

Present

Camrose Burdon, Secretary
Lynne Byford, Treasurer
Tina Raymond, Co-Chair and Communications
Don Stephenson, Chair
Carol Workun, Executive Director

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Meeting called to order – 7:15 pm

It was noted that the meeting had been postponed from the original planned date of April 23.

1. The agenda was approved.

2. The minutes of the meeting of February 26, 2019 were approved – Lynne / Tina

3. Executive Director’s (ED) Report

The report issued prior to the meeting highlighted registration numbers for all camps tracking similar to last year. Satisfaction surveys are being undertaken. Funding for the Children’s Garden has come through. Old Town Hall porch repairs are hoped to be done in July or August.

4. Events & Volunteers

Volunteer numbers have increased substantially, providing essential coverage for the BBQs and for the Main Event although additional volunteers are needed and expected. We will need two Board members per shift to staff the CAG stand for the Main Event.

All major components of the Main Event have been secured.

Our request to TD Parks Event funding for the Fall Festival and BBQs with entertainment was turned down, as was funding for the Festival from the City.

5. Mainstreeter Agreement & Budget for Program Guides

We will arrange to meet with the Mainstreeter before our next meeting (May 21), to review the unexpected and substantial price increase for our Program Guide inserts and extra copies. Our original agreement with Mainstreeter dates from 2015. The next Program Guide is due in July. Carol is to conduct a survey to determine how effective our Program Guides in the Mainstreeter are at reaching the community.

6. Facilities update

Don reported on recent progress regarding the possible development of a new community centre in the Deschatelets Building

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The discussion between the The Regional Group (Regional) and the City of Ottawa regarding the redevelopment of the Deschatelets Building has progressed slowly, and came to a complete halt during the municipal election. Councillor Menard convened a meeting on April 14 to reactivate those discussions. He indicated that he saw potential benefits for the community and all potential partners, and he expressed support for the community centre and affordable housing components, in particular. The meeting was attended by Don and by:

Councillor Menard and Ariela Summit, from his office

David Kardish, Kelly Rhodenizer and Taylor Marquis of The Regional Group

Kevin Wherry, Sally Coutts and Erin O'Connor of the City of Ottawa

Stephane Giguere of Ottawa Community Housing

Phyllis Odenbach-Sutton and John Dance of the OOECA

David Kardish gave a brief summary of the discussions since 2015, led principally by Centertown Citizens Ottawa Corporation. He indicated that Regional is eager to reach a decision on the future of the building and remained supportive of community uses, including a community centre. He reported that interest in the building has been expressed by two local school boards, which he viewed as a possible fit, while noting that a school is not a permitted use and would require a change in zoning.

Kevin Wherry acknowledged the need for space for a community center in Old Ottawa East. He reported that municipal staffs are actively exploring possible funding sources for the development of a community centre and gymnasium, as part of the Deschatelets Building.

There was a discussion of the chapel wing of the building, which has heritage value, but is structurally unsound and unsuited to use as a recreation facility. Sally Coutts, of the City heritage office, appeared open to consider recommending demolition of the chapel, if that were necessary to ensure the viability of a project that included community uses of the remaining heritage building.

Stephane Giguere indicated that Ottawa Community Housing could be interested in integrating an affordable housing component in the redevelopment project and that, in the right project they could be an equity partner.

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Don reported that a meeting of the OOECA and CAG with the Conseil des Ecoles Catholiques du Centre-Est, which had already made an offer to purchase the building, was scheduled for May 2, to explore the feasibility of a partnership in the Deschatelets project.

7. Board recruitment

Don will invite three potentially interested individuals to join our May 21 meeting as guests.

8. Executive Director recruitment

The job will be advertised starting May 1, with applications due by May 15.

9. Other business

Minutes of the CAG Board of Directors meeting February 26, 2019 were signed.

The meeting adjourned about 9:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.