

Blackburn Community Association

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2020 7:30 pm

1. Call to order 7:40 pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes from previous meetings
 - April 16, 2020
 - Motion to approve by Chelsey Wynne. Seconded by Brent Lawrie. Approved.
4. City Councillor Update - Laura Dudas
 - The Groupe Lépine development proposal for 3490 and 3494 Innes contains multiple buildings up to 16 storeys tall. The highest existing building in the area is 4 storeys tall. Parking for over 1000 cars which will feed on to Innes, causing even more congestion. The Developer taking this to LPAT over City approval delays. City planners oppose the development. Due to the large number of residents who have asked to speak at the planning committee meeting, the vote has been delayed until June.
 - Growth Management/Urban Boundary. The City is mandated by the Province to update growth plans for at least the next 15 years. Ottawa is choosing to look at the next 25 years, which will need to accommodate an increase in housing by 40% in order to accommodate the expected growth. Options include no change (lots of infill and intensification), expand the urban boundary or a more balanced mix of the two. Intensification can lead to higher costs for housing and more people moving out of the City limits. Part of the Balanced approach includes lands set aside and zoned for business/office space, especially near transit corridors. The Planning Committee approved the balanced option. City Council will vote on the proposal at the May 27th meeting.
 - Development of new communities must be planned and funded by the developers to ensure key amenities are contained within them (school, transit, roads, parks etc). It is not permitted to use these development fees to improve the road and transit capacity through or around existing communities even when they are impacted by traffic congestion caused by development of the new communities.
 - A new development proposal for a 4-storey building with 33 rental units on Innes near Gravelle will be submitted to the City in the near future
 - What Transit/cycling plans are there to improve services from Blackburn to Blair? There are no plans to upgrade the Innes corridor at this time. The only improvements that will be made are along Blair from Innes to Gloucester Centre when Blair is upgraded. There are some discussions, but no plan or funding for segregated bike lanes along Orleans and/or Jeanne d'Arc.
 - OCTranspo is looking at streamlining the bus stop placement along Innes, including in Blackburn. Anyone who has concerns about these changes are strongly encouraged to provide feedback to OCTranspo

- Construction on the Arena has resumed. The plan is to finish on schedule at the end of March 2021, but that may change.

5. BCA Updates - Mark Lister

- The Community Gardens have now opened and all allotments are fully allocated.
- The Communications team and Satinder Sahota have been doing a good job connecting with the community and local businesses during these challenging times.
- Satinder would like to extend the business postings from Facebook on to our website – especially as each one opens. Local Business includes those in the Hamlet and those who have owners/employees who live in the Hamlet. We can also use our email list to keep the community updated.
- Recent development proposals and the debate on expansion of the Urban Boundary have highlighted a need for the BCA to be more proactive in informing and consulting with our community as well as voicing the concerns of the community when these proposals are tabled. For the near term, there will be a standing item on our agendas to discuss upcoming issues. Further improvements will be made as time permits (likely after the current International crisis has abated).
- A Community hall review to be held in June. Mark to send out invitations to the board.

6. Financials and CRA

- An update will be circulated separately.

7. Arena Construction

8. Storage - Brent Lawrie

- The Arena expansion is only providing us with space for 2 containers behind the Arena. Discussions are ongoing. A new container has been received and installed at a temporary location until Arena construction is finished. Mark and Brent have keys. We need to move our equipment from a temporary storage location to the new container before the fall.
- Friends of Mer Bleu is asking if the BCA would be interested in purchasing the stage/trailer we share with them. We may be able to make an arrangement with Just Foods for storage. Brent to follow up.

9. Virtual Events

- Grads (Nina Ryan/Satinder Sahota) – A message will be posted on Facebook and included in our next email newsletter asking the community to submit streets that have Grads (no restrictions on which grade they are graduating from). Kevin will setup a form on our website that can be used to collect the streets. The information will be used to populate a Google Map that the community can use on June 13 to walk/cycle/drive by in celebration.
- FunRun (Nina Ryan) – a virtual Funfair FunRun will be held on June 4-7. It is being promoted on the BCA and Funfair Facebook Pages. All proceeds from the run will be donated to the Blackburn Foodbank.

