

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Present:	Presenters:	RPCRA Members:	Regrets:
Douglas Beardshaw	Wendy Stewart	Bill Smith	Riley Brockington
Rolf Calhoun	Maria McRae	Lorna Donaghy	Dave Johnson
Carolyn Gauthier	Jennifer Fornelli	Ruth Paxton	Howard Keck
John Kruithof	Joanna Zappia,	Irene Ross	
Joe Parchelo	(Dragon Boat	Jean Yacoub	
Barb Squire	Festival)	Elizabeth Saikali	
	Dan Saikaley	Marie Saikali	
	Father Ghattas	May Monsour	
	Hajal	Leila Monsour	
	Helene Hajal (St.	May Salibi	
	Elias Church)	Raymond Ayoub	
		Georges El-chaar	
		Linda El-chaar	

The meeting was called to order at 7:40

President Carolyn introduced Board members and scheduled presenters.

President Carolyn asked to amend the agenda to add to item 8 Tabling of Communications and announcement of RPCRA participation in the Church Garage Sale Fingerprinting Project. Approved

Moved the February Minutes be approved as presented. (Rolf, John) Carried

Joe presented the Treasurer's Report. Approval Moved (Joe, John) Carried  
Joe asked for approval of \$48.00 for Treasurer's expenses, with receipts. (Joe, Rolf) Approved  
Joe reported having sent a letter of correction to The News for an invoice sent erroneously to the RPCRA.

Councillor's Report: Wendy Stewart

City Hall is focused on approval of the new official plan. A third round of input from stakeholders is coming up in the next few weeks. The new plan includes the Confederation Heights and Riverside Park planning documents.

Councillor Stewart was aware of concerns that policies for protection of greenspace may be relaxed as part of an emphasis on infill. For example, the waterfront corridor has been reduced to as little as 30 m in some places. Infill construction has the advantage of maximizing use of existing infrastructure. On the other hand, it may change the character of existing neighbourhoods in the direction of, for example, smaller lots and more building density.

Residents of neighbourhoods such as Revelstoke need to be alert to hearings on minor variances. Previous precedents cannot be taken for granted and once new precedents are created under the new plan, they will serve as a new set of

standards. For example, the definition of "the character of a community" may be broadened.

Councillor Stewart offered kudos to our rink committee for its achievement of the City's Rink Excellence Award on all three rinks.

Councillor Stewart announced that trees will be planted by the city on 7-8 sites in our community.

Councillor Stewart also announced the upcoming (next Tuesday) final approval meeting of the Environmental Services Committee for the Sawmill Creek Watershed Plan, prior to submission for approval by the Provincial Government.

In response to questions, Coun. Stewart reported that:

- Input was received from all departments of planning staff and from the public.
- Council and Staff are agreed on the need for infrastructure savings given a projected rapid rate of population growth.
- Councillors are responsible to represent the public, as they have many times, in cases where amendments are required.
- Councillors are as a matter of course more attuned to more specific quality of life issues. On the other hand, City Staff work more with general parameters as they apply across the city.
- A lot of time would be spent hearing and noting input from community members. Every suggestion is listed and commented upon with reasons for accepting or rejecting them.
- Staff is agreed that the emphasis would be on "brown space" rather than spaces zoned for parks or specific forms of residential occupancy. Councillor Stewart made it clear that Council would have the last word on these decisions.

In response to a question from Pres. Carolyn, Coun. Stewart explained that upgrades to Garner, Hobson, and Egan, among others would include scraping of holes, raising of manholes and adding a new layer of asphalt.

In conclusion, Councillor Stewart, as Honorary Chair of the Enbridge Canoe for Kids fundraiser, asked for our community to be especially supportive of this event, which will be held on Mooney's Bay to raise funds for supporting disadvantaged children attending Christie Lake Camp. President Carolyn will be invited to the May planning meeting.

Dragon Boat Festival Presentation: Jennifer Fernelli and Joanna Zappia

This presentation was to ask the support of the community for the Tenth Annual Dragon Boat Festival, sponsored now by Nortel Networks, on Mooney's Bay June 21-22, 2003. The plan this year responds to input from the community following last year's event. The event will use the north section of Mooney's Bay Park and will follow agreed guidelines. The City will be asked to contribute "No Parking" signs, to close Dupont St. and to provide off-duty police officers to enforce by-laws and regulations. A noise by-law exemption is approved, subject to a cap of 65 db

The event will involve 180 teams on Saturday and will be limited to 60 finalist teams on Sunday. The installation of tents will begin on Tuesday and they will be removed by the end of June 23.

A Park and Ride Program is planned to have parking farther away from the site such as at the Sheraton Hotel and Carleton University as well as at the Canada Post lots, so as to minimize congestion. OC Transpo will be offering free bus and O-train service from these lots. Some parking space will be used at Hog's Back and the old marina for vehicles identified as serving VIPs or volunteers. Dragon Boat publicity will highlight "no community parking".

Jennifer noted that the Dragon Boat Race organizers are required to receive a letter of non-objection from the RPCRA in order to qualify for a licence to sell alcoholic beverages on site, and this letter is to indicate the Association's confidence that the Festival will abide by community expectations as it has in the past. President Carolyn replied that this request would be considered and a reply given as soon as possible after due consideration could be given.

In response to questions:

- The Dragon Boat Festival is aware that Parks Canada operates a boat launch from the old marina, and will be alert to yield to boaters wishing to use the marina to launch their boats.
- Noise could not be heard from the top of the hill overlooking Mooney's Bay by either Jennifer or by Board member Douglas Beardshaw.
- Business proprietors at Ridgewood Mall should be consulted by the Dragon Boat Festival to be sure that the regulation of parking is co-ordinated.
- Washroom facilities are available in the Terry Fox building.
- Pledges over and above entry fees will be donated this year to the Ottawa Police Youth Centre Special Needs Equipment, the Alzheimer Society and Multiple Sclerosis Society. Charities are chosen as beneficiaries for three-year periods, with one replacement each year.

