



July 4, 2019

Dear Mr. Nussbaum,

The Glebe Community Association (GCA) is a volunteer, non-profit, membership-based and City-recognized organization advocating for a liveable, sustainable, diverse urban neighbourhood. The GCA informs, consults and engages with residents and other groups in the Glebe on issues of importance and promotes the interests of our community with all levels of government and other organizations.

At the end of May, an NCC email informed the GCA of the plan for a pop-up bistro at the Patterson Creek wharf, inviting questions and offering participation in a later evaluation. The GCA responded asking who in the community was consulted regarding strategies to minimize any impact, how the GCA might work with the NCC to engage with those most likely to be impacted and how project success would be measured. The NCC provided information about the three sites being animated, hours of operation, some mitigation measures around waste, and noted the NCC would evaluate success of the bistro. In brief, **by absence of a clear description of community engagement approaches, the response made clear that community had indeed not been consulted** in advance and that consultation had occurred only through a meeting with the Councillor, Shawn Menard.

On June 10, Patterson Creek Park users discovered a liquor license notice near the wharf and contacted the GCA. None of the earlier NCC details given to the GCA had mentioned liquor sales. Further correspondence followed with the NCC, and with park users as awareness of the project spread. The resulting expressions of concern further crystallized that **neither proximal residents nor park users had been notified of the NCC plan, much less consulted**. The GCA once again reached out to the NCC about the matter making clear that there was growing concern among some residents.

One week later, on June 17, residents halted an unexpected back hoe excavation at the site and contacted media. The NCC quickly announced an on-site community meeting for June 24th. **A GCA request for the objectives of the meeting (whether it was to inform, adapt plans, or change course) and evaluation criteria went unanswered**. Indeed the meeting was not a consultation, but rather an open house to inform those that attended.

While the GCA did hear from a minority of individuals who are supportive of the bistro and recognizes there may be more, the GCA also heard of a range of concerns from more than 200 residents and park users. The issues raised by those concerned have included, but are not limited to the following:

- **High-volume:** potential crowding of an already highly animated park and competition for parking access for the boaters using the NCC wharf;
- **Safety:** increased likelihood of vehicles making illegal turns from The Driveway into adjacent no-entry streets and risk of NCC pathway pedestrians and cyclists crossing a 60 k/h road 450m away from a cross walk
- **Heritage compatibility:** inappropriate structural insertion and activity within a proposed Heritage Conservation District and adjacent to a Federal Heritage Building, site excavation being

undertaken before obligatory land use permits were obtained, and the summer-long visual clash of a porta-potty in a picturesque natural environment with heritage protection; and,

- **Nuisances:** the problems of increased garbage, plastic waste and possible noise, and concerns about alcohol consumption and related impacts in a family-centric park.

The GCA is not opposed to animation in community parks, as various events have been held over the years, and takes a parks advocacy and caretaker role for many parks in our community. The GCA Board has a history of being supportive of animation on the Canal and indeed played a role in offering support for the canoe and kayak launches a few years ago. Indeed, the GCA has chosen not to be flatly opposed to the Bistro as we ourselves have not had an opportunity for meaningful community engagement.

That being said, **the GCA objects to the lack of consultation process with respect to the pop-up bistro at Patterson Creek Park.** We believe that **any development in any park in the Glebe should be accompanied by adequate notice and consultation including, but not limited to, those most proximal to the development, and is willing to assist in facilitating those consultations.** We see this as completely consistent with our role as a Community Association, as outlined earlier, and a way that we can enable community voices to be heard.

In order to be well-informed about process, **the GCA requests all documentation related to the selection of Patterson Creek Park as a pilot location for the NCC bistro**, including the selection criteria, all engineering, safety, traffic, architectural, heritage, environmental assessments and appropriate permitted uses of NCC lands. **The GCA further requests all documentation, criteria and public engagement plans related to the evaluation of the pilot's success.** The GCA would like to be involved in the evaluation of the pilot project, including commenting on methodologies and participating in the evaluation and communication plans.

We note that the other sites planned for animation this year, Confederation Park (across from City Hall) and Remick Rapids (on an open stretch of the Ottawa River) are very public sites while only Patterson Creek Park sits in a community neighbourhood. Given the breadth of concerns raised, the GCA is concerned that the NCC chose not to engage in consultation with the bistro's most proximal neighbours, other frequent park users (not necessarily those in the neighbourhood), and the GCA before the plans were finalized.

We look forward to a timely response and remain committed to working with the NCC as this matter continues to unfold.

With thanks and kind regards,

Sarah Viehbeck
GCA President on behalf of the GCA Board

cc.
NCC Chairman Marc Seaman
NCC Ombudsman, Kevin Saville
NCC Board Member *ex officio* and Mayor, City of Ottawa, Jim Watson
The Honourable Catherine McKenna, MPP Ottawa Centre
Councillor Shawn Menard (Capital Ward)