

Westboro Beach Community Association Annual General Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2014

1. Welcome

Don Stewart, A/President, welcomed the audience of approximately 45 people to the AGM. He then invited Councillor Designate Jeff Lieper and Paul Dewar, M.P. to say a few words.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

3. President's Report

Don Stewart presented a summary of events in which the WBCA has been involved in for the past busy year and what is expected next year.

A. Current Activities

• **Westboro Beach on the Move**

This was a pilot for the City to convince people to use other modes of transportation rather than using a car by themselves. WBCA worked with the City and Envirocentre, including helping to organize 3 promotional events in the Spring. Positive results were that there were 9% fewer single occupancy car trips, and a 13% increase in car pooling and 29% cycling trips. Bonnie Campbell, Mari Wellman and Don Stewart were the WBCA leads.

• **Planning and zoning**

◦ **Infill 1 and 2 Proposals**

Infill 1 contained proposals for new by-laws related to parking and the front of buildings. It was passed by City Council and is now under appeal to OMB. WBCA participated in joint meetings with other community associations, developers and Planning Staff of the City of Ottawa. Because of the importance of the topic, it was the focus of the WBCA Spring General Meeting. Leads were Mari Wellman and Don Stewart.

Infill 2 deals with height and back and side yard setbacks. We will work with other CA's and City to protect community character. Lead is Catherine Casserly

◦ **Development proposals and Committee of Adjustment**

In a busy year, there were 12 neighbourhood consultations and developer meetings for 6 presentations to the Committee of Adjustment. We opposed 5 of the applications and supported one. We also participated in the OMB hearings on 335 Roosevelt Ave. (Fendor property). Leads are Catherine

Casserly and Katherine Gunn.

- **Field House**

- Work began on the new field house at Van Lang in early summer but then stopped in July, as a result of an unclear funding agreement. Currently, WBCA is working with Ottawa Community Housing and Councilor Designate Jeff Leiper to get construction re-started before the end of construction season. When completed, programming will be delivered by Dovercourt Recreation Centre and Carlington Community Health Centre. Thank you to Katherine Hobbs for getting this project approved and started. Leads are Bonnie Campbell, Thelma Harding and Beth Shines.

- **Roy Duncan Park Activities**

- Beth Shines of Van Lang Tenants' Group organized a garden for children in the area. Thanks to Ottawa Community Housing, All Saints Church and the local neighbours who provided funding and plants, and Just Food for the tools
- During the summer, there were weekly programs with Monkey Rocky Music sponsored by Mothercraft Ottawa, and After the Bell sponsored by Dovercourt and Carlington Community Health, with a homework portion at Churchill Seniors Centre. Leads are Bonnie Campbell, Thelma Harding and Beth Shines.

- **Westfest**

WBCA organized a community tent outside the Churchill Centre, with local craft vendors, live music by local musicians and children's activities organized by Ian Dobson. Thanks to Mark Monahan of Bluesfest and Festival Hall for providing the sound equipment. In addition, WBCA had a vendor's table and raised funds by cookie sales. Leads were Mari Wellman, Cindy Parker and Bonnie Campbell.

- **Green Gateway to Westboro Beach Community**

This project will enhance the micropark at the corner of Workman and Churchill which serves as the entrance to our community. Great appreciation goes to Tomlinson Construction which has donated and will transport large boulders to the site as the visual centerpieces. The community will be asked to donate bulbs and perennials to transform the area. WBCA will then be responsible for maintaining the area. Lead is Cindy Parker.

- **250 Lanark**

This is the large piece of land formerly occupied by CBC. Consultations have been held with Paul Dewar, Councillor Hobbs, and City Planning staff. Lead is Elliot Rodger.

- **Winter Carnival**

Again, this was a well-attended event thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in attendance. The next winter carnival is on January 31. Lead is Peter Bruton.

- **September Beach Closing Bonfire**

This was another successful and well-attended event, led by Jay Johnson.

- **Second Annual Bird Walk**

The second annual bird walk took participants through our section of the recognized important bird route. Leads were Elliot Rodger, Keith Rimstad and Lily Mah-Sen.

- **WBCA Banner**

Thank you to Rodney Thiessen for designing our new banner and poster board. Thank you to Sylvie and Marc Veaudry of Adup Display for producing and donating the banner and poster board.

