

Blackburn Community Association (BCA) Minutes for Thursday June 23rd, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE:

Laura Czekaj Dudas
Paula Rosenquist
Al Haggerty
Helen Rosseau
Evelyn Budd
Tom Scott
Jeff Miller
Rainer Bloess
Annick Laporte

GUESTS

Constable Charles Beniot, Ottawa Police
Phil McNeely, MPP
Hal Mellish
R.B. Screatton
Lisa MacGillivray

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Laura at 7:30 and began with a presentation by Constable Beniot.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Constable Beniot came to address concerns about speeding on Northpark and elsewhere in the Hamlet. He advised residents to make their complaints to the station as a log of complaints is necessary to implement further action. Such actions include a speed board. This has been shown to educate both speeding drivers and residents who may be over-estimating the speed drivers are passing at. The community and police department can then determine if the posted limit is appropriate and take further steps, such as lowering the limit or creating physical barriers.

A speed board will be requested for the Ridgeburn residents.

The constable also spoke about car break and enters, also called "car surfing". This is an ongoing problem that can be mitigated by locking car doors and removing valuable items from view. Garage door openers left in open cars are especially dangerous as they can grant later access to the home itself.

The police have volunteers who move about the communities leaving pamphlets to remind residents of these and other precautions when they see car doors or windows left unsecured.

All break and enters on cars should be reported to the police, not the city.

Phil McNeely brought updates on the new Hawthorne and Huntclub exchanges, the new 417 Split, and on the Cyrville bridge construction.

The Hawthorne extension, Project 1, is now completed. Phase 1 of Project 2, tying in to the 417, has secured financing but is still pending on NCC approval, which must complete its Environmental Assessments first. Phase 2 will provide a parallel road to the 417 that will tie in to Hawthorne providing a non-stop, 60km/hr link from Innes at Anderson Road. Rainer pointed out that many residents and the NCC strongly oppose any slicing up of the Greenbelt as segregated portions are quickly lost. The Transportation Master Plan has approved the connection but approval by the NCC Greenbelt Master Plan is still pending at the time of this meeting.

The new Split design will change how St. Laurent is accessed to cut down on multi-lane weaving and includes accommodations for a future inter-provincial bridge at Kettle Island. The Split project, originally a 50 million dollar project, has become a 224 million dollar project due to the addition of the transitway being converted to rail and the necessity of accommodating the extra transit traffic that the long closure of the transitway will cause. The money for this project has been committed and secured.

The Cyrville bridge construction, the first step in the Split's new design, is progressing well and will be open by Christmas.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes was remitted to the next meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Laura reported that the Yard Care seminar went very well but could have benefited from better advertising.

Ali has provided pricing for new signage. It was noted that all signage should bear the website address. Approval for the final signage will be looked at over the summer months.

The United Way's changes in funding have affected local groups like the East Ottawa Resource Centre, specifically their youth drop-in and homework club. This program costs \$1,200-\$1,600 a month and runs between 6 and 9 on Friday nights. Though the BCA cannot fund this amount we have been seeking youth programming to fund and have had to return unspent money to the city, which may limit our future funding. This project will be examined to see if we can find a way to support it.

The Ste-Marie school's garden initiative is now fully funded and they thank the BCA for their support.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIPS

The Funfair drive gathered 47 new members.

50 PLUS

Al reported that the seniors appreciated being part of the Funfair and would be willing to provide the same services next year.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Rainer reported that the Bearbrook pool was open as of the meeting day and that repairs had been successfully completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEBSITE

Helen has received positive feedback and suggestion regarding the site. The Community Hall survey will close at the end of July.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Laura succeeded in getting over a hundred surveys filled out for the Community Hall expansion. She will aggregate the results and present them to the board at the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Evelyn announced that the Garden Tour is on and will be featuring 10 Blackburn gardens and 4 Orleans gardens. It will occur Sunday June 26th from 1-4. The cost is \$10 to make the tour.

Annick reported on the NCC's World Cafe and Community Planning Groups put on to garner resident advice on the inter-provincial bridge corridors. The Cyrville Cafe was well attended with 100 people. Many residents used these sessions to voice the feeling that no choice would be adequate. Nevertheless, the tables were filled with resident's suggestions, including design ideas, suggestions on including cultural significance into the design, and lists of the most important values residents wish to see preserved. The presentations would have benefited with more on-hand material showcasing what sort of possibilities the design team can accommodate, so that residents, who are not experts, would not be making suggestions in a vacuum.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30