



Minutes for online Annual General Meeting, September 21st, 2020

Attendees: Mireille Brownhill (President); Toby Bossert (Co-Secretary); Gary Bradshaw (Treasurer / VP), Garth Williams (Rink Liaison); Miranda Gray (Co-Secretary); Jeff Fennessy; Jason Mongrain; Dave Cuddemi; Mary (last name unknown); Catherine Paquette; Fran Childs; Dorothy and Bob Berthelet.

Regrets: Louise McLaren

Guests: Michaël Srogosz-Bolduc (Councillor's office) Robb Barnes (Ecology Ottawa)

Opening and Welcome

Mireille Brownhill, President, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants. Each person was invited to say where they live in the community and why they are involved in the association.

Approval of the agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented. **Moved:** Gary Bradshaw. **Second:** Garth Williams. **Carried.**

President's Address

Mireille commented that she joined 3 years ago (she had not known there was an association before this time). The association has grown over the years and now provides more opportunities for residents to meet. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has made it extremely hard to meet face-to-face during the past year. There has been outreach curing COVID and it continues. The Facebook group is now over 2,400 members.

Please reach out to the association or board members. We can connect you to the resources you need.

Comments from elected officials

All 3 levels of government were invited. Michaël is here representing Councillor Luloff. No other level is represented.

Michaël said he was mostly here to listen but would take back question to the councillor. There were some questions about the newly announced COVID testing site to be set up at Ray Friel

Centre including what ages can be tested. Michaël said these details are not yet finalized. The Centre will be run by the Montfort Hospital. More information to come in October.

Guest Speaker

Robb Barnes from Ecology Ottawa on the 15-minute neighbourhood

What is the city / climate change connection? Why is this important?

1. Cities are where we live in Canada
2. Cities are where the world is moving too
3. Cities are responsible for 50 of emissions in Canada.

In Ottawa, transportation and buildings have the biggest impact on the emissions of the city (not including buses or city buildings). Designing for 15 to 30 minute neighbourhoods in the official plan makes a big difference.

What are the top 3 ways to fight climate change?

1. Carbon pricing
2. Housing Density
3. Protect nature

The last two are things handled at the local level. There are lots of opportunities in the Official Plan for this region to get it right or get it wrong. We could choose to make better vibrant communities. Urban form matters.

In the 50's we designed for cars. There is a long, long, lag time in city planning. Where is the city life when we design for cars? 15-minute neighbourhood solutions will look different in each community. It is not one solution fits all. Older parts of the city are already dense enough to support small neighbourhoods. But newer sections designed for driving are harder to make walkable.

Lots of Ottawa people are aligned with the goal but do not necessarily agree on how to get there. (Learn more: [15-Minute Neighbourhoods - Ecology Ottawa](#))

What is a 15-minute neighbourhood? You can get to a cafe, park grocery store, and a library in just a minute 15 walk from your home.

A Walkability idea checklist:

1. Put density first
2. Mixed use design
3. Pedestrian and cycling infrastructure designed in
4. Excellent transit connections
5. Safety integrated into design
6. Integrated transportation and land use planning

How to get involved?

There are lots of opportunity to provide feedback to the city as the new Official Plan is developed. Some things underway or about to start: Transportation Master Plan, Zoning bylaw plan, Cycling plans, secondary community plans, and more.

[Adoption from minutes of last AGM.](#)

Motion: Adopted as presented. Moved by Toby Bossert, seconded by Garth Williams. **Carried.**

[Overview of the last year](#)

Our fiscal year is July 1st to June 30th.

[Activities this year](#)

- Yoga in the Park: free to participants, weekly in summer, rotating between parks
- BBQ in July 2019 was a big success with help from RBC, Golden Fries, and the Legion. About 200 people attended. We planned to do it again this year, but we could not hold it due to COVID.
- Carolling at Symphony retirement home – We had a pianist and a few folks in 2019. We will try to find a COVID safe way to do this again.
- Skating Rink behind Convent Glen Elementary School was a great success again this year. According to the city supervisor we had some of the best ice in the city. We had about 60 people out for the winter carnival. About 100 community members use it throughout the season (plus classes from the school).
- We received a sponsorship from Myers Automobile for the rink this year. Thank you, it made a big difference.
- Our rink had more open days than the canal!
- Spring events such as the dog walkathon, BBQ and bike rodeo had to be cancelled due to COVID.

The rink volunteers asked for a meeting with the board. Mireille will arrange a time.

If you have new ideas, post them on Facebook or share them with any board member.

[Financial report](#)

See addendum

[Notes](#)

- Revenue is mostly from rink and sponsorships (Myers)
- Hoping for more sponsorship this year but it is a tough business year
- Winter Carnival item includes supplies which will be used in future years
- Surplus due to cancelled events
- Building a fund for a future snowblower purchase

- Insurance costs have increased greatly. The board decided to purchase General Liability on a per-event basis rather than a general policy
- Insurance for rink is covered by the city not the association
- The association will purchase Directors & Officers insurance
- Outreach costs are for a banner, postcards, and business cards

Election of board members:

Garth Williams is not standing for re-election. Thank you for support with rink stuff. We are sad to see him go. Louise McLaren is taking a leave for now. Mireille, Miranda, Toby, and Gary are returning board members.

Nominations from floor

Mireille reminded everyone that you give what you can. You can also volunteer with specific events or activities (e.g. Fran, who takes care of our newsletter). You can reach out anytime and the board may appoint additional members during the year.

No nominations were received at the meeting.

New Business

None

Open to members

- Questions about status of Convent Glen Shopping Plaza
 - Bob and Dorothy gave thanks to board members. There has been speculation about the Convent Glen shopping centre. Mireille replied that rumours have been floating for some time. She called the property manager and at the time (8 months ago), no plans to remove. She will check in periodically. Councillor Luloff has said nothing has been submitted to the city. Some stores are unlikely to move out. Jason said he heard a rumour about a Metro store renovation a few weeks ago. Others confirmed they had heard the same rumours.

Next Steps

- Please watch the newsletter and Facebook group for ideas on how to support the community during COVID.
- Board members need to stick around for a board meeting after the AGM tonight.

Closing

Mireille thanked everyone who was available to attend tonight. She reminded everyone to reach out if they need help or know someone who needs help.