

Riverview Park Community Association
March 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Present: Kris Nanda, Jane Rutherford, Alan Landsberg, Marilyn Minnes, Heather Dunlop, Carole Moulton, Bryan Orendorff, Dianne Hoddinott, Shawn Bardell, Ad Abidi, Maureen Collins, Anne Stairs

Absent: Paul Puritt

Guests: Councilor Jean Cloutier, Susan Scott; Bruce Kenny, engineer at City Hall; Chris Khoury, rink coordinator; Tom Shillington- resident, Jamie Brougham- resident Capital Ward

Next meeting: April 15, 2015 6:45 p.m Maplewood Retirement Community

Action Items: **Kris Nanda** – letter to our elected representatives i.e. David McGuinty reaffirming our opposition to the Community Mailboxes

Kris Nanda to write to Councilor Cloutier and Bruce Kenny with questions on the AVTC

Maureen Collins to buy thank you card for Chris Khoury

Dianne Hoddinott to update our webpage with our activities

Anne Stairs to finalize welcome letter and send to Kris for signature

1. Called to order at 6:45 p.m.

2. Agenda approved –moved by Marilyn Minnes and seconded by Dianne Hoddinott. passed

3. Minutes of February 2015 approved – moved by Marilyn and seconded by Shawn Bardell. passed

4. Presentation by Chris Khoury- his expenses for the Balena Park rink for 2014-2015 came to \$1419.68. He bought a new coffee urn and ice breaker shovel. He expressed his gratitude to the RPCA board for the co-operation he received over the past 5 years and felt we had a good relationship. However, he is stepping down to spend more time with his family and expressed trust that we would work with the new person. It is a difficult job coordinating volunteers for the rink. He attended the appreciation breakfast at City Hall and was advised that the grant for rinks may be increased for next year.

5. Business arising from February 2015

a. Field House at Balena Park – see below

b. Recurring Expenses – under Treasurer’s report

c. Summer Picnic – under Parks and Rec.

d. Dempsey Centre rooms – there are 3 rooms in the basement. Two would hold up to 30

people each but the third room (fireside) is open to anyone in the building and is a set of curved, carpeted stairs. The cost is \$6.59 per hour and tables are available but we would possibly have to set them up ourselves.

e. NDMC- Shawn is waiting for a call back from his contact. Councilor Jean indicated that there would be no action on those lands before 2016.

f. AVTC Open House – see President’s report

g. Welcome Letter still being edited but should be finalized shortly.

6. President’s Report – Kris Nanda

Summary of recent activities

Bryan Orendorff and I conducted a walkthrough of the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor woods with Councilors Cloutier and Chernushenko when they both came to the Feb 22 Winter Frolic.

As per direction from the Board, I have corresponded with Councilor Cloutier to request a community Open House for the AVTC this Spring. No confirmation yet but the Councilor is bringing the city engineer for the project, Bruce Kenny, to the March 18 Board meeting

Sent acknowledgement to petition received from residents concerned about potential Balena Park field house expansion.

I have followed up with Overbrook CA re: the underpass/overpass between Trainyards(Terminal Avenue) and VIA rail station.

Overbrook CA is meeting with Councilor Toby Nussman and with baseball stadium people about traffic and parking.

Attended World Wildlife Day event at City Hall in early March to learn about greening. The City Ottawa Stewardship Council has program to plant trees. I was unable to attend the March 10 Tall Trees and Boulevards event hosted by Glebe CA and Ecology Ottawa, but do have presentations. There are several groups we could approach regarding tree planting after AVTC work takes place and along Industrial and Coronation. Any takers?

Sent a Get-well email to Mayor Watson on behalf of RPCA after the Mayor’s recent accident.

Finalizing Welcome letter to new Riverview Park Residents (with Anne Stairs' help)

1) RPCA webpage list of accomplishments has not been updated since 2009. We should think of items to add (e.g. Year that Carol Sing began, Winter Frolic etc started, supporting Riverview Park Soccer) 2) RPCA representative at CAFES meeting on March 28.

