Minutes - Community Meeting

Lowertown Community Association

3/8/2021 - Zoom

19:00 – 20:45

**1. Welcome**

Meeting called at 19:01 pm with 58 participants.

**2. Environment: Update and Overview**

Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) is an organization that brings together community associations together to build a strong environmentally friendly city. It’s is a network of residents’ and citizens’ associations in the City of Ottawa, established in 2010 active on a range of environmental issues. The member of CAFES are the chairs of environmental committees of their community associations

CAFES incorporated in January 2021 and its membership its geographical reach include representatives from urban, suburban, and rural communities in the municipality of Ottawa.

CAFES’ current working themes include:

* Municipal climate action – climate change master plan and energy evolution strategy
* New Official Plan and associated master plans
* Growth Management & Intensification: the 15-minute neighborhood
* Solid waste management particularly single use plastics reduction
* Urban forestry and new Tree By-Law
* Capacity Building of CAFES.

CAFES collaborates with many different partners including: City for All Women (CAWI), Ecology Ottawa, Federation of Citizens Associations, Greenspace Alliance, Healthy Transportation Coalition, Waste Watch Ottawa, 613-819 Black hub Ottawa.

One of CAFES upcoming events is a discussion on Doughnut Economics, which will be held at noon Wednesday March 31, 2021 on Zoom.

CAFES is reviewing the Official Plan and has concerns of the density and shape of the projected boundary expansion. CAFES believes it is unnecessary to extend the city’s boundary as there is enough undeveloped land within the boundary that can be leveraged. CAFES is also interested in pushing planners to operationalize the 15-minute neighbourhood concept and extending the concept to all areas, not just those marked for intensification.

CAFES is also working on advocating against the nuclear waste dump issue which will be tabled at Council.

Another priority CAFES is looking at is reconciliation and ways reconciliation can be incorporated in environmental sustainability and urban planning.

Advocacy position from CAFES and Ecology Ottawa differs – everybody does their homework differently. Sometimes different approaches but both organizations share similar priorities.

**2. Update from Councillor Fleury**

Shepherds of Good Hope townhall was held a few weeks ago with a lot of participation.

There’s been a number of communications between LCA, City of Ottawa, and SGH since.

SGH has gone back to the architect based on feedback from the Community, especially on greenspace. The final design will be submitted to the committee soon.

Questions and comments from the community members concerned the safe injection site, which is run by Inner City Health and SGH.

Councillor Fleury does not see the site linked with concerns with the build proposed at 216 Murray. Safe supply is in advancement and Pathways to Recovery has taken on 130 clients and this has alleviated the strain on the safe injection site. That said, ramp up in safe supply is needed as it is estimated 1000 users are requiring safe supply and only about 300 have it right now.

Broader discussion on homelessness, safe supply, and drug use should be held to enhance the community’s understanding and channel input on these issues.

SGH clarified that it will not bring people into the shelter for the supportive housing, they are giving existing shelter users a door and key.

The build requires two levels of engagement: 1) SGH application for rapid housing fund through federal government; 2) SGH will propose to the city planner and then the planning components are reviewed.

The Councillor also held a session concerning Le Patro and the City’s use of the centre for COVID-19 shelter users. Le Patro has been able to reinstate some of its programming.

LCA feels that the city handled this poorly and it undermined the faith our community has in the municipality.

In terms of vaccinations there are 33 neighbourhoods that are priority neighbourhoods, which includes Lowertown, based on COVID-19 infection rates. Anyone here over 90 can begin to be registered.

Starting Wednesday, anyone over 90 can begin to be vaccinated. The City does have a number of transportation support options. People have to pre-register beforehand.

Patios – City is proposing 2 am closure and the Councillor spoke against it. At the next council, Fleury will request dedicated resources.

Street assignment for street parking – first round was a proposal of 1-hour weekdays, latest round is 2-hours. Councillor Fleury will reach out and work with LCA on next steps.

STO – we were told that we will get STO off Rideau. July 1 STO will go via Lyon. Councillor will give LCA an update.

275 King Edward Applicant – 8 story long stay hotel. Applicant will be organizing a meeting on that submission.