GCA Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 25, 7:00 p.m.
Glebe Community Centre

Present:
Board members: Elizabeth Ballard, Dan Chook Reid, June Creelman, Sylvia Grandi, Rochelle Handleman, Sam Harris, Jennifer Humphries, Bruce Jamieson, Angela Keller-Herzog, Sylvie Legros, Carol MacLeod, Liz McKeen, Nini Pal, Brenda Perras, Bill Price, Jennifer Raven, Bhagwant Sandu, Laura Smith, Josh VanNoppen

Others: Braeden Cain, David Chernushenko, Vaughn Guy, Rose LaBrèche, Zoe Langevin, Colleen Leighton, Marianna Locke, Chari Marple, Shawn Menard, Mike Reid

Regrets:
Louise Aronoff, Carolyn Mackenzie, Matthew Meagher, Sue Stefko, Elspeth Tory, Sarah Viehbeck

WELCOME
June welcomed everyone to the meeting, and acknowledged that the GCA meets on the unceded territory of the Algonquin people. She acknowledged the municipal election candidates present (Rose LeBreche for school trustee; Shawn Menard, David Chernushenko for councillor) and welcomed Marianna Locke, a University of Ottawa PhD student studying the relationship between Landowne Park and the surrounding community.

AGENDA AND MINUTES
The agenda was approved as presented (moved by Nini Pal, seconded by Carol MacLeod), as were the minutes (moved by Bill Price, seconded by Elizabeth Ballard).

REPORT FROM THE COUNCILLOR
David Chernushenko provided updates on several items:

- Anyone who needs assistance with cleaning up or recovering from the weekend's storm can be in touch with David's office, which has a list of volunteers who are ready to assist.
- New boards have been ordered for a rink in Sylvia Holden Park.
- The design to approve the drainage in Central Park West is proceeding; consultation can be found at ottawa.ca. The deadline for comments is October 10.

- Chamberlain / Catherine / Isabella is due for a functional design study for cycling, pedestrian and transit improvements. There will be an open house in November, during which comments can be submitted; they can also be submitted on ottawa.ca.
- There are some questions about the two-way bike lane on Glebe Ave and where driving and parking should occur. Options are being considered to clarify.
- There is ongoing dialogue between Crime Prevention Ottawa, the Glebe BIA and the community police officer about recent incidents of aggressive panhandling in the Glebe.

In response to a question about speed limit signs for Fourth Avenue between Bank and O'Connor, David said that we could follow up directly with his office.

In response to a question about the O'Connor bike path and puddles, David said that city staff are aware.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

June reported:

- The Executive met a few times over the summer, discussing the importance of improving communications with members and with the board. Laura emphasized the importance of submitting meeting materials on time so that they can be shared with members in advance. She also asked that committee chairs use their GCA email addresses
- With respect to an email June sent about the Second Ave parklet, she clarified that we try to avoid "e-votes" and stated that that matter would come before the Board tonight.
- Sarah has been active with meeting with the BIA about the panhandling issue (and will attend the meeting on Oct. 2); with GNAG; and are with community association presidents and the Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCA).
- The BIA gateway sign is on hold because they do not have permission to use the land.
- The GCA's 50th anniversary art work is now up in the Glebe Community Centre.
- The GCA has been engaged on proposed developments, including the Albert St. development, 170 Pretoria, 5/7 Allen Place, and 289 Carling.
- The park beside Fourth Avenue Baptist Church has been improved with support from Underground Sound. There will also be improvements made at at Rosebury and Bank (including a seating area, planter around the tree, and a flower garden).

In response to a question about putting up signs to acknowledge support from Underground Sound, June committed to bring that forward to Underground Sound.

June also committed to investigating moving the mural at Bank and Fifth mural down the street to the next bit of construction.

The executive was asked to look into the matter of insurance. A board member expressed that committees should not have to pay separate costs, and that they can be blocked from venues because they do not have event insurance.

Board members expressed support for quarterly financial reports to the membership. One member also expressed support for a budget.

