

General Burns Community Association

Annual General Meeting minutes

Tuesday 14 May 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:33 p.m.

Attendance – Alexandra Kealey-Morin, Kathryn Shaver, Kristina Proulx, Alex McAuley, Samy Kourdes, Margaret Sambol, Peter Melvin, Jason Stanley,

Sean Devine, Megan Wood, 11 community members

Councillor's report - Coun. Sean Devine – Ward 9 Councillor

Would like to be invited to future meetings. CC Megan Wood for all correspondence

Parking lot of General Burns Lodge will be repaved starting May 27, slated for completion by end of June 2024

Parthia Park is being re-done

Will be at GB Fun Day on 25 May. Team will be here too, with tent and representatives from Rain Ready Ottawa. New program – was a pilot program and is now a permanent program. Goal is to better manage water on your property.

Newsletter – please subscribe – published every two weeks with a ton of info. Subscribe at SeanDevine.ca

Viewmount Drive has had speeding issues and vibrating houses. Not official yet, but within next two years, a road rehab project from Fisher to Merivale will address the vibrating houses. Was major sewer work in past few years where road wasn't packed down enough.

Likely to be major rework of Meadowlands and Fisher, and section of Fisher from Meadowlands to Deer Park.

Revised curbside waste diversion policy

New policy will start Oct. 1. For curbside waste (not apartment buildings) – currently 6 waste containers allowed every two weeks. New policy, will reduce to 3 waste containers (or items) every two weeks. Could be 3 x 140 L garbage containers plus as much recycling and as much green bin as you want. New

policy will roll out with a phased approach – if go over the 3 item limit, the garbage collectors will leave a note but take it for first month. Second month, leave a note but will only take 4 items. Third month, they will only collect 3 items.

Multi-unit residential – apartment buildings – will increase their capacity for organic waste diversion.

City zoning bylaw review

Last year the city ratified its official plan. Next step is zoning bylaw review, which dictates how all land will be used in the City of Ottawa.

Recently released the first draft of the bylaw, then consultation, then second draft in 2025, aiming to pass in 2025. Will change much of how the city uses land.

Things that will affect our neighbourhood:

1. Four units can be built on any parcel of land. Right now province mandated three. (So will increase density.)
2. No parking minimums required. Many buildings have a parking minimum currently. What that means is that City won't require a developer to build parking spots. Developer will build a building that they think they can sell. Industry can determine what they think they need.
3. New permissions for what kinds of small businesses can operate in residential areas. Small bakery, or lawyer can operate on the corner in the suburbs.
4. Storm water – For new infill, owners will be required to have self-contained stormwater management plans in place to manage water on property before permitting allowed.

Changes doesn't mean neighbourhood will change overnight, but it will mean incremental changes over time.

Residents will have many opportunities to get involved in the process.

City's finances

Last week received City asset management plans, which includes information about state of city's assets and what is required to maintain those assets and deliver services from those assets over the next 10 years. City has already allocated a percentage of required funds but the gap is \$3B between what is allocated and what is required.

Line in report said by approving this report, council is acknowledging the investment required and that money is required to maintain this infrastructure.

Have not yet said how will handle the \$3 B gap. Financial solutions can be anything from raising taxes, deferring projects and dipping into reserves. Non-financial strategies – could redefine services, could redefine how much maintenance is required.

Property tax increase is not based on need, but at an arbitrary rate. It is predictable, but doesn't keep up with the need. Mayor campaigned on rate of 2.5% for first two years of term. Hasn't told us for 2025 budget intentions. Anticipating Mayor Sutcliffe will recommend a higher increase.

City was sued by taxi drivers. Lost law suit for \$215 million. Judge will decide how much to award.

Other litigation is currently being pursued.

Local infrastructure

On the subject of water management, after the Aug. 10 2023 historical rain fall, a flooding survey was sent across the ward, to try to identify where are the most common reports of flooding. Was the storm on Aug 10 – was that the first time, or a repeat? Is there a systemic issue? In Ward 9, there are different problem areas. Coun. Riley Brockington on other side of Fisher – didn't have nearly the same experience of flooding. Nepean infrastructure was of a different quality and history than Ottawa infrastructure.

Lots of ditches are being filled in. City has identified that as contributing to making this worse.

Outer urban councillors are meeting tomorrow because concern that getting shortchanged on infrastructure.

