then walked away from. If the mural is tagged, the RPCA should fix it immediately, rather than having the city paint over it. Riley will look into this further, but presumes the agreement would be between the RPCA and the artist, with the association responsible for upkeep.

The Councillor also suggested that any contract should include a provision that upon receipt of a public complaint, the city must provide fair warning about the complaint to the RPCA so that we can address it before the city takes action. If we fail to address it in a reasonable timeframe, then the city can act.

- 11.3.4 Joel reflected on previous lessons learned with regard to insurance requirements and suggested we need to know more before proceeding. Travis agreed, noting that this is only an informational update, with an official request coming later.

Travis also asked community members to suggest additional arts and cultural ideas that the RPCA could support.

11.3.5 In the interest of the RPCA considering something more concrete, Joel moved that the Arts and Culture Committee provide a fully-costed proposal for consideration by the board by no later than the September meeting. Travis seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

12. Announcements

12.1 There were no further announcements.

13. Next Board of Directors Meeting

10.1 The next meeting of the RPCA Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

11.1 It was moved by Katie and seconded by Travis to adjourn the meeting.

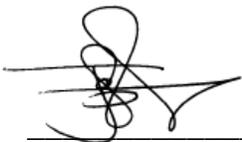
Motion Carried

11.2 The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Meeting minutes were prepared by:

Mark Staz

Minutes confirmed by:



Joel Duff, President



Mark Staz