COMMENTS / ISSUES FROM COMMUNITY

All Candidates' Debate
Carol reported that it is on September 27 at 7 pm and is being organized by six community associations in Capital Ward. The debate will only include councillors, but those running for trustee can set up outside the hall. Volunteers to help set up at 6:15 pm would be appreciated.

Ottawa Hospital Update
Bhagwant, president of Dow's Lake Residents Association, described the deliberative process being used to engage community groups in the hospital's development project. A consultant is working with the Community Engagement Group to develop principles in evaluating design proposals; these principles will be posted online when they are finalized. The group will then evaluate proposals against these principles in approximately two years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS / MOTIONS / Q&A

Motion 1: Art installation and framing
Whereas the GCA did not spend all funds allocated in 2017-18 for its 50th anniversary celebrations;
Whereas the celebrations included the creation of a work of art that has recently been installed at the Glebe Community Centre; and,
Whereas the costs for installation of the work, the creation of label or plaque and framing of the GCA's 50th anniversary certificates are estimated to be $500,

Be it resolved that the GCA allocate $500 in its 2018-19 fiscal year towards the costs of art installation and framing related to GCA 50.

Discussion: Sam presented the motion, and highlighted the support provided by GNAG.

(Sam Harris / Carol MacLeod) **Carried**

Motion 2: Community Conversations Series

That the GCA support community conversations as an outreach and engagement activity as outlined in the proposal background.

Discussion: Sam presented the motion, which proposed a partnership between the GCA, Octopus Books, GNAG, and Youth Ottawa to engage with the community. While this is a preliminary motion for approval of the idea and a budget of up to $3500, adoption would permit organizers to apply for funding from the City. Once it is determined if the City would support this initiative, Sam would return to the GCA after that process with a clearer funding proposal. They may also explore sponsorship.

In response to a question about the objective of the initiative, Sam explained that it is to engage people proactively in discussions with the GCA. The books would be related to positive communities and would bring people into that discussion. This work would fit under the GCA's mandate of healthy, engaged communities

When asked to provide examples of themes or topics, Sam highlighted the areas of liveable, healthy sustainable neighbourhoods (adult), civic engagement and creating positive movements (youth); and how to be a good neighbour (children).

When asked if we wanted to focus on getting children and youth involved in the GCA, Sam said that parents with children are a difficult group to get engaged in the GCA and that they would have to accompany their children to any activities associated with the initiative (e.g., parks clean up). She also said that interested youth could be involved in the GCA Youth Committee, and that the GCA has partnerships with GCI.

In response to a question, Sam was supportive of including Abbottsford as a place where books could be distributed.

(Sam Harris / Josh VanNoppen) Carried

Motion 3: NuK (Second Ave parklet)

Whereas the NuK parklet at Second Avenue was originally planned as a one-year pilot project involving the GCA, Glebe BIA, Underground Sound, Carleton University and the City of Ottawa, but was extended for two more years;
Whereas the Glebe BIA will no longer support the parklet or the use of the parking spot at Second and Bank for this purpose;
Whereas the GCA parklet coordinator ecommends wrapping the project up; and,
Whereas the GCA would prefer that the structure be reused or recycled rather than disposed of,

Be it resolved that the GCA offer the parklet structure for free to someone, at the discretion of the GCA Parks Committee, to dismantle and remove the parklet by October 31 when its permit expires.

Discussion: Sam presented the motion and said that GCI may be interested. She also encouraged Board members to suggest people or organizations who might be interested.

In response to a question, Sam said that the reason for ending support for the parklet is mostly financial but also that some nearby businesses have not be supportive.

In response to a question, Sam explained that the City will not let the structure stay in the parking spot throughout the winter, but that it has been stored outside. It is unclear if, assembled, the parklet is okay structurally in the winter.

