

# **Lincoln Heights-Parkway Community Association 2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

The Lincoln Heights-Parkway Community Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held starting at 2:00 p.m. on October 28, 2017 at the Ron Kolbus Centre, Ottawa, Ontario.

## **ATTENDANCE**

In total, an estimated 30 residents of the Lincoln Heights-Parkway community were in attendance at the AGM, including the following members of the current Executive Committee:

Annie Boucher (President)  
Julia Goodman (Past-President)  
JR Fortin (Vice-President)  
Jennifer Baldwin (Director-at-Large)  
Julie Buick (Director-at-Large)  
Kelly Folz (Membership Coordinator)  
Tara Garcia (Secretary)  
Julie Matthews (Treasurer)

## **1. WELCOMING WORDS**

Annie welcomed residents to the meeting and thanked them for their interest in community issues. She indicated members of the Executive Committee were in attendance and announced that Mark Taylor would arrive later in the afternoon.

## **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Annie reviewed the proposed agenda for the meeting and a motion to adopt the agenda was made by Julia Goodman and seconded by JR Fortin. All were in favour.

## **3. UPDATES AND DISCUSSIONS ON KEY PRIORITY ISSUES**

### **3.1 LINCOLN FIELDS - LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT EXPANSION**

JR Fortin provided attendees with an update related to the light rail transit (LRT) expansion that will impact the community in the coming years. The following points were highlighted:

- The City has completed extensive consultations with communities along the LRT route and has now moved into the tendering and request for proposal stage of work;
- Construction of the LRT will take place from 2019 to 2023 and it will be in service in 2023;

- In the latest design, a path has been added from Richmond Road through to the new station which will include proper lighting and snow removal and be beneficial to the Lincoln Heights Parkway community;
- JR has been impressed with the City in terms of the consultations that took place and how they have incorporated feedback into the latest designs;
- In response to a question regarding past requests for snow removal on the current paths, JR indicated this would likely have to wait until the LRT is in place.

Once Councillor Mark Taylor arrived at the meeting, he added that the environmental assessment was recently filed for the LRT work.

### **3.2 LINCOLN FIELDS - RIOCAN**

JR Fortin provided attendees with an update related to the upcoming changes at Lincoln Fields mall with the following points being highlighted:

- A well-attended consultation session took place a few months ago with the purpose being for Rio-Can to obtain input from the community as to what they would like to see for the future of the Lincoln Fields mall site;
- JR has done some research on other Rio-Can projects across the country and, in his opinion, they are well done;
- The new site is likely to be a mix of residential and retail and could include a “skyway” from the site to the LRT station;
- The desire is for the site to become a community focal point and it could include green space and a square in the design;
- JR indicated that Rio-Can was planning for another consultation this Fall but that is not looking likely at this point.

Councillor Mark Taylor provided further information on this project during his report, as follows:

- Stewart Craig from Rio-Can provided the City with a report following the community consultation that summarized input from the community and did not include Rio-Can’s plans for the site;
- There is a “no darkness” clause with Metro that means Rio-Can cannot demolish the current Metro space until there is a new one in place;
- In 2018, the Wendy’s will move closer to the east end of the parking lot and a new Metro will be built in the southwest corner where the current Wendy’s is located;
- The new Metro (size to be confirmed) along with a strip mall for other retailers is expected to be ready by this time next year;
- Once the Metro and strip mall are complete, the existing mall will be demolished and the site will be levelled and cleaned up;
- There is a desire to build a cross-road through the middle of the site and create a road network (not a speedway);
- There is high end residential rental company from Vancouver that would like to build two buildings on the site;
- There is no guarantee of a “skyway” to the LRT and this would be at Rio-Can’s expense if built;

- Although he could not speak to individual tenants that would remain, it appears that Rexall, Metro and Moore's would like to stay.

### **3.3 RICHMOND ROAD STREETScape AND BYRON LINEAR PARK**

JR Fortin noted that a section of Richmond Road will be transformed to a "complete street" at the same time as the LRT expansion work is being done. The following points were noted during the discussion:

- Public consultations on this matter were tied in with LRT consultations;
- Originally the complete street was only slated to go from Golden Avenue in Westboro to McEwen's gas station but now it is being suggested it would be continued to the intersection of Richmond Road and Carling Avenue;
- In response to a question as to whether the recent construction done on Richmond Road near our community is considered a "complete street", JR indicated it is not;
- Churchill Street is an example of a complete street that is good for cyclists, pedestrians, kids on bikes and cars;
- The opinion was expressed that while the complete street may be an improvement for pedestrians and cyclists, it is no better for cars;
- It was noted that Richmond Road is actually supposed to be four lane artery, and the complete street will likely not make this happen;

JR also provided an update on the Byron Linear Park with the following points being salient:

- The Byron linear park is the strip of land between Richmond Rd and Byron between Westboro and the McEwen's gas station;
- Richmond Road through this section will be only two lanes with parking and a cycling lane;
- Byron will be narrowed and access will be removed so that it is for local residents as opposed to a thruway as it is today;
- Extra space from narrowing of Byron will be used to widen the linear park and make it more of a true 'park'
- The intent is to make the Richmond/Woodroffe intersection safer than it is today;

Both the complete street and the changes to the Byron Linear Park will take place as the LRT is being built since the street will need to be torn up anyway to build the LRT. Residents can expect some disruption at that time.

