

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, September 8, 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 (6)

- Joel Duff, President
- Kate Cathrae, Director
- Travis Croken, Vice-President
- Róisín West, Director
- Mark Staz, Secretary
- Terry Wood, Director

1.2 The following directors were absent with regrets (2):

- Andrew Wintonic, Director
- Michael Simms, Director

1.3 The following community members were in attendance (54):

- Michael Allen
- Robert Bales
- Sandra Baranek
- Oliver Bendzsa
- Eleanor Benesch
- Marc Bezanson
- Sandra Boyko
- Jocelyn Brown
- Donna Bueckert
- Lewis Burpee
- Dianne Burrows
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Michelle Currie
- James Edgar
- Marilyn Ellis
- Donyah Farhat
- Dan Finn
- Gabriel Gonzalez
- Sylvia Grambart
- Barbara Haines
- Gary Howard
- Heather Hrychuk
- Helen Jelich
- Marvin Kaplansky

- Ron Koomas
- Bob Laird
- Geraint Lewis
- Gerry Madden
- Marika Magro
- Kay Marshall
- Peter McLean
- Sarah Mitchell
- Bob Moon
- John Vaissi Nagy
- Paul O’Grady
- Carole Proulx
- Natalie Riendeau
- Linda Rossman
- Carolyn Percy Searle
- Craig Searle
- Monique Seidl
- Paul Seidl
- John Singlehurst
- Larissa Swenarchuk
- Douglas Thompson
- Nick Todd
- Steven Totolo
- Teresa van den Boogaard
- Linda Vervaike
- Sharon von Schoenberg
- Denise Walter
- Donna Warner
- Beth Webster
- Laurence Charron-Huysecom

1.4 The following guests were in attendance (9):

- Vipin Bansal, City PM – Walkley Road Bridge Rehab
- Marc Bezanson, Program Manager, Design and Construction Municipal
- Riley Brockington, River Ward Councillor
- Phil Landry, Director of Traffic Services
- Erin McCracken, Councillor’s Office, City of Ottawa
- Abdol Nouraeyan: Rail Construction Program, City of Ottawa
- Emmet Proulx, Active Transportation Planning
- Bin Wang, City PM, Airport Parkway Widening Project
- Meghan Whitehead, Active Transportation Planning, City of Ottawa

2. Land Acknowledgment and Introductory Statements

2.1 Joel opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and acknowledging that we are on the traditional unceded land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. 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, and the code of conduct.

2.2 Director Róisín West made a statement to notify the board and membership about their recent name change.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

3.1 It was moved by Róisín and seconded by Travis to accept the agenda.

Motion Carried

4. Minutes of the June 2, 2021 Board Meeting

4.1 A community member noted that a correction is needed at 5.1.4 of the minutes, changing “Norberry” to “Denbury”.

4.2 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Kate to accept the [minutes of the June 2, 2021 Board Meeting](#), as amended.

Motion Carried

5. Public Presentation and Discussion: Traffic Calming Initiatives for West Walkley Road

5.1 Joel welcomed City staff to the meeting.

Terry also provided welcoming remarks and a perspective on the discussion from the Transportation, Traffic Safety and Transit Subcommittee.

Councillor Brockington also spoke to thank the RPCA board of directors and City staff.

5.1.1 Megan Whitehead provided an introduction for the [City's presentation](#), handing it to Emmett Proulx for remarks about the City's Active Transportation Planning.

5.1.2 Mr. Proulx discussed the overall plan for West Walkley Road, including a “road diet,” possible new pedestrian crossing, new bike lanes on West Walkley Road tying into the new roundabout at Airport Parkway, and a multi-use path at Anand Private that leads to the Starbucks on Bank Street ([see slides for additional detail](#)).

5.1.3 Bin Wang provided an update on the Airport Parkway expansion ([see slides for additional detail](#)).

- 5.1.4 Abdol Nouraeyan discussed the O-Train Station (see slides for additional detail. N.B. the sidewalk will be wider than shown at Walkley Station).
- 5.1.5 Vipin Bansal discussed the O-Train Trillium Line Bridge Rehabilitation, noting that a passenger pick-up and drop off (PPUDO) is possible in front of buildings adjacent to bridges.
- 5.2 City staff responded to questions from community members in attendance. A summary of questions and answers is provided below:
- 5.2.1 A community member asked whether painting of the VIA Rail bridge would be possible.
- Travis noted that this would not be possible. However, it might be possible to paint bridge abutments.
- 5.2.2 There was a question about why there will not be an exit North of Walkley from the Airport Parkway.
- This has not been planned for because of cost-related considerations.
- 5.2.3 There is currently a significant grade Eastbound on Walkley close to the Airport Parkway bridge where it will be difficult to navigate a sloped roundabout. Will the city review this or work with the current grade?
- The City will review this in 2022 when it begins to review plans in earnest during the design process. It will discuss all options for this location. The City's desire to avoid traffic lights at this location was also noted.
- 5.2.4 A question addressed whether pedestrians or vehicles will have the right of way at the traffic circle.
- Pedestrians will have the right of way.
- 5.2.5 Concerns were raised about safety of drop-offs, especially on sections of Walkley designated as school zones. Will cameras be installed there?
- Suggestions are being brought to the City for cameras based on data collected thus far.

