

Minutes (Approved): CCA General Members Meeting – Nov. 14, 2024 (In Person and Zoom Pro)

Board in Attendance: Brian Beard, Alaine Spiwak, Cathie Fraser, Robert Brinker, Jenn Sailus, Mateusz Trybowski

Regrets: Alexandria (Allie) Hodgson, Olivia Jones

Guests: Councillor Riley Brockington, Adrienne Sesiakin

Call to Order in person and on Zoom Pro: 7:06 p.m.

Introductions and Land Acknowledgement (Robert Brinker): *'We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which gather is the traditional unceded Algonquin territory.'*

Motion to Approve the Agenda: Moved by Micheline Lane, seconded by Robert Brinker. There was no opposition, the motion was carried.

Motion to approve the [September 19, 2024, General Meeting](#) Minutes: Moved by Jennifer Sailus, seconded by Brian Beard. There was no opposition, the motion was carried.

Advisements of any conflicts of interest: None.

Shepherds of Good Hope (SGH) (Adrienne Sesiakin)

- Adrienne is replacing sick colleagues. Adrienne oversees supportive housing at the SGH in Ottawa and there are two programs in our ward.
- The Oaks, open since 2010, is a managed alcohol consumption residence and tends to be an older (+55) clientele. It has stabilized since its opening and initial problems have been resolved.
- SGH is looking to be more integrated in the community and encourage healthy resident behaviour, looking to build relationships in the community.
- SGH receives many videos of behaviour in Carlington, but few people in the videos are known to SGH.
- This is challenging, since SGH wants to take concerns from the community seriously, but not all behaviour is attributed to SGH residents.
- New SGH building has received pre-development funding to demolish the building on the corner of Kirwood and Merivale and fix the retaining wall.
- Ideally that work would have happened this fall but has been postponed to Spring 2025 due to unexpected engineering complications.
- Question: Some of the photos and videos SGH is receiving are not residents?
- Answer: That's correct. We want to take neighbourhood concerns seriously but also respect resident privacy. Roughly 1-2% of the images and videos are of people who actually live at the residence on Merivale. We have no authority to address the behaviour of strangers. However, if they are residents then we work very closely with them to make it clear that that type of behaviour is not tolerated.

President's Update and Transportation (Brian Beard)

- [President's Report](#)
- Last Board meeting went differently, we split into groups and focused on completing some lingering action items.
- Brian has reached out for help to finalize CCA by-laws, based on new *Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)* rules.

- Once we are comfortable with the revised by-laws, we will share them with members and hold a special meeting to have them adopted formally. We will highlight any significant changes at this meeting. One of the most significant is that membership details can now be shared.
- We are trying to get more regular, monthly events going at the Alexander Community Centre. We are close to firming up some dates in December, in particular a Youth Gambling Workshop through the YMCA. This will be aimed at youth and parents.
- A student from Lycée-Claudiel would like to run a music workshop in January, dates will be confirmed.
- On Thursday, November 21, CCA and Councillor Brockington will be hosting a Community Safety Night. Looking to establish if the problems experienced in Carlington are going on throughout Ottawa.
- On November 11, the CCA Transportation Committee met with Councillor Brockington regarding local transportation issues.
 - Ahead of this meeting, some committee members were feeling unheard and that city staff are not sharing information.
 - It included a presentation on Shillington and Hollington intersection, where the sidewalk ends and is blocked by cars. Parking is not allowed there, but there is lots of street parking nearby.
 - Councillor Brockington remains committed to 30km/hr speed limit in the community.
 - Bike lanes on Fisher are challenging because the forested area to the east belongs to the NCC and they are keen to protect the land.
 - Still looking for long-term solutions, as the City does not have an overarching traffic-calming strategy.
 - The Transportation Committee is frustrated because they've been at this a long time but are not hearing anything other than "no" from the City and would like to see progress.

Comment from resident: Resident offered to connect us with TransAction Ottawa.

Question: Seniors' bus fare is increasing, is free service ending?

Answer: Yes, unfortunately.

Question: Regarding ONCA regulations, can you confirm if street addresses will be shared via the new by-laws or just email?

Answer: Will confirm, believe it's just email. We have the option to add a fee to the request for a member list, which would ensure that requests are serious in nature.

- Discussion about \$100 being a good amount, as it deters people asking for no reason but is affordable.

Question: I was wondering how many members we currently have?

Answer: There are 54 people registered until 2024 and 71 registered until 2025.

Question: Can only CCA members request the info?