St. Elias Lebanese Festival Presentation: Dan Saikaley

The St. Elias Festival is being planned for the period Wed., July 16 to Sun., July 20, culminating with the Feast of St. Elias, an important spiritual event for this community. Steps have been taken in working more cooperatively with parish neighbours, including consultation with the community and By-Law enforcement staff last year.

Last year a five-day event worked well. The use of OC Transpo shuttle facilities to and from the Canada Post parking lots reduced parking violations and congestion. The doubling of security with off-duty police and private security also improved standards, but incurred significant costs.

The Lebanese Festival has no big corporate sponsors. It is held mainly to support parish work and some charitable outreach. In this its thirteenth year, growing pains are recognized in the form of stress on volunteers as well as on neighbours and traffic. There is no intent to "grow" the festival. The youth music tent can be moved if this will help. The lounge/socializing tent is a priority. A specific concern is

the handicap on providing children's facilities, which is caused by the regulation shutting down at 9:00 p.m. the generator used to operate children's rides. The festival is asking to have the time for operation of the generator extended to 11:00 p.m. The Festival is also asking for a letter of non-objection from the RPCRA pursuant to application for a liquor licence.

Questions from people in attendance brought out the following additional information:

- use of OC Transpo articulated buses for shuttle service required increased parking restrictions. For this reason and in an attempt to reduce costs, tenders will be sought from businesses with smaller vehicles. The shuttle idea was starting to catch on at the end last year. It was thoroughly promoted in all advertising and this will be repeated this year.
- admission is \$2.00 per person, children free. Total attendance was about 25,000, mostly on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The rides operator pays a fee to the festival, charges for rides, and keeps the difference. The early closing regulations reduced the operator's income by 2/3 compared to previous years.

A lengthy discussion followed on alternatives for win/win solutions to the rides generator problem, including change of location, different kind of generator, or accessing electricity from hydro lines. The problem is that as the By-Law reads, the generator must be shut down on the registration of any complaint after nine o'clock.

Views were exchanged as to how the generator by-law was enforced last year, and how many complaints were received. There seemed to be agreement that full compliance was attained after the first night.

- Councillor Stewart suggested that consultation between Festival organizers and Mall business owners could resolve some outstanding parking issues and that outreach to the closest neighbours of the Festival site might be productive as well.
- most of the take-down will be done during the day on Monday
- a volunteer cleaning crew work from before opening to ten at night. Festival organizers are not aware of complaints about litter. The cleaning crew also goes down adjacent streets to check for litter.
- Councillor Stewart will investigate complaints that attendees at church services were ticketed for parking near the church during services. Coun. Stewart says it is city policy to exempt church attenders from parking tickets during hours of service.

**At 9:50 p.m. a recess was called. Spectators left. The meeting continued in camera at 10:00**

Hunt Club Riverside Community Services Centre: Maria McRae

Maria thanked RPCRA for tremendous support at the HCRCS AGM, among many

volunteers, Douglas for the projector and Carolyn for assisting with the election of officers.

The Centre has been asked to take a greater role in the Victoria Day Fireworks Program. Staff will work and recruit volunteers and will have a seat on the Victoria Day Committee.

Councillor Stewart suggested that the HCRSC have a seat on the Mooney's Bay Advisory Committee. Maria was welcomed by Barb and Carolyn.

Camp Spirit will be operating for eight consecutive weeks concurrently at both Riverside park and Hunt Club, all day instead of previous half-day. The program is low cost for low income families but is also open to others.

Maria shared her views on prospects for expansion of the community centre facilities, what options were available and /or foreseeable, and how the RPCRA could have input into access to facilities for their organizational use (office space, lounge, meeting area, storage, etc.) as well as suggestions for Riverside Park community needs as we perceive them.

#### Church Fingerprint ID Project

Carolyn asked for a motion to support Church Fingerprint ID workshop at \$1.00 per child to a maximum of \$40.00. Moved by Rolf, seconded by John, carried. (If successful this project could be repeated at the Victoria Day Festival.)

#### Newsletter: Douglas Beardshaw

Douglas reviewed data groups for the newsletter and proposed that most be carried forward from last year. Suggestions were made for minor changes, and noted by Douglas. A story on the in-fill policy was felt to be a priority.

#### Rinks: John Kruithof

John reported that all the rinks have received Ice Excellence Awards. There is concern that next year's grants to our rinks will be reduced because of a public perception of over funding of rinks and because of an increase in the number of rinks. Maria has offered to raise the issue of rink funding at PRAC.

Douglas reports that Bill Lister is eager to get boards at Pauline Vanier. Recommendations have gone forward to the city. John will prepare a letter.

Moved by John, seconded by Doug that \$60.00 be provided to laminate the Ice Excellence Awards. Carried

#### Festivals and Letters of Non-objection

Moved by Rolf, seconded by Joe that a letter of non-objection re the Dragon Boat Festival be drafted by President Carolyn for circulation to Board members by e-mail, and that a fine copy be sent to the Festival organizers, Councillor Stewart and

appropriate City staff. Carried.

After some discussion, it was moved by Rolf, seconded by Doug that we will also sign a letter of non-objection re the Lebanese Festival including supporting exemption from the generator restriction up to ten p.m. each night in return for the Festival organization agreeing with Section 7 of the Letter of Agreement.

Carolyn will meet with the RPW group and with Father Ghattas Hajal and Dan Saikaley to help clarify these terms and ensure agreement.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:15p.m.**

Minutes taken by Joe Parchelo, acting Secretary for this meeting