

Schedule "A" - President's Report

I am happy to report I have agreed to carry out the powers and duties of the president of the CCCA.

As board members likely already know, the transfer of the role of president to me comes as a result of holding the office of vice president when Thom McVeigh resigned as president.

According to CCCA procedures, the powers and duties president pass to the vice president when a president resigns. I am content to fulfill the role until the AGM in November, or alternatively, until a special general meeting at which members vote in a new president—whichever is sooner. Ostensibly, I do not hold the formal title of president, rather I am an "acting president". (Now, fear not! I have been told by friends I am a good actor!).

I intend to focus on facilitating Board meetings and discussions, and maintain correspondence as best I can. I will prioritize external communications, i.e. with members of the public or other organizations, and try to delegate internal communication to the appropriate committees.

I have two substantial issues to which I intend to dedicate any remaining personal time and energy: the OPA appeal in September; and streamlining a process for the CCCA to respond to (I have chosen not to say, "fight"), developer applications for exceptions from the rules on design and limits on size, including fair and desirable community benefits with each new building under section 37.

I am pleased to have the chance to serve Centertowne alongside my fellow board members.

Schedule "B" - Communications & Membership Committee Report

The Communications & Membership Committee met Tuesday, Feb. 11 at the Royal Oak at Bank and Maclaren.

Discussed: - Reviving Communications/Membership Google Group. We were using an email chain to discuss/plan meetings, but will be using the group for all discussions/announcements going forward. Please contact Mitch at comms@centretowncitizens.ca to join the group.

- Website hosting transfer is complete and the website is loading much faster now. Further updates to the site to be completed are: - creating unique users - updating wordpress/various plugins - checking for dead links/ensuring the hosting transfer went smoothly - ensuring emails are being forwarded to the correct people

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- Increasing presence on Twitter. Primarily using it for scheduling committee meeting notices in advance and sharing local Centretown events.

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Next meeting TBA

Schedule "C1" - Planning Committee Report

CCCA Planning Committee Meeting Report to the Board
February 18 2014

The CCCA Planning Committee met Monday February 3rd 2014, 10 people attended, the Meeting was chaired by Thom McVeigh with both Co-Chairs not able to make the meeting.

1) 287 Lisgar - Claridge Condo Development Application

The Committee discussed the application by Claridge and is asking the City for clarification on which rules will apply for the rezoning of this application (CDP, OPA or existing zoning) as it is unclear.

2) uOttawa Campus Master Plan

Judy Bernstein and Patricia Marsden-Dole met with the consultant on the uOttawa Master Plan Friday February 14th. Discussion on the meeting will be held at our next meeting. Please see the Annex to this Agenda for Patricia's report, and attend the March PC meeting to discuss. An Open House on the uOttawa Master Plan is being held February 26th 10am - 5pm in the Agora Stage of the Turcotte Building. Further details can be found at www.uottawamasterplan.ca

3) 478 Albert St - Sparks Street Façade (for Built Heritage Committee mtg)

No further comments were added to the original comments sent previously on the application.

4) OPA Appeal Update (See separate report from Judy Forrest)

5) Local Shops & Services Survey

Several of the CCCA-PC had completed the online survey. Over 800 responses have been received by the City. We await the results of subsequent staff recommendations for further comment. The FCA has done work on this issue, the CCCA could follow their lead.

6) Student Housing

Nick Bachusky expressed interest in being part of the CCCA team on this issue. Co-Chair Rob Dekker will also continue in this, working with Nick and perhaps 2 more from the Association. Those interested should contact Rob Dekker.

7) Next Meeting scheduled for Monday March 3rd; to be held in the Richmond Room at City Hall from 630pm-830pm.

The location is yet to be determined and will be broadcast through the CCCA-PC Announcement

Schedule "C2" - OPA Report

The CCCA initiated a meeting with CCOC to discuss common grounds with regard to our appeals to the OMB regarding OPA 117. Although the appeal is not scheduled until September 2014, the Appeal subcommittee had met and felt that it was important to start discussions soon as we had been encouraged by the OMB to meet with the city and the other parties to the appeal to try to see if we could come to any agreement(s). Seeing as the CCOC and CCCA had appealed some of the same issues and had agreed to cooperate, we wanted to meet with the CCOC prior to any meetings with the city. A meeting took place 14 Feb 2014 and it was agreed to work towards getting ready for a meeting with the city as soon as possible (early March?). The CCCA representatives at the meeting felt that it was important to provide a briefing to the board prior to the meeting with the city. The purpose of this report is to provide some background information and my comments seeing as I cannot attend the board meeting myself. Graeme Hussey of CCOC will attend to provide the CCOC perspective and answer questions.