### **3.4 SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD RIVERFRONT PARK**

JR Fortin provided an update on the planned NCC improvements of the riverfront park from the War Museum through to Britannia Park with the following points being noted:

- The section of the park from Westboro Beach to Woodroffe has been approved and it is not clear the timing of the Woodroffe through Britannia section;
- The NCC's master plan is to move the parkway itself away from the water to allow for a larger park area;
- The intent is to make the park a focal point;
- A goal is to separate the commuter cyclists from pedestrians and recreational cyclists;
- LRT stations in the area are being designed to promote access to the riverfront park;

- Consultations are moving slowly as they are meeting with people across Canada given the NCC's national mandate;
- National consultations will hopefully bring in solid ideas that have been implemented in other cities;

### **3.5 LINCOLN HEIGHTS PARK RENEWAL**

Kelly Folz engaged residents in a discussion of the Lincoln Heights Park and its potential renewal with the following points being noted:

- The park is on the City's list for potential renewal in 2019 and there is an opportunity to work with the City to improve it;
- There is also a City program that the community could take advantage of where local businesses could be engaged to sponsor improvements to the park;
- The park is important not only to Lincoln Heights residents but also residents of neighbouring buildings and passing cyclists;
- The community should be creative in thinking about the possibilities for the park (enclosed dog park, attractions for older kids, adults, more seating, etc.);
- It was noted that accessibility for disabled children should be considered in any designs;
- The importance of retaining open space was noted as well;
- The steepness of the path approaching Lincoln Heights Road was noted as an issue that could be resolved;
- This may also represent an opportunity to rename the park, potentially in name of a recognized community member.

Kelly indicated she was interested in leading efforts for a renewed park and Julia Goodman indicated she would like to be involved as well.

**Action Item: LHPCA Executive Committee to send an email soliciting other volunteers to assist with planning for the renewal of the park.**

During this item, some residents raised the issue with cars parking on Lincoln Heights Road for soccer and it was suggested that contacting the City's Parks and Recreation department to issue some communication requesting that families park at Regina School instead would be useful.

### **3.6 NOISE CONCERNS AND NOISE BYLAWS**

Community resident Dan Brunton provided attendees with an update on the noise issues from the apartment buildings at 1275-85 Richmond Road (on north side of Richmond, near Assaly) that have been ongoing for the past few years. The following important points were noted:

- This has been a local concern that is related to the enjoyment and use of private properties;
- The noise is a loud, droning sound that is coming from the roof of the building and is easily audible from 350 metres away;
- The issues were first noticed by residents in 2013 following the upgrading of the building's HVAC system;

- Over the past few years, several reports have been made to both the property manager and City by-law with little to no action being taken;
- The issue has been somewhat intermittent and that has resulted in some difficulty in terms of getting bylaw officers to the site at the right time;
- This has been a very frustrating experience overall in terms of getting City attention to the matter;
- This Fall, Dan retained an acoustic engineer who took readings at five formal sampling spots and found that both provincial and city bylaws were violated in each of these spots;
- The acoustic engineer has documented this in a report that Dan will make available to residents;
- Dan proposed the following actions be taken in the short and long term:
  - In the short term:
    - Present report to Homestead Properties (property manager of Richmond Square apartment buildings) and request that they install proper sound buffering by Spring 2018;
    - Ask Councillor Mark Taylor to send letter to property manager and indicate he wants a solution;
  - Longer term:
    - Use this situation as an example as part of the City noise bylaw review;
    - Recognize provincial standards in bylaw;
    - Include clause in bylaw that requires sound buffering which is an inexpensive and simple solution.

**Action Item: Executive Committee to post the acoustic engineer's report on the LHPCA website and send residents an email announcing it is there for review.**

Community resident Joe Courtney put forward the following motion:

*Be it resolved that the Community Association approves the actions being taken by residents in the community in relation to the noise issues from Richmond Square, is reviewing the acoustic engineer's report and will ask Councillor Mark Taylor to act on it as soon as he can.*

The motion was moved by Joe Courtney, seconded by Suzanne Gauthier and all were in favour.

Annie thanked Dan Brunton for his actions on this important matter to the community.

Councillor Mark Taylor shared his perspective regarding this issue when he arrived later in the meeting with the following points being relevant:

- Councillor Taylor gave credit to Dan Brunton for following this issue and indicated he was glad that residents passed the motion;
- The intermittent nature of the issues makes it difficult for bylaw;
- Bylaw officers must take measurements themselves to issue tickets;

- A review of the bylaw is underway and input is being considered;
- The outcome of the bylaw review is expected in January or February 2018;
- Current enforcement mechanisms (i.e. tickets) are not sufficient and more effective ones are necessary;
- Councillor Taylor will pass the report on to the LHPCA a week before it goes to committee for discussion.