- Environment (Kendra Brett) – The Environment Committee was awarded a \$2,000 TD Grant to host three events in 2020. Due to the current crisis, the grant has been changed to \$1,000 to host two events. The first event will be a nature photo contest in June. The second event will be in September.
 - Canada Day Online (Chelsey Wynne) - Looking at options for a virtual Canada day, including one that would stitch together video clips in a virtual celebration.
 - Bike Rodeo (Dave Garand and Chelsey Wynne) - Ottawa Safety Council has provided guidance on how to run DIY mini rodeos. Dave and Chelsey are reviewing these for use as a replacement to our annual rodeo.
10. For the next e-newsletter send your articles to Satinder by the end of day on Monday May 25. She will work with and train the Comms team with a goal of sending out the newsletter on June 1.
 11. The BANAR deadline is June 10th and the delivery would be scheduled for the end of June. A decision on physical copies vs online only will be made the week before the delivery date.
 12. Adjournment 9:30pm (Next meeting on June 18, 2020, 7:30pm)

Attendees

Mark Lister
Brent Lawrie
Lynn Lefevre
Zack Jackson
Kendra Brett
Kevin White
Chelsey Wynne
Nina Ryan
Kiel Dixon
Satinder Sahota
Dave Garand
Laura Dudas

BCA Board

Executive

President: Mark Lister

Vice President & Facilities and Operations: Brent Lawrie

Secretary: Lynn Lefevre

Treasurer: Lisa Margeson

Past President: Ali Yassine

Director Portfolio's

Environment: Kendra Brett

Parks & Rinks: Zack Jackson

Communications: Nina Ryan, Dan Gosson, Patrick Phillips

Community Relations: Kiel Dixon

Website: Kevin White

Transportation: and Community Safety: Don Kelly

Youth: Vacant

Membership: Satinder Sahota

Committee Chairs

BANAR: Evelyn Budd

Seniors: Melissa Cinquino

Beautification: Ian Chamberland

Community Hall: Auramarina Sawyer

Events

Fun Fair: Ian Chamberland

Canada Day: Chelsey Wynne

Cancer Chase: Don Kelly

Hockey Day: Mark Lister & Zack Jackson

Pot Luck Dinners: Auramarina Sawyer

Santa's Pancake Breakfast: Chelsey Wynne

Volunteer Appreciation: Mark Lister

Spring Cleanup: Kendra Brett

Seniors Information Event: Melissa Cinquino

Bike Rodeo: Dave Garand

Innes Ward Community Council Meeting May 7, 2020

- Green spaces and community fields are re-opening. Social distancing still in force. Families can be in groups up to five people.
- Coronavirus update: increased testing at long-term care facilities; Madonna Home had one staff death; there's been one coronavirus case in Chapel Hill South.
- Ottawa Public Health has an active engagement tool to guide people through the easing of restrictions.
- Pat Teolis, President of the Chateaufeuf Community Association, raised the question of the City setting aside the fines issued to people in local parks or playgrounds. Laura (Dudas) reviewed the City's policies on COVID-19 restrictions; she noted that people can go to civil court to challenge the fine.
- Paul Bolt raised a question about intensification in general and CHS in particular. Laura reviewed the current population growth/housing demand in Ottawa. The City recently hit 1M population, and has identified the need to house up to 400,000 new residents in the near future. This will require approximately 190,000 new households. City councillors have different views on how to handle this demand: a) fit them all in existing City boundaries/communities, b) expand the City boundaries, c) a mix of these two, d) simply accept that people will live in the communities on the outskirts of the City (Rockland, Embrun, Casselman etc.). The problem with more people in the outskirts is that they use City roads and public transportation but do not pay City taxes. Laura favours a mix (balanced approach) where 60% of the growth/needs will be managed within existing communities and 40% through expansion or the outskirts.
- A point was raised that the proper infrastructure needs to be in place to accommodate that kind of intensification.
- Yasmine Fathers asked about other Councillors' positions. Some councillors are concerned about protecting agricultural lands. In general, there is no consensus – a split vote sort of situation.
- Laura provided an update on road construction (starting up again) and the Blackburn Arena project (starting up again). Navan Road upgrade has been on hold, and Laura working on ensuring that the project will be done in a way that benefits the local communities. Brian Coburn extension project stalled. All City projects are delayed anywhere from 2 weeks to 2 months. Private development has been significantly delayed.