

GCA Board Meeting



Tuesday, January 26, via Zoom **GLEBE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Minutes

7:00 p.m.

Chair: Laura Smith

Secretary and Timekeeper: Sheryl Lattimore

Board members present: Laura Smith, Bob Brocklebank, Dan Chook Reid, June Creelman, John Crump, Jennifer Humphries, Carol MacLeod, Bill Price, Steph Small, Sue Stefko, Sheryl Lattimore, Angus McCabe, Angela Keller-Herzog, Vaughn Guy, Christina Honeywell, Carolyn Mackenzie, Colette Downie, Rochelle Handelman, Anthony Carricato, Elizabeth Ballard, Judy Wilson, Caroline Warburton, Kate Reeki, Bill Price

Others present: Shawn Menard, Jonathan McLeod, Liz McKeen, Maryann Guy, Rob Brandon, Anik Lacroix, Bob Manahan, Joan Freeman, Jay Miller, Leslie Anne Palamer

Opening Remarks

Laura Smith opened the meeting with an Indigenous reconciliation acknowledgment and welcomed guests to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

The approval of the agenda was moved by John Crump and seconded by Elizabeth Ballard. The approval of the minutes was moved by Caroline Warburton and seconded by Dan Chook Reid. A discussion of the City of Ottawa's official plan was added to the agenda. Both the minutes and the agenda were approved.

Report from the Councillor

Shawn Menard provided an update on the Ottawa Public Health COVID-19 Briefing vaccine rollout plan (Lansdowne will be one of the vaccination sites); Aberdeen Pavilion; the Bank Street bridge; the City of Ottawa's official plan ward council meeting on February 11, 2021; and, clustering of cannabis stores.

Amica in the Glebe

Leslie Anne Palamar, Community Relations Director, Amica in the Glebe, provided an overview of new Amica development (which is expected to open in 2022). A presentation centre is open to show members of the community the planned facility (pending COVID restrictions) and virtual tours are also available.

Committee reports, motions, Q&A

Great Glebe Garage Sale Committee

Motion 1: Cancellation of the 2021 Great Glebe Garage Sale

Whereas with the exception of 2020, the Great Glebe Garage Sale has been held on the last Saturday of May, since 1986. The 2020 sale was cancelled due to public health advice against large gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whereas the bulk of vaccinations in Canada are expected to take place over the summer of 2021, the CEO of the Ottawa Hospital is reported to have said that Ottawa is on track to complete vaccinations for its residents by the summer. It is anticipated (based on news reports of PM statements) that all Canadians who wish to be, will be vaccinated by September 2020. Nonetheless, it is not known the extent to which social distancing and masking as well as other public safety measures will continue to be required after that.

Whereas at the same time, the GGGS is a popular community-wide event. If held in the Fall of 2021, it would be a celebration of the end of the pandemic, at least for some community members. The sale also attracts significant business to Glebe merchants and raises thousands of dollars for the Ottawa Food Bank and other neighbourhood charities. It also has important environmental benefits, diverting tons of items from disposal in landfills. Many of these items are instead being passed on through groups like the Glebe Buy Nothing Group on Facebook, a good thing for community and the environment but something that may detract from the GGGS as people are no longer setting aside things in anticipation.

Whereas a Fall 2021 event is likely to be controversial with community concerns about large gatherings and caution over COVID-19 likely to persist even if vaccines prove effective in stopping the spread of the virus. It seems likely that should the sale go ahead in the Fall, participation could be low and the GGGS not fully positive.

Whereas an online community consultation could be undertaken to consider whether the GGGS should be postponed until the Fall, when it is hoped that vaccination against COVID 19 could allow for large gatherings. This is also likely to be a source of significant debate. Given preparation required for participating organizations, the Board would still have to make a firm decision in the mid to late summer whether to proceed, at a time when the success of vaccines may not be clear. In sum: the decision, even if postponed would likely be to cancel in the end.

Whereas the Ottawa Race Weekend, planned for the same weekend in May as the GGGS has already been postponed until 2022 (with a virtual event planned instead). Some summer events are reported to be considering ways to require vaccination to participate - this would not be possible for the GGGS.