- **Second Annual Tree Sales.**

The tree sales were a sellout this year and the seedlings went to new homes in Westboro Beach, Westboro, Laroche Park, McKellar Park and West Wellington. Trees to be available in Spring, 2015 include Black Cherry, Black Elderberry, Highbush Cranberry and Nannyberry. Lead is Catherine Casserly

- **WBCA Website**

A big thank you goes to Patricia Pollock for agreeing to become the WBCA webmaster (westborobeach.ca). The site is in great need for a massive redesign so watch for changes over the next few months. Lead is Bonnie Campbell.

- **WBCA NEWSLETTER**

Mari Wellman again served as the editor for the newsletter which is delivered to every home in the community. Distribution lead is Catherine Casserly. A very special thanks goes to all the volunteers who serve faithfully in delivering the flyers. More volunteers are always welcome.

B. Future Focus

- **Community mailboxes**

Community mailboxes are expected to be installed in the coming months. Kanata had a terrible experience because of the minimal consultation that was done. There will need to be a new committee established to deal with this issue.

- **Noise at the Beach**

This past year was very frustrating for those who had to endure the music and other noise and traffic from the music performances at the beach. The

number of nights per week of entertainment was increased and the volume seemed to carry further. WBCA is now beginning to take a position on the situation and will make it a priority in the coming year.

- **Trees preservation**

WBCA is concerned about the number of trees being cut as infill and intensification increases. Currently, developers do not have to respect existing trees and the City Forester and City Planners do not communicate on the issue. This issue has already been raised with Councillor Designate Leiper.

- **Chief William Commanda Peace Park**

This project to turn the Selby Plains into the Chief William Commanda Peace Park is moving slowly. A lead for the project is required.

- **Groomed Cross Country Trail**

Our proposal to have a groomed cross country trail between the beach and War museum is moving slowly. Nakkertok has offered to provide grooming services. As this is a professional service, there would be a cost. Who would pay this cost has not yet been determined. Lead is Dave Adams.

2. Elections to the Board of Directors

Meredith Rodger chaired the election. The following were nominated and elected to the 2014-15 Board of Directors:

Bonnie Campbell, Catherine Casserly, Dora Erasmo, Katherine Gunn, Jay Johnson, Cindy Parker, Keith Rimstad, Ian Shaw, Don Stewart, Mari Wellman.

The following volunteered to serve as Friends of WBCA:

Ben Abraham, Peter Bruton, Thelma Harding, Beth Nolan Shines, Elliot Rodger

4. Special Presentation on the future of the 250 Lanark Lands (*Westboro Central*)

Elliot Rodger provided background on the 250 Lanark lands affectionately called *Westboro Central*. WBCA has prepared a draft vision statement for sustainable and collaborative development in the Westboro Beach Community. A well-situated vacant two hectare property between Lanark Avenue and Scott Street in the heart of the Westboro Beach community presents a prime opportunity to serve as a model of urban development. Based on blending economic, social and environmental viability, such a model of site planning and development can produce multiple benefits for the local community, for Ottawa, and for developers in ways which are not typically realized in most current developments. The Vision Statement proposes a development process that is proactive, collaborative, balanced, and transparent. The Statement provides the site context, outlines the elements of the Vision, makes recommendations, proposes

next steps to achieve the Vision, and concludes with a call for cooperative action. WBCA believes that realizing this Vision would make *Westboro Central* a model of progressive urban planning and development for and beyond Ottawa. The key to realizing the Vision is deliberate pro-action by key stakeholders before commitments and approvals take place regarding re-zoning, site planning, and project design. These stakeholders include the City of Ottawa, Public Works and Government Services Canada (the site's current owner), Canada Lands Company (CLC - the federal Crown corporation that will dispose of the site), residents of Westboro Beach as represented by WBCA, adjacent communities, and in due course the future developer(s) and other partners yet to be identified. WBCA's ideas have been discussed with local politicians and with city planning staff.

Dana Collings, Planner with the City of Ottawa, answered questions on the project and the consultation process. He stated strongly that the best time for consultation will when the new owner is known. The City regards this as a significant project and will work with the community on this project.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.