Upcoming items to note for consideration (mostly at future meetings)

Transferring financial institutions, updating signatures, transitioning Treasurer responsibilities

Possible Summer Social Event

LRT Update - Presentations from Matt Eason

Presentation from Tim Mark (Neighbourhood Watch)

By- Law Updates – working group is needed

Yard Sale/Garage Sale

Reserving Date for next AGM -usually third week in October

Councilor Cloutier stated that when Belfast Road is finished, the bike path will be open and employees of Trainyards will be able to access and use LRT.

Industrial Avenue Sidewalk (South Side) Neighbourhood Way to Trainyards Drive is planned (RPCA would like to see it extended to Russell Road. As part of Trainyards development at 628 Industrial (old lumber yard), the developer (Controlex) will put in sidewalk – there is a gap in front of Christie Walther and Loeb

Community Mailboxes: Motion: As per FCA request, write elected officials i.e. David McGuinty MP for Ottawa South reaffirming our opposition to the mailboxes Moved by Dianne and seconded by Marilyn passed

-we are a community with a high number of no sidewalk streets and it could be difficult for

seniors to get their mail

7. Discussion of Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC) Hospital Link

Bruce Kenny went over the drawings of the AVTC Hospital Link and answered questions from residents and Board members –the project is expected to last 3 years. Staging area just completed east of Alta Vista Drive is furthest eastwards that work will take place in 2015. – landscaping will be a separate project
Presently they are moving sewer and utilities between Riverside Dr and Alta Vista Dr.

No decision on date for AVTC Open House that RPCA had asked to have held in Spring 2015t.

Action: Kris to follow up with Bruce Kenny and Councilor Cloutier to confirm answers to the questions that RPCA raised in February 2015.e

8. Committee Reports:

a. **Communications:** Dianne Hoddinott – 332 hits in January and February, most visited Riverview Park Review

b. **Membership:** Heather Dunlop – nothing to report

c. **Parks and Recreation and Environment Committee:** Carole Moulton

-there has been no meeting since last RPCA meeting in February. The Riverview Park Alternative School is not available on August 26 for summer picnic. Caterers and soccer people are all away right now but summer picnic will be rescheduled.

-P & R would like to put out a challenge to other groups in Ward 18 re: park cleanup – will finalize wording and put on website. Maureen has offered to help with formulating ad. Maybe we should approach businesses that back onto Coronation Ave. to assist with cleanup.

May 1 Blair Court and Coronation Park cleanup

May 2, Saturday - all other parks

d. **P & D Committee Notes for March 18, 2015** Kris Nanda

The Riverview Park Community Association (RPCA) and its Planning and Development (P&D) Committee follow developments of interest in the local community and around the City which may affect Riverview Park residents either directly or indirectly. RPCA Board members work with other community associations on issues of common interest through organizations like the Federation of Citizen's Associations (FCA) and communicate regularly with local councilors on planning and development issues of concern.

A pressing issue that the RPCA continues to follow is construction of the controversial Hospital Link portion of the Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC) road between Riverside Drive and the Ottawa Hospital Ring Road. In particular, the RPCA is closely monitoring developments related to the relocation of the VIA rail line on Abbey Road residents and has requested that an Open House be held on the AVTC, ideally this Spring, to give local residents a chance to provide input into the design plan and potential mitigation

measures. In the meantime, Councilor Jean Cloutier arranged for the lead City engineer on the project to meet with the RPCA Board on March 27.

Details on issues of interest which the RPCA is monitoring include the following items:

Alta Vista Transportation Corridor – Hospital Link

Construction work is underway for the 1.7 km Hospital Link section of the controversial Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC) between Riverside Drive and the Hospital Complex. This work is likely to begin in 2015. The RPCA and other groups around Ottawa had put forth evidence questioning the cost-effectiveness of the Hospital Link and whether it was, in fact, even needed without sufficient proof that the Link itself will resolve perceived local traffic problems. Concerns were also raised around certain technical aspects of the design.