Terry also noted that the RPCA has written to the City about the use of photo-radar.

5.2.6 Will utility poles be buried?

West Walkley will not be receiving the same treatment as Bank Street. Burying these poles costs millions of dollars per kilometer. It has therefore been excluded from the scope of this project.

5.2.7 Are there noise considerations related to the Airport Parkway Expansion?

This was addressed as part of the Environment Assessment (EA) survey. The Councillor also commented that for people living on Cromwell, the parkway is no longer cutting through those trees; it has been pushed to the east and the trees will not be cut down. Some sections will have noise walls (these were also recommended in the EA study).

5.2.8 Will bike lanes be protected or painted?

Cost savings will factor into these decisions while aiming to make it as safe as possible.

5.2.9 Will the right turn to McCarthy Road be improved? What about access to West Walkley for north-side homes with the lane reductions? What will traffic impacts be with lane reductions and parking with bike lanes?

The Walkley and McCarthy intersection would be a congestion point. The City is considering what lanes will be cut. Parking would not be permitted with bike lanes and the possibility of U-turns will receive further discussion.

5.2.10 What is the current thinking on the disconnect from Airport Parkway widening and the LRT route, considering lane reductions, increased walking and cycling, and the goal of a 15-minute neighbourhood?

The growth in the south end of the city will be good for the Trillium Line. This question has been considered and there is a desire to use public transit (including completion of the LRT) and walking before widening roads. If widening is considered, there is a preference to widen the Airport Parkway prior to Riverside Drive or Prince of Wales.

5.2.11 Concerns were expressed about traffic backing up on Walkley at McCarthy.

This will be discussed as part of the traffic calming initiative.

5.2.12 Will the left turn be removed at Wexford?

Turning could be restricted between 7am and 9am. The single lane would cause too much of a back-up.

5.2.13 Can a left-turn signal be added at Agincourt?

The City will look into this.

5.2.14 Concerns were expressed about cut-through traffic from Brookfield to Flannery Drive and Springland due to the lane closures.

It is possible that a net traffic reduction could be realized with people avoiding Brookfield and because the 2016 EA states explicitly that the new roundabout is meant to relieve this issue. However, it could shift the problem to West Walkley Road. The Councillor also noted the related problem with the four-way stop at Southmore and McCarthy.

5.2.15 How much greenspace in Linton Park will be used for the Airport Parkway expansion? What about effects on the coyote population and other wildlife from noise barriers and increased traffic?

The new MUP will be close to the existing pathway. The barrier close to it will not take up much greenspace. Another look at the EA study will be needed to assess impact on coyotes and other wildlife.

6. Receipt of Resignation

6.1 Joel expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve as President of the RPCA, noting that his [resignation letter](#) has been linked in the agenda. He also expressed pleasure to serve community and suggested that the board may wish to reevaluate how much we do, calling the work of the RPCA a marathon, not a sprint.

Joel also called upon other community members to step up, volunteer, and help to make Riverside Park a great neighbourhood to live and visit.

7. Presentation: River Ward Councillor Report

7.1 Councillor Riley Brockington presented his [River Ward Councillor's Report](#), and provided updates on Riverside Park, Ward 16, and City Hall.

8. Presentation: RPCA Board of Directors Report

8.1 President's Report

8.1.1 Joel presented the [President's Report](#).

8.1.2 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Ro to accept the President's Report.

Motion Carried

8.2 Planning and Development Subcommittee Report

8.2.1 This agenda item was combined with Agenda Item 12: Revised Official Plan.

8.3 Transportation, Traffic Safety, and Transit Subcommittee Report

8.3.1 Terry presented the [Transportation, Traffic Safety, and Transit Subcommittee Report](#).

8.3.2 It was moved by Travis and seconded by Mark to accept the Report.

Motion Carried

8.4 Events and Culture Committee

8.4.1 Travis provided an Oral Report from the Events and Culture Committee. The Committee has been meeting over the summer to discuss events and culture. It has decided to delay painting the cow tunnels.

8.4.2 George Brown will be contacting the developers of the student residences since they have potential space for a mural.

8.4.3 Travis also provided an update about a program called “Awesome Arts” which is currently involved in projects in other neighbourhoods and could offer promising opportunities in Riverside Park, as well as potential funding sources.

8.4.4 It was moved by Joel and Seconded by Mark to accept the verbal Report of the Events and Culture Committee.

Motion Carried

9. Presentation: RPCA FY2021 Financial Statements

9.1 Joel presented the [RPCA financial statements](#) for Fiscal Year 2021.

9.2 It was moved by Joel and seconded by Travis to approve the financial statements for FY2021.

Motion Carried

10. Wild Parsnip

- 10.1 The Board discussed options for addressing wild parsnip infestations in Flannery Park and the parkland between Revelstoke Drive and the Rideau River.
- 10.2 Ro introduced the topic, noting that the city has posted warnings, but the infestation of the invasive and caustic species has continued to worsen, making it unsafe or impossible to walk in certain areas of greenspace. The situation in Linton Park is particularly concerning since the wild parsnip has been mowed, meaning that the seeds it produces will spread and create a worse infestation next year. Ro asked the Councillor whether his office could help.
- 10.3 Councillor Brockington asked for an aerial shot of the park that denotes areas of infestations. He noted that the Brookfield path has presented challenges for the same reason, agreeing that mowing is a bad idea, and committing to address it.

