

Minutes - Community Meeting

Lowertown Community Association

2/8/2021 - Zoom

19:00-20:30

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

Meeting called at 19:04 with 63 participants.

**2. 19:05 – 19:20 Update on crime and security / Mise à jour sur la criminalité et la sécurité - Constable Lemay**

Decrease in reported crimes across the board, which is attributed to COVID-19. The Neighbourhood Resource Teams continue to conducts its work. A number of complaints have been received on drug trafficking. There has been an increase in parcel delivery theft.

Ottawa Police Services Mental Health Strategy remains at the consultation phase. There is no indication yet on how this will impact the Ottawa Police response. Anyone is welcome to provide feedback either by survey or consultation groups.

OPS will reach out to the 5 categories of service providers to solicit feedback on the strategy.

The yearly stats for break and enters – 57 reported break and enters and in 2020 there were 68.

Theft from vehicles, there has been a major drop in those from 420 in 2019 and 208 in 2020.

There are no updates the shooting event on York Street East from January, despite the shooter being caught on video. OPS has increased the proactive patrols in the area since then. The family that was affected by the shooting is shaken up but resilient and doing well considering.

**3. 19:20 – 19:35 Update from Councillor Mathieu Fleury / Mise à jour du conseiller Mathieu Fleury**

Over the last month the City moved COVID-19 positive patients to Centre Patro. Shelters have 70 or so positive cases. Le Patro is the new site, but there are several issues with having the site located there. The Councillor facilitated a conversation with the nearby neighbours and there will be a follow-up. The issues raised included – what were the thoughts behind using this space? Was the city aware of the schools use of the center? Did the City reach out to the schools?

The City and partners are addressing some of these issues and there will be a closed-door stakeholder update meeting on Friday February 12.

If anyone requires shelter, they are urged to call 3-1-1 to be housed.

The City of Ottawa is in a state of emergency, which means the only decision at the political level rests with the Mayor.

Shepherd of Good Hope submission has also required a lot of attention from the Community and the Councillor’s team. On 16 February 2021 there is a townhall on the SGH proposal and community members are welcome to participate.

The City committed to the community that there would be security 24/7 and that the occupants would be restricted on site. Lessons learned is that we did not build resilience in the housing center and as soon as there is an emergency, it is managed with less wholesome, thought out responses. Councillor Fleury will invite the Mayor’s office on Friday.

The City’s promise of security only means security on their own property. Security companies when they receive their licenses, they are only licensed to that property. Their authority does not extend beyond the remits of the property.

There are limitations in enforcing quarantine amongst a vulnerable population. The power for the OPS to enforce needs to come from Ottawa Public Health (OPH). They need to reach out to the Police and say this person needs enforcement. OPH are the complainants and OPS will not act unless OPH makes a request. This was a point that was raised at the last meeting on Le Patro.

Vaccination schedule and vulnerable populations – Councillor Fleury believes that anyone in congregative settings after LTC are prioritized. In terms of timelines, the City remains at the will of the province.

Other topics to flag, Chateau Laurier’s sixth submission was brought forward and an agreement was made between Heritage and Larco.

King Edward Update: the community has reaffirmed traffic calming principles prior to the Spring traffic calming implementation.

ByWard Market Plan: The 200 year anniversary in 2026 and the community has 5 years to unlock the funding and make these investments.

Short Term Rentals: Council approved the approach and the policy vision last year on February 18 there is a committee that is reviewing the short-term rental bylaw. The STR bylaws are being written right now. There was a permit system that would be included and requirements from the platforms and the hosts themselves.

* [Rental Accommodations Study | City of Ottawa](https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/rental-accommodations-study#short-term-rental-providers)

Farmer’s Market: The City looks is appearing like its subsidizing bars. A meeting participant suggested a visioning exercise to solicit community input on the ByWard Market as a whole.

**4. 19:35 – 20:30 LCA Committee Chair updates / Mises à jour par des présidents des commissions**

1. **Planning / Planification**

The Planning Committee is working on the Official Plan and is trying to channel the community’s input to Councillor Fleury’s office ahead of the deadline. Community members are encouraged to submit their feedback to the city or Councillor Fleury.

[The New Official Plan | Engage Ottawa](https://engage.ottawa.ca/the-new-official-plan)

[Participons Ottawa | Page d'accueil](https://participons.ottawa.ca/)

LCA will post its feedback on the Lowertown Community Association website.

A best practice to gain traction with the city on thematic files is to cultivate a relationship with someone in the City who acts as a community liaison who we work with routinely.

1. **Arts and Culture / Les arts et culture**

Ottawa Markets has given some funding to the LCA to foster positive programming within the ByWard Market and the square and around 55 Clarence Street. The Committee is looking into options for this funding, especially in light of COVID-19 and the number of events that were cancelled.

The Committee brainstormed a few ideas and two projects are under development:

1. Community engaged mural in the market – partnership with [MASC](https://www.masconline.ca/en/home.aspx), an organization that represents artists from diverse backgrounds and who have experience doing collaborative projects with communities. The community will be engaged to work on this project. MASC works with artists who have a lot of experience in engaging with communities and bringing communities together through arts.
2. Series of food centred events – aim would be to hold these events in the Fall around the harvest to promote the revival of the market. These events might take different forms, like a food tour, behind the scenes food preparation video with Lowertown chefs, food demonstrations etc. LCA would partner with local organizations like C’est Bon cooking school.

Reach out to get involved or share your ideas: [lcaartsandculture@gmail.com](mailto:lcaartsandculture@gmail.com)

1. **Transportation / Transport**

King Edward and traffic issue: LCA met with City Officials to discuss speeding on traffic calming. Two measures were approved by the City in 2019 but they still need funding. Studies are required if these proposals are to come forward. Options include widening sidewalks or widening the medians. Flex stakes may also be implemented. We are also looking at restricting the truck traffic. Transportation Committee is going to write to the city to see if they can leverage funding from the speed cameras. We can potentially get a million dollars a year.

Alexandra Bridge: Hot button issue. LCA was presented with a fait accompli – the bridge will be deconstructed and rebuilt just as it is now. The reason was that the maintenance is too expensive. To engage and consult will add an extra 12 months. When they asked us in the consultation was premised on a new bridge which was erroneous. The two lanes of traffic have been closed all winter and there has been no discernible impact on traffic. There is no timeline set for deconstruction; there is time for the community to express its concern. There is no third-party billing costing that actually states how much it will cost. The plan has no data backed up. Many stakeholders have not been consulted.

1. **Housing and Homelessness / Logement et sans-abrisme**

Open meeting Thursday February 11 at 6 pm on Housing and Homelessness and anyone and everyone is welcome. Please contact [laren.intven@gmail.com](mailto:laren.intven@gmail.com)

1. **Heritage / Patrimoine**

Heritage Watch Group and anyone who has any concerns call 311 and say you have a concern.

We have applied for a student grant this summer to help us with a heritage pin building on a google map. If anyone has experience with the google pin program, we’d love to hear from you.

Our heritage planner provided the engineering report on the Porter Island bridge.

1. **Safety and Security / Sûreté et sécurité**

 This Committee works with OPH, OPS, and many stakeholders. We are here for you and next week is the community town hall meeting with the Councillor on 16 February.

**Next meeting 8 March 2021**