The substance of the CCCA appeal has been distributed to the board previously but is included here again for ease of reference:

The reasons for the appeal include but are not limited to:

1. 'Residential Mixed Use'

A primary goal for this study was to determine how to accommodate an additional 10,000 residents, not jobs. Changing the zoning for a significant section of the Mid-Centretown area to mixed use will diminish the likelihood of further residential development.

New commercial growth should be focused on the existing commercial areas where it will strengthen the Traditional Mainstreets such as Bank Street and Elgin Street, and the Secondary Mainstreets such as parts of Somerset Street and Gladstone Avenue. Diffusing commercial uses throughout the residential side streets will undermine the viability of the existing commercial streets which are already struggling in some areas.

The Official Plan policies state that new employment growth should be directed to the major employment centres such as the Central Area north of Gloucester Street.

Centretown is unlike any other Ottawa residential neighbourhood as it abuts the Central Area, which is comprised primarily of office and commercial uses. No one living in the proposed Residential Mixed Use (RMU) zone is more than a five minute walk from a large business district and major employment node for the whole City. (see attached Centretown Secondary Plan Schedule H1, Land Use)

Although there are already many non-conforming non-residential uses on the streets in the RMU zone, they primarily date from prior to the passage of the original Centretown Secondary Plan. There has been little market interest in the past few decades in non-residential development in this area.

All of the streets within the proposed RMU zone are located within no more than 1.5 blocks of existing commercial areas - Bank and Elgin Streets, and therefore more than adequately served by a wide range of nearby commercial amenities.

2. 'Tall Landmark Buildings'

Very tall buildings are already permitted within the Northern and Southern Character Areas (as specified on Centretown Secondary Plan Schedule H2 Building Heights) where there is capacity for considerable intensification.

Very tall buildings are undesirable and out of context in the mid-rise areas where Tall Landmark Buildings are proposed to be permitted on certain street frontages, because they would visually overwhelm the abutting low and medium profile streetscapes.

Additionally the mid-rise areas where Tall Landmark Buildings are to be permitted have the greatest number of ranked Category 1 and 2 heritage building clusters, and their historic character and architectural significance could be irrevocably harmed by the intrusion of disproportional Tall Landmark Buildings.

Building Heights in the mid-rise areas should be limited to 9 stories. (CCCA supported the former 7 storey which the consultants proposed)

3. Secondary Mainstreet for Somerset between O'Connor and Elgin

These two blocks have been zoned residential for decades and are primarily residential.

Changing the zoning to incorporate commercial will encourage the redevelopment of these blocks into commercial uses and jeopardize the viability of the existing residential uses.

4As indicated in the points regarding the RMU, there is no need for additional opportunities for commercial development. Our existing commercial streets need support, not competition.

The CCOC appealed the Residential Mixed Use (RMU) designation and the Tall Landmark Buildings Policy but did not reference the Somerset St. Secondary Mainstreet issue.

With regard to the RMU designation, it is important to understand some of the history of the zoning in Centretown. Prior to the approval of the original Centretown Plan in the mid 70's, much of Centretown was zoned RO (Residential/Office) which resulted in heritage residential buildings being demolished and replaced by high rise office and hotel uses. The residential nature of the community was being seriously eroded and families were leaving for the suburbs. The Centretown Plan removed most of the RO zoning, thereby restoring the residential community. Over the years since, families have returned to Centretown, heritage buildings have been restored and the community remains a residential area adjacent to the Central Business district to the north. When the Centretown Plan was done, the mid-Centretown area between Elgin and Bank already contained a mix of uses but the decision to zone that area residential was very deliberate. The intent was to encourage retention of existing residential uses and ensure that any redevelopment that did occur would be residential, not commercial. It was also to concentrate commercial development on the streets zoned for that (Elgin, Bank, Somerset, Gladstone) in order to improve the viability of the commercial areas which had been suffering. That rationale is as valid today as it was in the 70's. That is why the CCCA opposed the introduction of the RMU all through the CDP process and it is the first issue identified on our appeal of OPA 117.