The plans showed a new two-lane vehicle and transit link from Riverside Drive and the Transitway which connects to the Hospital Ring Road and facilities that comprise the Ottawa Health Science Centre (OHSC). The plans included an at-grade signalized intersection at Alta Vista Drive and a bridges passing over the Transitway and Riverside Drive, with an underpass below the Via Rail line, and the realignment of Riverside Drive that is needed for the Hospital Link.

The first stage of the planned three years of construction activity includes the temporary relocation of the Via rail line up to 32 feet east of its present location during construction of an underpass to allow the AVTC to travel underneath the railway. Although the area affected by the relocation of the original rail line is well outside the study area used for the Environmental Impact Assessment previously performed for the AVTC, the RPCA was unsuccessful in its 2014 request to the provincial government for an addendum to the Assessment, due to the Via Rail Line relocation and changes in light and noise mitigation measures that were not considered in the original Assessment.

In addition to the rail corridor relocation behind Abbey Road, work is now going ahead full-bore along Riverside Drive and in the AVTC between Riverside and Alta Vista, including building an access road to allow trucks and equipment to get to the construction site. Some preliminary clearing has taken place in the AVTC just east of Alta Vista Drive to set up a staging area, but no additional work is planned for that sector in 2015.

A City handout distributed in March 2015 to local residents shows Eastern terminus of the Hospital Link is just east of the toboggan hill and Co-gen plant. This is considerably further west than the previous design and detail drawings for the AVTC that the RPCA had received in January 2015, and this change is partially in response to concerns raised by the community. The drawings from January showed the Hospital Link intersecting the Ring Road directly south of the Lindsay/Acton intersection -which would have involved cutting

through a swath of the woods that has special environmental protection (EP). The exact location of the Eastern terminus has not been finalized.

RPCA Board members have reviewed detailed drawings that Councilor Cloutier shared in January and have also spoken with the City engineer for the project regarding several technical questions on certain aspects. They are also seeking confirmation about the size and the scope of the project (including the “footprint” on the woods and elsewhere during construction) and about noise and light mitigation measures as well as the aforementioned rail relocation work. Councilor Cloutier also arranged to have the City engineer for the project come to the March 2015 meeting of the RPCA Board where board members and a few guests were able to ask questions and provide preliminary input.

In a 2014 communication to RPCA Board Members Councilor Hume indicated that "given the unique nature of this project, the City, in the tender documents, has retained the right to make adjustments to the design right up until physical construction. This means that although the City is seeking comments at this time, should issues arise after the tender is awarded, adjustments can be made." With this in mind, the RPCA has asked Councilor Cloutier to assistance in arranging a Spring 2015 open house. This event would allow City staff to answer questions and accept input from the broader local community and other interested parties regarding design issues, including the parameters and impact of the project, well in advance of actual construction and the finalized design.

During the recent “Winter Frolic” event” in February RPCA Board members were able to give Councilors Cloutier and Chernushenko a “walk-through” along the proposed route in the woods between Alta Vista and the Hospital Ring Road, to allow them to see first-hand the greenspace where construction will take place.

National Defence Medical Centre (NDMC)

The Department of National Defence and Canada Lands Corporation (CLC) are still working on disposition of the NDMC, located just off of Alta Vista Drive, adjacent to the AVTC. No actual construction date has yet been set. CLC officials have confirmed that NMDC lands are not likely to be transferred from DND before 2016 at the earliest. The RPCA has heard from at least one federal official that there is a potential Algonquins of Ontario land claim for NDMC property. Board members are investigating and following up to get more details on the nature and scope of this potential claim as it refers to both the NDMC lands and the AVTC.

Implications from Light Rail Construction and Highway 417 (Queensway) Expansion Projects

Staging work continues in the area just north of the existing Hurdman Station, in

preparation for preliminary construction work on the new Light Rail Transit (LRT) station. Foundation work for the new LRT station will start this Spring once piling activities (placement of structural support poles) for the foundation and elevated guideway of the new LRT station are completed.