11. Event Planning for 2021/2022

- 11.1 The board held an open discussion of event and activity planning for the Fall and Winter seasons to provide an opportunity to discuss what the RPCA can offer residents this year.
- 11.2 Joel suggested that we hold a Halloween event again this year, but do not ask for donations since the association has funds available and can promote heavily again.
- 11.3 Travis expressed willingness to write a Halloween story again this year.

- 11.4 Attendees also commented on the pumpkin parade, hoping it can be offered again.
- 11.5 Joel also suggested that having Santa visit Riverside Park virtually again this year would be a valuable event.
- 11.6 The “Garden Giveaway” was raised as another valuable event, but should be promoted more heavily, along with a community garage sale to be held on the same weekend.

12. Revised Official Plan

- 12.1 Ro presented the [Planning and Development Subcommittee Report](#) and provided a review and discussion of the [Revised Official Plan](#) for the City of Ottawa. She thanked Terry who also contributed a great deal. Several community members provided feedback on the original iteration of the plan which has been conveyed to the City, and much of which has been incorporated into the revised version.

Certain things have been left out, including support for small business. Riverside Park is being kept whole and will be considered an Outer Urban Transect.

- 12.2 Councillor Brockington noted the evolving overlay over Linton Park which he believes is a mistake. He will follow up about this and get back to the RPCA. He is pleased that a lot of the concerns have been addressed. To Staff’s credit, they are listening. He encourages people to come out to the open session since the plan has not yet been finalized and there are still opportunities for input.
- 12.3 The Councillor requested that the RPCA submit Ro’s presentation points in the form of a letter to convey RPCA concerns with the plan.

- 12.4 Ro noted that dumping continues to occur in the Hydro Corridor by Linton Park. It looks like a driveway has been dug up and asphalt was dumped there, in addition to tires and other random objects. She requests “no dumping” signs and asks whether cleaning activities in the corridor can be ramped up. The Councillor will raise this with his Hydro Ottawa contact. He likes the idea of no dumping signs, but questions their effectiveness.
- 12.5 Ro also thanked the Councillor for his support in protecting Hunt Club Forest.
- 12.6 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Kate to receive the report.

Motion Carried

13. Planning for the 2021 Meeting of the Members

- 13.1 The Board discussed plans for the 2021 Meeting of the Members of the RPCA to be held on October 6, 2021.
- 13.2 Joel reminded the board that a discussion of visioning for the community had been suggested previously as a meeting theme. Terry suggested that reconstituting the board and filling open officer slots should be the most important thing we address.
- 13.3 The board agreed to focus on options for a facilitator for the meeting and recruitment strategy in the time leading up to the Meeting of the Members.

14. 2021-2023 Board Elections

14.1 The RPCA is seeking nominations to fill director vacancies in Riverside Park West, Mooney's Bay, and Revelstoke. The deadline for nominations is 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 5, 2021. All positions will be elected at the October 6 Annual Meeting of the Members.

15. Other Business

15.1 Travis provided an update about a series of incidents related to aggressive dogs that has been happening at Pauline Vanier Park. This is not a dog park and certainly not designated as "off-leash." People have been bringing in dogs, letting them off leash, and gathering within 10 feet of the park path with their dogs. The dogs' behaviour has been very aggressive at times, towards other dogs and people, including families with small children and other vulnerable individuals. The dog owners often make no attempts to calm their dogs or curb the aggressive behaviour.

15.2 Riley asked Travis to email him with a summary of concerns. He will have bylaw go and speak with the owners to prevent this from happening again, especially since there seems to be a pattern.

15.3 It was moved by Terry and seconded by Travis that the RPCA formally recognize and thank Joel for his outstanding contributions to the RPCA and the community of Riverside Park.

15.4 Joel reiterated that his involvement in the RPCA has been a source of constant joy and the feedback from the community has been heartening. It was especially uplifting to see the best of humanity during the pandemic. It has been a lifechanging experience.

Motion Carried

16. Announcements

16.1 Ecology Ottawa is organizing a Tree Giveaway on September 18th at Riverside Churches between 1pm and 3pm. Volunteers will set up a booth and there will be 200 saplings to give away.

This event will be promoted by the RPCA on its website.

17. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021

17.1 The next RPCA meeting will be held on October 6, 2021, immediately following the Meeting of the Members.

18. Adjournment


18.1 It was moved by Kate and seconded by Travis to adjourn the meeting.

18.2 The meeting was adjourned at 10:02pm.


Meeting minutes were prepared by:

Mark Staz

Minutes confirmed by:



Joel Duff, President



Mark Staz