(Sam Harris / Elizabeth Ballard) **Carried**

Environment Committee

Zoe Langevin, a member of the GCA Environment Committee's Plastic Reduction Task Force, presented a summary of a townhall event held in July about reducing single-use plastics. Participants identified four products they would like to reduce (i.e., clam shell containers, water bottles, plastic bags, styrofoam take out containers) and brainstormed strategies to reduce use of each of these. There will be an Capital Ward Candidates Town Hall on single-use plastics on October 15, and an event in November about how to shop, gift and travel over the holidays without single-use plastics. Angela expressed appreciation to Liz McKeen for profiling this work in the Glebe Report. Angela also asked for additional volunteers for the Task Force.

Angela reported that we received $58,856 from the Community Energy Innovation Fund. This is primarily for innovative windows, with very good insulation capacity, for the basement of the GCC. There will be a more comprehensive update from project team in future.

Jennifer reported that Tree Action Now is highlighting trees as an issue in the election. There was a Glebe Report article with responses from candidates, and there will be a discussion at Irene's Pub with Capital Ward candidates and mayoral candidate Clive Doucet. They are also engaging with the BIA to address struggling trees on Bank St. Some board members expressed concern with the GCA supporting an event being chaired by a mayoral candidate; it was clarified that it was not a GCA event and that the GCA itself was not promoting it.

Motion 4: Increasing intensification and development on Glebe residential streets

Whereas

- The Glebe is confronted by increasing development on our community's residential streets
- Much of this development involves:
    - Demolition of existing homes and their replacement with buildings whose design is out of keeping with the streetscape
    - Destruction of existing canopy trees

    - Use of a larger percentage of the property for building and hard surface construction, reducing greenspace and permeability
- The City's by-laws and regulations (e.g. Urban Design Guidelines for Low-Rise Infill Housing; Mature Neighbourhoods Overlay Zoning; Alternative Provisions for Urban R1 and R4 Areas) provide minimal protection from such development
- Existing homes and properties are now being explicitly marketed as "Redevelopment Opportunities" rather than places to live;

Whereas

- Concern is being expressed by residents of individual streets where this kind of development is proposed or has taken place
- Many residents are concerned that the character and liveability of their neighbourhood are being lost
- Residents of Broadway Avenue reached out to the GCA regarding a demolition/build proposal on their street; we provided support in navigating the process and the builder revised the design; the Committee of Adjustment granted the variances requested in the revised design, and Broadway residents appealed the decision of the Committee to the Ontario Municipal Board
- Broadway residents have launched a campaign to raise awareness of the broader issue of insensitive development and loss of heritage character in our neighbourhood, and a GoFundMe campaign to cover legal fees for the appeal;

Whereas

- Many in the community are supportive of intensification where the development maintains and enhances the character of the street; where liveability and the environment, including tree canopy, are preserved and enhanced; and, in the case of multi-unit dwellings, where a substantial percentage of affordable housing is provided
- The community defines the character of our streetscapes to include legacy built forms and heritage architecture, in addition to size, massing, setbacks and other objective elements;

Whereas

- The City is currently evaluating its Mature Neighbourhoods Zoning Overlay (Infill I) and Alternative Zoning Provisions (Infill II)
- The Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa (FCA), of which GCA is a member, participates in reviews of this nature; and,

Whereas

- The issue concerns many Glebe residents and GCA members
- The issue intersects the mandates of three Committees: Planning, Heritage and Environment,

Be it resolved that the GCA Board develop a formal position statement on intensification/infill development and related issues in regard to residential streets, based on past GCA

interventions and inputs to infill reviews and related exercises, as well as on the work of the FCA, and that this statement be widely disseminated and sent to the new City Council.
Further, be it resolved that the relevant Committees (Planning, Heritage and Environment) work together to develop the above (target date: draft to the Board for the meeting of January 22, with a view to dissemination in early 2019).

Discussion: Jennifer presented the motion and several people spoke in favour of it. There was consensus, however, that the adoption of this motion was not required to begin this work.

(Jennifer Humphries / Elizabeth Ballard) **Withdrawn**

Membership Committee

Carol asked committee chairs to confirm that committee members are members of the GCA and, if not, to assist them in becoming members.

ADJOURNMENT (Rochelle, Elizabeth)

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.