Minutes - Community Meeting

Lowertown Community Association

11 January 2020, Zoom

19:00-20:30

1. **19:00 – 19:05 Welcome / Mot de bienvenue**

Meeting convened at 19:02 with 110 participants.

1. **19:05 – 19:30 Presentation on Shepherds of Good Hope expansion plans / Présentation sur les plans d’expansion de Shepherds of Good Hope - Executive Director Deirdre Freiheit**

The Shepherds of Good Hope (SGH) is expanding its existing footprint on Murray Street to reduce pressures on its services, facility, and surrounding areas. Several concerns pushed SGH in this direction, including trying to bridge the gap of meeting clients’ needs in the face reduced community services during the pandemic, reduced community services for vulnerable people as a result of the pandemic and improving food services as existing kitchen is in need of updating.

256 King Edward has 68 beds for women and 102 beds for men – half of the women’s beds has been temporarily relocated to another location to ensure physical distancing.

The centre also has a Transitional Emergency Shelter Program and a Managed Alcohol Program. The latter will be moving to the new location on Montreal Road.

There is also a soup kitchen and evening drop-in services.

Today, the 216 Murray Street building is being used as SGH office space. The intent is to convert it into a building that can serve as a drop-in centre; offer a new kitchen and dining area, and affordable housing. The affordable housing would be made available on a third floor in the form of microsites, modular, or panelized housing. The current proposal is for 30 – 48 units. The number of units will be worked out with the City. Prospective residents will be selected alongside the City of Ottawa, with prioritization of indigenous clients followed by clients who experience chronic homelessness.

In response to questions, SGH representatives clarified that the timeline is tight, and the intent is to finalize the project by December 2021.

233 Murray Street, which already houses some administration, will absorb additional administrative space requirements. SGH clarified that 233 Murray Street is owned by the Archdioceses and SGH is allowed to operate there as long as it provides social services.

Current plans for 216 Murray are still being explored with the architect. Plans will include an outdoor space. There is not much outdoor space offered at the moment and as a result client congregate on the sidewalk.

Concern was expressed over garbage receptacles, toilets, and security. SGH stated that they have garbage pickup every day. The City used to have garbage bins, but they are no longer there due to policy decisions. SGH never wanted to hire a private security firm. Up until three years ago security was managed by the police but that is no longer the case.

SGH invited community members to contact them with their questions and comments.

1. **19:30 – 20:10 Presentation by City Staff on the New Official Plan / Présentation sur le Plan officiel de la ville d’Otttawa – George Claydon**

The Draft Official Plan brings together policies across the city into one strategy. It is a large document that covers many different subjects. The [Engage Ottawa site](https://engage.ottawa.ca/draft-budget-2021) is the forum for community members to provide their comments by 17 February 2021.

The Plan is high-level and is to be leveraged by other City departments to inform their own master plans. There are no implementation details in the OP.

The OP focuses on the big five moves – growth, mobility, urban design, resiliency, and economy. It includes many cross-cutting issues such as regeneration (formerly referred to as intensification), economic development, healthy and inclusive communities, energy and climate change, gender, and culture.

Regeneration is beyond intensifying housing – it means opening up the area to build a strong community, which means more amenities including green space, jobs, transportation etc.

The OP divides the planning policy into transects – rural, greenbelt, downtown, inner urban, outer urban, and suburban. Transects allow planners to work with different city contexts, moving beyond a one-size-fits all urban planning approach. For instance, the downtown core will have different policies for housing, mobility, character compared to some other transects.

There are a number of thrusts in the downtown core – improving urban design and architecture, focus on transit and active mobility.

Lowertown will get minor corridors that will allow neighbourhood to evolve and allow the 15-minute community to take shape.

There are also seven special districts, which are new designations for official plan to heighten these strategic areas of the city for growth or tourism. The Byward Market Special District Policies – pedestrian first environment, encourage diversity of cultural / nightlife / commercial activities; support roles of heritage; strengthen connections to other neighborhoods.

There will also be unique policies for Parliament and Confederation Boulevard.

Mobility policies – support 15-minute neighbourhoods. Active mobility- there is a strong link between OP and Transportation Master Plan which will be updated after the Official Plan is adopted.

Housing policies are also built into the OP. These will enable greater flexibility and an adequate supply and diversity of housing options throughout the city by promoting increased density in neighbourhoods.

MacDonald Gardens – the number of properties that have been registered in the heritage register.

Parks and Greenspace- encourage the establish of parks in the downtown core. Prioritize over receiving land over cash in lieu – the City is looking for new parks to be established. Especially in areas that are going to experience regeneration.

Community comments on the plan are due by February 17th; March – May 2021 preparation of final version, public consultation, fall 2021 adoption.

A question was posed concerning the overlays. The City representatives explained that Lowertown is not featured in any of the overlays because these are intended for zones that moving from one zone to another (ex. Suburban to urban).

Regeneration will include a focus on housing models that can accommodate larger households to persuade families to stay or move to Lowertown to counter the trend of young families moving to suburban areas in the search of space.

A question was posed concerning the truck route along King Edward. The City representatives responded that they have a commitment through the OP to work with the federal government to address this issue.

Consultation and incorporation of indigenous communities’ perspectives was raised. The City representatives responded that a specific policy is built into the plan to recognize indigenous culture and history within the public realm, and heritage landscapes. Consultations are being held throughout the planning process with indigenous communities.

1. **20:10 – 20:20 Update from Councillor Mathieu Fleury / Mise à jour du conseiller Mathieu Fleury**

The City Councillor shared information concerning à two zoning reviews – modernizing our heritage conservation districts (validation clarification).

The ByWard Market Public Realm Plan was approved.

Chateau Laurier developers (LARCO) resubmitted its proposal following the local tribunal and a meeting is being held on January 13.

Bike lanes – new lane was added to Parent Avenue and King Edward, enhancing connectivity and biker visibility. Community members are encouraged to share their views and ideas on cycling and pedestrian issues with the Councillor.

Rideau Street has reopened. There are now wider sidewalks, trees, and additional lighting. A bike lane is installed but it remains incomplete.

Bytowne Cinema – the Councillor connected with Bruce White. He planned to retire in 2020 prior to the pandemic. Once COVID-19 hit no new movies are coming out. He owns the building. He plans to find an operator who can be successful in taking over his legacy.

1. **20:20 – 20 :30 Update from Committee Chairs / Mise à jour par les présidents des commissions**

The Federation Citizen’s Association is holding four workshops coming up both on Saturdays. Two per day on two Saturdays January 23 – fifteen-minute neighbourhoods and the other is Transects and Overlays and then the following Saturday January 30 is greenspaces and housing.

**Next Meeting 8 February 2020**