Construction of the structure of the new transit station is scheduled to begin in phases, as early as Summer 2015 with completion in Summer 2016. According to City officials, the work is supposed to be completed during daytime hours with minimal impacts and OC Transpo operations are not anticipated to be affected. City officials will be invited to make a follow-up presentation to the RPCA Board in the Spring. More information on the LRT project, including weekly construction summaries, can be found at HYPERLINK "http://www.ottawa.ca/confederationline" www.ottawa.ca/confederationline

Pedestrian and Cycling Connections

The multi-use path (MUP) adjacent to the Transitway Bridge over Rideau River (between Hurdman and Lees) will be closed during conversion of Transitway from buses to rail. This MUP is heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists traveling between Alta Vista and downtown/University of Ottawa. The RPCA has also raised the issue of pedestrian/cyclist access using the Transitway Bridge between Lees and Hurdman when the Transitway is converted from buses to rail.

While the Coventry Pedestrian and Cyclist bridge across the 417 between Tremblay and the Baseball Stadium was opened in February 2015, re-opening of Belfast Road between Tremblay and Coventry to pedestrians and cyclists is delayed until May 2015. This section of Belfast Road is expected to remain closed to vehicular traffic until Spring 2016.

The opening of the new Coventry bridge over the Queensway leaves the gap between the Trainyards and the Via property as the only missing link for safe pedestrian and cyclist travel between Riverview Park or the Trainyards and Coventry Road (that would also benefit Trainyards customers and staff seeking quick access to the Transitway and future LRT system). An Overbrook Community Association representative recently approached the RPCA. There is a condition in the original Trainyards complex project approval that requires a new pedestrian connection between Train yards and the VIA Train Station/ LRT stop. (e.g. either Tunnel or pedestrian bridge) to be built once certain square footage of space in Train yards complex is constructed. There is a question as to whether timing of this project could be tied in with LRT construction and both the RPCA and its Overbrook counterpart have raised this issue with their councilors.

Trainyards Developments and New Retail

The site plan to construct a 9-storey office building at 405 Terminal Avenue, just east of the Canadian Revenue Agency building at 395 Terminal, has been approved. Construction of this structure – approximately 2/3 the size of the facility at 395 Terminal – is slated to begin

in 2015, though as this article went to press, the tenant(s) had not been confirmed.

Plans for a 40,000 sq ft. building at 595 Industrial (in the vacant space on Industrial Avenue just west of Pioneer Gas station) to house two major retailers are going through the site plan approval process now. Meanwhile, Skechers is expected to move into the retail facility at 575 Industrial in April.

At 600 Industrial (the former lumber yard), plans call for up to 6 smaller buildings to be built over the next several years. Part of the approvals includes completing a pedestrian pathway through the site to connect with Coronation Avenue, potentially coming out at the bus stop at Weyburn. The City is also requiring Trainyards to go through a downtown Urban Design Review Panel, so this project will probably be delayed until 2016.

Other planned construction is at 197 Trainyards Drive (just east of The Athletic Club, with 18,000 square feet of multi-tenant retail, including a Bulk Barn store) and at 595 Industrial Avenue (the vacant space just west of Pioneer), with 40,000 sq.ft for two major retailers.

Other Industrial Avenue/Russell Road Issues

The RPCA continues to seek confirmation from City Council that the new sidewalk planned for the South side of Industrial will extend at least as far East as the access road for Farm Boy/LCBO to encourage patrons and employees to travel on foot or by bus.. RPCA has raised with Councilor Cloutier original questions to Councilor Hume confirming that sidewalk will extend to crossing into access road for Farm Boy/LCBO and ideally to Russell Road along with a sidewalk on the west side of Russell Road between the Perley-Rideau complex and Coronation. RPCA has received written support from the Perley's CEO for the proposed new sidewalk on Russell Rd.