### **3.7 COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Annie provided attendees with an update on community events held over the past year, as follows:

- The first community dinner was held in March 2017 and will be held again in 2018 given its success. Biagio's donated a portion of the proceeds from the dinner to the School Breakfast Program.
- The spring clean-up was held again this year and will continue next year as well.
- The Summer Follies was well attended with many activities for families in the community. Biagio's donated hamburgers and hot dogs for the event and an ice cream truck also made an appearance.
- The Winter Follies was not held this year as the dedicated volunteer who previously ran the event has moved out of the neighbourhood. Given this was the most successful LHPCA event, a call for a volunteer to organize this will be put out.
- The outdoor skating rink will continue as in past years.

## **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Julie Matthews provided meeting attendees with an overview of the LHPCA financial situation for 2017 and the budget for 2018. Highlights are as follows:

- The Association had \$3,001 in its bank account at the beginning of 2017.
- 46 membership fees were paid for the past year, lower than the budgeted amount.
- Revenue also included donations of \$10 and the grant from the City to maintain rink which is mostly offset by expenses.
- Expenses of \$1,937 were slightly lower than budget due to lower than planned spending on the Summer Follies and web maintenance and the fact that the Winter Follies event did not take place.
- Overall, there was a surplus of \$63 in 2017 resulting in \$3,064 being available for 2018.
- The proposed budget for 2018 included the following:
  - Expected growth in membership to 70.
  - Expenses for various events through the year (Summer Follies, Community Dinner and AGM) which total \$200.
  - The need to purchase a shade structure for approximately \$200.
  - Banking charges of \$25 and a fee to the Federation of Community Associations of \$30.
  - A deficit of \$85 is projected for 2018.

A motion to accept the proposed budget was made by Julia Goodman, seconded by Jennifer Baldwin and all were in favour.

## **5. COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

City of Ottawa Councillor Mark Taylor joined the AGM to discuss issues of interest to residents. Councillor Taylor thanked residents for taking the time to attend the meeting. Many of the topics discussed are previous agenda items and his perspective is noted in those sections of the minutes. The following additional items were discussed:

- *Sidewalk Replacements* – These have been completed in many sections of the neighbourhood and was focused on the areas of highest need. Part of Regina and the catwalk between Lincoln Heights Road and Richlin Crescent were not included due to budgetary constraints and lower assessed needs.
- *Regina Street Parking Issues* – To implement parking restrictions to address current issues with narrowness of Regina Street due to parked cars, a petition that includes 66% of residents with addresses on the street must be obtained or an operational need must be demonstrated. The petition would be unlikely to be successful given the residents that would have to sign it are the ones that are using the street for parking. In relation to demonstrating an operational need to restrict parking, Councillor Taylor indicated the City has already determined this does not exist.
- *Neighbourhood Watch* – A meeting will be held in early November that will include presentations from Ottawa Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Prevention Ottawa and Crime Stoppers. There has been little crime noted in the community lately with the most prevalent issue being thefts from unlocked cars.
- *City Budget* – Committee budget hearings will be taking place in early November. Interactive tools are on the City website for residents to use.

Annie thanked Mark for attending and providing information on key issues affecting our community.

## **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The following points were noted regarding the current members of the Executive Committee:

- Annie Boucher, Julia Goodman, Julie Buick, Kelly Folz, Maria Rogers and Tara Garcia have one year left in their terms and will be staying on in their current roles
- JR Fortin, Julie Matthews and Jennifer Baldwin have reached the end of their two year terms.

Annie indicated there are three open positions on the Executive Committee – Vice-President, Treasurer and one Director-at-Large. She provided attendees with the nominees for open positions on the Executive Committee:

- JR Fortin for Vice-President
- Julie Matthews for Treasurer

- Jennifer Baldwin for Director-at-Large

There was no interest in these positions from other residents in attendance.

Julia Goodman motioned to accept the nominations, Suzanne Gauthier seconded the motion and all were in favour.

## **7. OTHER MATTERS**

Theresa Kavanagh, a trustee for the OCDSB, was in attendance and provided an update on the Western Accommodation Review that the Board undertook in 2017. She noted it was fairly successful and provided the following highlights:

- Woodroffe Avenue Public School will now be a Kindergarten – Grade 8 school. It will be receiving funding for specialized programs which may include science, music, art, etc.
- Severn School is now an early French immersion school. It currently has students from Kindergarten – Grade 3 and this will increase by a grade each year until it is up to Grade 6;
- Regina School was able to stay open and transitioned to an alternative school. Mud Lake was a significant factor in making this decision;
- Woodroffe High School will remain as is;
- D. Roy Kennedy School remained a middle French immersion school and has taken some students who moved from Regina and Severn;
- J.H. Putman will remain open for one more school year until Agincourt has some renovations completed that will allow it to accommodate Grade 7 and 8 students;

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.