Whereas given that many people begin to anticipate the GGGS in January and February and merchants and other vendors begin to make preparations. It is expected that some community members, looking ahead will also begin to both anticipate the sale and, as was the case last spring, become increasingly concerned about the crowds it can attract.

Thereby be it resolved that the Glebe Community Association cancel the 2021 edition of the Great Glebe Garage Sale currently set for May 2021 and that the decision should be

communicated as quickly as possible, noting that the Glebe BIA be consulted before the decision is communicated to the community.

Thereby be it also resolved that the Glebe Community Association promote to the community other ways to contribute (GiveShop; donate to thrift shops) and to make sure their still-useful items get to new owners through the Buy Nothing Group Glebe and other platforms to either sell or gift.

Colette Downie presented the motion for approval. The motion was moved by Colette Downie and seconded by Dan Chook Reid. The motion will be tabled pending consultation with the Glebe BIA. An e-vote will take place following the consultation.

Health, Housing and Social Services Committee

Motion 2: Watford House Fire

Whereas on Sunday December 20, a home on Powell Ave known as Watford House, had a fire. The home is a licensed residential services home and provides housing for women with psychiatric, developmental, or physical illness and/or disability.

Whereas upon hearing about this tragic event, several board members contacted the Health, Housing and Social Services committee as well as the executive to ask if the GCA could respond;

Whereas in the past when there is a fire in the Glebe, the GCA has been able to provide financially for individuals and families for items that are not covered by their insurance.

Whereas the neighbours on Powell have collected and distributed practical donations and started a GoFundMe account and raised over \$13,000;

Whereas the city was able to modestly help the women financially and is working on the insurance side;

Whereas after many conversations, the neighbours on Powell did not desire practical support of the community association at this time in setting up an additional fundraiser for the community;

Whereas the Health, Housing and Social Services Committee will continue to liaise with Councillor Shawn Menard and the city as it becomes clearer what insurance will and will not cover;

Therefore, may it be resolved that the GCA give a donation of \$1,000 to the GoFundMe account to show our support of the residents and the neighbours on Powell who are caring for their neighbours so well. (\$200 of this donation would come from the Health, Housing and Social Services Budget)

The GCA continues to liaise with the neighbours, Councillor Shawn Menard and City to establish if there is an additional role for the GCA to play in the future.

Dan Chook Reid presented the motion for approval. The motion was moved by Dan Chook Reid and seconded by John Crump.

All GCA committee members present voted to approve the amended motion, none opposed.

Updates

City of Ottawa Official Plan

Carolyn MacKenzie reported that a special meeting of the GCA Board could take place either February 15 or 16, 2021, to develop comments on the Official Plan to share with the City of Ottawa. This meeting would be open to the public and take place in advance of the City's deadline for comments on February 17, 2021.

Lansdowne Committee

Anthony Carricato informed the Committee that OSEG is willing to continue the partnership for the pop-up art gallery at Lansdowne. Volunteers to support this initiative are welcome. The Aberdeen Pavilion renovations will be delayed and will not take place in 2021.

Transportation Committee

John Crump provided an overview of the proposed permanent closure of Queen Elizabeth Driveway to traffic. Comments were raised both in favour and against the proposed closure. No consensus was reached but there was support for greater community consultation and understanding of available data. The Transportation Committee will continue to consider this issue.

Issues from the Community

The GCA has heard concerns from the community about the proliferation of cannabis stores in the Glebe. The Health, Housing and Social Services Committee will continue to consider this issue.

President's Report

Laura Smith provided a high-level overview of the December 2020 Ward Council meeting. Laura also encouraged committee members to review the work being done by the various GCA committees.

Other Business

Dan Chook Reid shared that the next Bottleworks drop-off would be in February and Bill Price mentioned that the Clemow-Monkland Driveway and Lidden Terrace Heritage Conservation District had been finalized.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was moved by Bob Brocklebank and seconded by Rochelle Handelman.