Schedule "D" - Senior's Committee Report

The CCCA Seniors Committee met on 13 Jan at the Sun and Flowers Cafe to discuss the issue of diversity of choices in Centretown living for Seniors. Each member was asked to interview one or two persons including possibly one self to provide some reasons for personal choices in housing. The result is an article edited by Nathalie Thirlwall that is highlighted in the February Buzz. Our next meeting will take place on February 21 at 11 pm at the Sun and Flowers Cafe on Bank Street.

Schedule "E" - Transportation Committee

CCCA Transportation Committee Report for February 2014
by Michel-Adrien Sheppard
Feb. 16, 2014

a) City Centre Coalition

On January 29, 2014, I attended the regular meeting of the City Centre Coalition (CCC) with whom we have worked in the past, most recently to develop a common position to present to the city with regards to the review of the Transportation Master Plan, the Cycling Plan and the Pedestrian Plan.

At the January meeting, there were a number of items discussed in relation to which the CCC will no doubt want our input later this year. The CCCA has no position on any of these issues at the moment but the Coalition will be asking for our opinion eventually on the following:

LRT fare control - they want to look at some way to offer lower LRT fares in the centre core area (either for short 3-4 station trips or by time of day/during non-peak hours) - many cities with LRT do this, e.g. the LRT in the centre core of Calgary is even totally free, you start paying once you leave the "core"

Scott street bus detours during LRT construction - groups in Hintonburg will probably be lobbying us - they are apparently coming up with some actual concrete proposals with urban transport consultants/activists for where the buses can go so as not to flood the area

Downtown Interprovincial Truck Tunnel Study - the city is working on the document that would outline what goes into the engineering study and Action Sandy Hill and the Lowertown Association want to make sure certain key elements are included

Development Charges Review - I know little about municipal finances but apparently, a large chunk of the development charges from within the Greenbelt can be shown to be financing new arterial road construction on the periphery of suburbs. In other words, many people from the CCC believe that the Greenbelt is unfairly subsidizing urban sprawl outside the Greenbelt which is illogical at a time when the city is investing billions in an LRT. So some people from the CCC want to look into how to "rebalance" development charges to encourage less sprawl. The City is preparing a final report on development charges for the early summer 2014.

b) March or April 2014 complete streets summit

On February 13, 2014 I participated in a conference call with Ecology Ottawa (EO) and a number of other community association reps.

EO wants to hold a "complete streets" summit on Saturday, March 29 or April 5. This would be a strategy forum for community groups to do 2 things:

look at "best practices" relating to the implementation of complete streets in other jurisdictions discuss how to achieve improvements locally, based on the complete streets philosophy that the CCCA officially endorsed in the fall of 2013 and to which the City has given its support on paper.

In the morning, EO is thinking that things would kick off with a panel of councillors discussing complete streets implementation in their riding.

There would then be concurrent workshops. Examples could be: CHEO on the health aspects of complete streets; a workshop with the CCCA and the Lowertown Community Association discussing their walkability audits; the cycling community discussing bike lane connectivity through the city as part of complete streets.

The walkability audit workshop would be the place for the CCCA to officially release our audit reports on Elgin and Bank.

During lunch, there would be keynote speaker. EO has a few ideas floating around, such as Alex Munter on the health dimensions of complete streets or an expert on the economic/business case for complete streets (examples from elsewhere on how more walkable neighbourhoods with better transit, cycling and walking boost local consumer spending, investment, economic development etc.). The speaker has not yet been identified.

The afternoon sessions would be devoted to talking strategy city-wide and locally.

The target audience would be “engaged groups” such as planners, BIAs and community associations such as the CCCA. This is not an event to educate the public but to help groups such as the CCCA develop / coordinate strategy with others.

c) Bank St. walkability audit report

The final version of the report is not yet ready but the draft is attached for your reading