

## **GCA Parks Committee Report to Board: April 27, 2021**

1. **Commercialization in NCC-owned Parks:** Last month's GCA Board meeting saw the passage of two GCA board motions from the committee articulating the committee's position on commercialization in City-owned Glebe parks, and about consultation related to the proposed Bistro on the NCC-owned Paterson Creek East Park. This prompted some discussion at the Board meeting relating to ascertaining the Parks Committee's position on commercialization in NCC-owned Glebe parks and, in particular, the proposed Bistro. While the Parks Committee first wanted to focus on City-owned parks with last month's Motion 1, it this month discussed and passed the following committee motion related to NCC-owned parks.

This position strikes a balance between various points of view on this issue held by different members of our committee, and indeed, may reflect a similar balance of views on this issue on the GCA Board, and within the community. Like our position on City-owned parks, it also maintains that views for and against any kind of commercialization in Glebe Parks should remain open, and subject to, meaningful consultation. The committee motion is reported here to the Board for the record:

WHEREAS the GCA passed a motion on March 23, 2021 articulating the rationale for the Parks Committee's opposition to any proposal that would result in permanently or even seasonally losing any portion of our City-owned parks to commercial activity, subject to meaningful consultation as also elaborated upon in the March 23 motion; AND

WHEREAS the mandate of the GCA Parks Committee also extends to parks and parkland in the Glebe owned by the National Capital Commission (NCC);

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GCA Parks Committee reports to the GCA Board the committee's majority position:

opposing on principle any permanent or seasonal commercial project in City-owned or NCC-owned Glebe parks, including the proposed Bistro at Patterson Creek Park, subject to a full and extensive engagement in meaningful consultation by the City and/or the NCC with the community at any and every stage of their consideration of such proposals; and

AND

the committee's recognition of opinion in the community supporting the proposed Bistro at Patterson Creek Park that draws a distinction between the sanctity of our relatively scarce city-owned parks space and NCC lands governed by a broader national, tourist-oriented mandate of "animation" that differs from our committee's view of local park space protection.

2. **Update on proposed "Firehall" Park at corner of Fifth and O'Connor (next to the Firehall):** Some members of the committee met last week with staff from Councillor Menard's office and the City of Ottawa for a discussion of next steps for the Park.

Park design is about to get underway at the city, taking into account ideas articulated by the committee and the community at various opportunities over the years since 2013 when the Park was first proposed by the Committee and members of the community. The Committee will remain engaged in this process as it proceeds. Soil removal will be required as part of the project, which hopefully will see shovels in the ground in the very near future subject to further community consultation.