



Leslie Park Community Association Meeting
Thursday March 31, 2017
7:00pm
Leslie Park Public School

Meeting Minutes:

<u>Agenda Item:</u>	<u>Action Items:</u>
1) Welcome and Introductions (Rachel Tweedy) 40 neighbours attended this meeting including Councillor Rick Chiarelli	
2) Thank you to our volunteers (Rachel Tweedy) Rachel acknowledged: a. Bernie Gold and the rink team b. Ryan Cleary for organizing winter fun day c. Nicole Lauro for volunteering to coordinate the Membership drive again d. Allison Cleary for continuing to connect us with businesses in our neighbourhood e. Peter Talajic for coordinating the newsletter delivery team f. Alina Matern and Alfia Sorokina for volunteering to coordinate the picnic in the park again g. Octavian Danes for volunteering to coordinate the garage sale Rachel noted that all of these residents were returning volunteers.	
3) Discussion about future of Leslie Park Public School (Councillor Rick Chiarelli) Questions had been sent to Councillor Chiarelli's office prior to the meeting. He addressed whatever he could, and took questions from the audience. Here is a summary of the discussion: <u>A list of the potential scenarios once the school closes</u> 1) a reconsideration of the school closure decision using the argument that the data involved in the Western Area Review was out of date and did not consider future development or growth in the area due to DND headquarters - LPCA would need to provide extensive data to prove OCDSB had not done their homework.	<u>Rachel:</u> Develop summary of discussion and questions to send to Councillor Chiarelli (completed April 10)

2) The school is 'mothballed' - using much of the demographic data needed above. The school is closed, maintained by the board with the rationale that the building could be saved for future use.

3) 90 days after the school closes on June 30th - the building is offered to the other school boards first, then other private schools can submit a proposal. After the 90 days has expired the City has an opportunity to purchase it. With the current zoning - beyond a school, the City would permit a range of community uses (day care, community centre), institutional accommodation (seniors' residence or group home) and emergency service uses. The maximum height would be 6 stories.

4) If the City turns down purchasing the property, a builder (like the one who built City View at Woodroffe and Meadowlands) could put in a senior's residence (max 4-6 stories, with setbacks of 4.5m) within the current light institutional zoning. No zoning changes could mean little public consultation if it's not a very collaborative builder.

5) Worst case scenario would be a zoning change that would allow for a high rise building (or anything other than light institutional use) in the space. Rick noted that they allow higher buildings if the proposed site is within 600m of a transit station, fortunately we are not.

6) You hadn't ruled out the possibility of approaching Queensway Carleton Hospital to see if they could use the space to support one of their key community initiatives like mental health or seniors.

Feedback from attendees at the meeting seemed to be:

1) **Perfect scenario** - a community centre that could be used by our residents with services for seniors, youth, a daycare, and space that could be used by our Association for meetings and group activities (Brownies, Yoga etc.). The greenspace is maintained and we continue to have access to the park and creek.

2) **Good scenario** - the building is bought by another school and keeps its intended purpose. Greenspace is maintained and there is space available for our community association to use for meetings and activities. It may not serve a large number of families in our community, but it is essentially status quo.

3) **We could live with** - a developer (like the one who built City view and Valley Stream, who *will* work with residents and address their concerns) plans a retirement community that is no higher than 4 stories and its design considers the character of the community. We could work with the City to have the property severed so our community maintains the right of way to the park and creek. There is space in the building for our Association to rent for meetings and yoga classes etc.

Questions that the Leslie Park School Closure Working group forwarded to Councillor Chiarelli's office on April 10 (as of May 21, we have not yet received a reply):

- 1) If the Board decides to mothball the school prior to June 30th, does that stop the process of looking for another school to occupy the space?
- 2) Can the school be mothballed after the September 30th (90 days) deadline if no other school is found to move in?
- 3) If the school is mothballed, will it be kept vacant until the Board decides to use it again? Is there a certain amount of time it must be closed for? At what point can other schools, community partners or developers make a proposal for the site – who is responsible for finding a tenant?
- 4) At what point can we begin to influence the outcome of this site? Is there any point in putting together plans or doing community outreach during OCDSB's due diligence process (the 90 day notice period) because it is going to happen anyway?
- 5) Who has the final say on who could purchase the site? Who should we appeal to? Councillor Chiarelli said that the province owns the schools, but in the anecdote provided about the Walmart site, he said the Board turned down the City's offer.

4) Seasonal Portable Toilet at Leslie Park through the City of Ottawa's "I Gotta Go" initiative

- This initiative was presented to City Council by a group of concerned citizens in the fall of 2016. They reported that more than 7000 people in Ottawa with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis or other incontinence issues are afraid to use public parks and splash pads or to take transit.
- This means that seniors and families limit their use of public parks – which is often their only access to nature.
- This past summer, with the Carlington Community Association's endorsement and the City's permission, GottaGo! paid for a decorated accessible portable toilet at the Harrold Place Splash Pad. A local artist painted it with a colourful mural. The community loved it, and there were no complaints or vandalism.

Rachel – send application/request for seasonal toilet

UPDATE SINCE AGM: Rachel applied for the toilet but the initiative did not get the grant from Crime Prevention Ottawa to paint the toilets. The initiative was presented to LPCA by Councillor Chiarelli's office as a way to get a toilet in Leslie Park and it was not clear that 'Gotta Go' was only responsible for decorating it. Rachel has followed up with Councillor Chiarelli's office to look into the possibility of getting a portable toilet through the City's Central Allocations Unit.

To date, it does not look like we will be able to get a toilet at Leslie Park for the summer.

<p>5) <u>Update on Financials (Tianna Rowan on behalf of Marina Hartley)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tianna circulated financials for year-end, 2016. • Some of the highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There were great donations again this year for the Winter and Fall Fun Days (\$1077 total) b. The \$1000 donation to the Leslie Park School playground has been refunded c. There will be some ongoing costs to maintain the new neighbourhood and lawn signs but residents agreed that it was a great investment • Tianna confirmed that the LPCA had \$8562.83 in the bank 	
<p>6) <u>Update on Membership Drive (Nicole Lauro)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole reported that the annual membership drive will be launching on May 1st and that there will be an early bird draw prize for donations received prior to the May 6th spring cleaning day. • <u>New for this year:</u> In addition to the door to door campaign, the LPCA will be creating an opportunity for residents to renew their membership online through PayPal. Tianna will be adding this feature to the website. 	
<p>7) <u>Picnic in the Park – June 23rd (Rachel Tweedy)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel reported that there was not much interest in the street party concept so we are going to extend the Picnic in the Park on Friday, June 23rd from 4-8pm as a 'pre-Canada Day' celebration. • Rachel reported that there will be crafts and activities from 4-6pm and from 6pm onwards, it will be a barbecue and pot luck. Rachel reported that she is looking into a large tent for shade, bbqs, tables for food, and some tables and chairs for seating (although many people will still sit on blankets on the hill). • Rachel reported that they still need volunteers to help and asked people to email info@lesliepark.ca if they would like to help. • Jane O'Regan suggested encouraging residents to decorate their homes in red and white for Canada Day. In addition to flags, she suggested that people should consider red and white when doing their spring planting. 	<p><u>Rachel:</u> Include information on the Picnic in the Park and decorating homes in red and white for Canada Day</p>
<p>8) <u>Upcoming Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday May 6 – Spring Cleaning Day and Membership Drive launch • Saturday May 13 – Community Garage Sale – the LPCA has ordered about 20 lawn signs to post outside the neighbourhood • Friday, June 23rd – Picnic in the Park 	
<p>9) <u>Meeting Adjourned</u></p>	