Questions and comments from the audience:

- Maintenance of storm sewers is falling behind required service.
- Neighbourhood has continued to add more impermeable surfaces and remove ditches to manage water.
- City has allowed homeowners to build houses and remove water management ditches and swales.
- City should use permeable resources when paving to lead by example in managing water.
- Viewmount needs a bike lanes between the two high schools (Omer Deslaurier and Merivale).
- Copies of the proposed city's budget used to be available in the public library.
- Townhall meetings on the budget should come back.
- Property supposed to have market value assessments, but it has been at least six years.
- What should the federal government do to support municipal infrastructure funding gap?
- Our neighbourhood loses power for longer when power goes out for long periods (like the derecho).
- If development fees go up, will people still want to build? It's a calculated risk.
- Is there a limit to how long storage boxes can be kept on properties?
- Can the City be more proactive in encouraging people to keep their property clean, and putting out garbage and recycling only the day before collection (to reduce items blowing out of bins)?

Minutes taken over by Kristina Proulx at 8:45 p.m.

- Danger zones for speeding on Chesterton; advocating for a speed camera. Councillor advised that 20 automated speed enforcement cameras are allocated throughout the city per year, with 2 in Ward 9, and hopefully next year will be on Chesterton. Eligibility includes community safety zones. The Councillor's office is using a variety of tactics to calm speeding.
- It was asked how to deal with park pathways that are not maintained. Councillor responded that filing a report through 311, and alternatively you can send an email to the Councillor's office to hopefully expedite.
- The City facilitates ongoing discussions with Hydro Ottawa, and the city is aware that there are specific Wards that have significant problems. Also, just the volume of response requirements is increasing. Discussions continue and are a priority for the Councillor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Treasurer (Jason) provided an overview of the annual financial statement, including revenues and expenditures [ADD AS ANNEX AS THIS NEEDED TO BE UPDATED]. Income = \$13,190.00.

RINK REPORT (Rink Coordinator absent)

- Chair provided an overview of how the rink-funded GB Rink is managed; communication via dedicated Facebook group; volunteers help to maintain ice.

BOOKINGS/RENTALS

- Rentals Coordinator (Alex) provided a summary of rentals over the last year and how bookings work.
- Working with city to update state of the buildings. Have to advocate regularly.
- If issues are identified, please raise through on FB page.
- Awaiting a city grant to conduct exterior paint.
- Tennis court wall has a water issue which has caused damage. There is an application to have it done with a designer (focused on supporting disadvantaged youth to participate). We would welcome volunteers to supervise this work. Graffiti is dealt with immediately.
- Dogs off leash are a concern and it may be possible that we will put up signs to contact 311 to raise issues. Also a concern about cleanliness, particularly around Omer Deslaurier High School.

EVENTS REPORT

- Events Coordinator (Kristina) advised that the Skating Party was cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Fun Day will be taking place from 11-3pm at General Burns on May 25th, including a BBQ, bouncy castles, magician, vendors, carnival games, fire truck, police, and more, and encouraged all attendees to bring family and friends.
- GBCA was unable to secure a grant from the City this year and will be seeking donations in lieu.

TENNIS REPORT

- Tennis Coordinator (Pete) advised that there are 174 memberships so far for this year.
- Camps in July are available; 3 tournaments; Club championships in September.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

- Social Media Coordinator advised of events that are regularly promoted, including Fun Day and Butterfly Garden, rink updates, and Skating party. Comms vehicles leveraged includes Web and primarily Facebook, and also posts on General Burns Buy & Sell. Twitter X account is also available.
- 93 member increase on membership page, 400+ now. Moderation of spamming has increased, blocked 9 accounts.
- There has been an uptake of Messenger group.
- We share the Councillor's newsletters.

WEBSITE UPDATE

- Website Coordinator (Samy) provided a summary of the site:
- Hosted by GoDaddy
- Promotes on events & assoc. mandate/Park hours & other links
- History section is ongoing & invites people to participate
- Reach out to us as you need (adding)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS (Project Manager absent)

- The Chair advised that the Plant Exchange will take place on May 29.

VOTING OF BOARD MEMBERS - Results (no discussion required; all voted-in)

- Alex K-M. to be President and Rentals Coordinator
- Kathryn to be Vice President and Communications Coordinator
- Jason to be Treasurer
- Suyin to be Program Coordinator (absent but voted-in)
- Kristina to be Event Coordinator
- Pete to be Tennis Club Coordinator
- Margaret to be Environmental Projects Coordinator (absent but voted-in)
- Samy to be Web Coordinator
- Alex M. to be Director at Large
- Secretary role is vacant but shared by all in lieu
- Karl to be Rink Coordinator (absent but voted-in)

CLOSING REMARKS

- Please reach out to us at info@generalburns.ca
- Councillor will come back for further discussion as requested.
- Clean-up day will be promoted.
- More people are using the park to play cricket and soccer and so it should be noted that GBCA has been successful at obtaining a water station after nine years of advocacy to the City.