The RPCA has also proposed Industrial Avenue as a candidate for inclusion in the City's "Complete Street's list of projects so that it could be beautified and redesigned to be more conducive to pedestrian and cyclist traffic. An example would be to include greenery (shrubs) in the new boulevard median that will be built in front of 575 Industrial Ave.

Community Mailboxes (CMB)

The RPCA is proactively looking to identify locations for where CMBs would be located in Riverview Park, although they are not expected to be installed in Riverview Park until 2016 at the earliest. Councilor Cloutier is being advised on the RPCA's interest in working together to identify potential CMB locations, given media reports about lack of Canada Post consultation with some communities in other parts of the country.

Alta Vista Shopping Centre

The RPCA Board has been in contact with Brentcom, the property management company regarding new tenants for the long-vacant storefronts in the Alta Vista Shopping Centre. The mall is under new ownership and two new tenants opened earlier this year (Simply Chiropractic and Sophia's Nails Spa). A tenant for the third space had not been identified at the time this article went to press.

More information on some of these project proposals can be found at the City of Ottawa website at: HYPERLINK "http://www.city.ottawa.on.ca/residents/planning/index_en.html"http://www.city.ottawa.on.ca/residents/planning/index_en.html. The RPCA welcomes your input on these proposals and any other potential developments in the area.

If you are interested in joining the RPCA P&D group or would like further information, you may contact the Committee Chair, Kris Nanda at krpp1415@gmail.com. For more information on this and other activities in Riverview Park, please see the RPCA website at HYPERLINK "<http://www.RiverviewPark.ca>"www.RiverviewPark.ca. The contact email for RPCA is info@riverviewpark.ca

9. Balena Park Fieldhouse – pictures were taken of the footprint of the new fieldhouse and passed around to the board members – the park would lose one tree and the playground structure would have to be moved
-suggestion from one member of the board that the city add solar panels

Discussion tabled until next RPCA Board meeting

10. Discussion of Other Issues with Councilor Jean Cloutier

Councilor Cloutier stated that when Belfast Road is finished, the bike path will be open and employees of Trainyards will be able to access and use LRT.
Industrial Avenue Sidewalk (South Side) Neighbourhood Way to Trainyards Drive is planned (RPCA would like to see it extended to Russell Road. As part of Trainyards development at 628 Industrial (old lumber yard), the developer (Controlex) will put in sidewalk – there is a gap in front of Christie Walther and Loeb

11. Treasurer's Report – Alan Landsberg - banking is changing to Alterna, new signatories can go in anytime and sign paperwork, because the RPCA is a non profit community association there is no service charge on cheques and the association will be paid a better rate of interest on their GIC

– Alan paid Chris Khoury \$1419.68 for expenses Approved by Alan and seconded by Bryan. passed

- Motion: pay an honorarium for Warren Fisher of \$500.00 Moved by Alan and seconded by Maureen passed

-Motion: pay an honorarium for Chris Khoury of \$1500.00 Moved by Marilyn and seconded by Maureen passed

Motion: get a gift certificate in the amount of \$100.00 for dinner for Chris and his wife and a thank you card signed by each member of the board members – Moved by Maureen and seconded by Anne passed

12. Reports from external meetings

Alta Vista Planning Group – n/a

Perley Rideau Hospital – next meeting April 27 at 5:30 p.m.

East of Rideau Group – N/A

FCA – www.fca-fac.ca/activ/17/03/2015.pdf

CAFES – next meeting March 26, 2015 (Ad and/or Maureen to attend)

13. Riverview Park Review – next issue coming out by early April e

14. New Business:

Meeting adjourned 9:30 p.m.

Date of Next Board Meeting: April 15, 2015:

Starting at 6:45 P.M. Maplewood Retirement Community

Board of Directors: Kris Nanda, Karin Keyes-Endemann (Ex-officio), Paul Puritt, Jane Rutherford, Alan Landsberg, Carole Moul, Dianne Hoddinott, Heather Dunlop, Marilyn Minnes, Shawn Bardell, Bryan Orendorff, Ad Abidi, Maureen Collins, Anne Stairs