Answer: Yes, members or a court.

Question: Last winter the NCC path on the Farm was not plowed, the year before it was. Plowing makes it easier to use, faster. Can NCC plow it earlier?

Answer: This is a priority for CCA as well, particularly for active transportation and hospital access.

Question: Can you explain why the lights on The Driveway are not always on or working?

Answer: This is an NCC responsibility but they are working on it.

Development (Robert Brinker)

- First phase of Ottawa's comprehensive zoning by-law passed; second draft available in May.
- City Council wants to eliminate the two-storey limit in parts of the city; they would like to have it be three storeys right away which would affect Carlington.
- Industry is pushing hard to get away from setbacks and regulations for buildings over 4-storeys; this would affect mainly the southern side of Carling, facing Viscount, and could go 6 storeys right away.
- Similar to the latest proposal on Merivale, former Carlington Coffee House, they do not have to have an angular setback because they are abutting an institution (W.E. Gowling) and not residential properties.

- Robert attended a meeting about rezoning on Anna Avenue (Children's Place). One home is owned by Children's Place, but they cannot use it because it's zoned residential. Looking to rezone in order to offer daycare services for infants. No concerns from the community; building currently being used for staff. No change to the building.
- Many developers are waiting for the new comprehensive zoning by-laws, in order to avoid fees for rezoning.
- Increased truck traffic on Prince of Wales as part of a new construction phase of the Civic Hospital.
- Because the City and not the Province has to pay for connections to the LRT, they are looking at minimal costs. The pedestrian connection to the LRT will be above the new parking garage because the hospital sits on top of the hill. There will be elevators and a pedestrian bridge. The LRT station can't be built into the parking garage due to its downward slope.

Question: Idea was to have a connection from LRT to parking garage - why? People taking the bus don't need the parking garage to get to the hospital.

Answer: If you are taking the bus from the east end, you would have to cross Carling. There will be a covered walkway on top of the parking garage, along with a green roof and tennis court. City is also debating installing moving sidewalks, similar to what is seen in airports.

Question: Has there been discussion about traffic-calming in the Farm, particularly once the hospital is built? Concerned that the Farm will be busier and faster with cars.

Answer: This is a legitimate concern and one that the CCA has raised several times.

- The Farm is also concerned about development in the area and protecting its space. Off-leash dogs in the Farm are a big problem because they run through research fields and leave poop, which can affect results.

Question: Why is a new 6-storey building on Merivale being built with no commercial space on the main floor?

Answer: Currently, as Merivale is a traditional main street, main floor commercial space is not required. Carling is an arterial main street, with different zoning requirements; they would have to have commercial space on the main floor. For Merivale, it's up to the builder. Even on Carling, developers are trying to get out of it because it's becoming increasingly difficult to obtain leaseholders due to high cost.

Question: Would a restaurant be allowed in the middle of a neighbourhood?

Answer: Not at the moment, the City is looking for low-impact projects.

- There was a lively and informal discussion regarding different options for our neighbourhood under the new zoning requirements.

Councillor Riley Brockington's Update Councillor Brockington summarized his report, speaking to a number of items including:

- Social events happening:
 - Annual River Ward Holiday Dinner Dec. 19 at Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre.
 - It's a catered meal, open to all members of the community free of charge. Last year 440 people attended and more are expected this year. Goal to do a better job this year letting people in Carlington know that free transportation is available, just RSVP your seat.
 - There are 2 seatings, 5:00 p.m. and 6:15 p.m., people taking the bus will be at the 5:00 seating.
 - November 21, co-hosting with CCA a Carlington Community Safety Night at Dulude Arena at 7:00 p.m. The Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT), SGH, and Community Housing will be in attendance with an opportunity for discussion.
 - November 19, 7:00 p.m. at the Jim Durrell Arena, will be a presentation on the City's proposed Budget with two other wards. Library will be there along with two other departments.

- Yesterday the City released its draft City Budget; it includes a 2.9% property tax increase (up from 2.5% last year). Most public focus is on the transit portion -- looking to overcome a \$120 million deficit with significant increases to the transit levy and fares and a significant reduction in free services.
- No services cuts as part of budget; there will be some route review modifications to be implemented April 1, 2025, to coincide with the opening of the Trillium Line.
- Councillor Brockington is looking at ways to lessen the impact of fare hikes, particularly the senior monthly pass increase from \$49 to \$108.
- Customized bus routes for junior high and high schools cost OC Transpo \$12 million/year for 4 school boards. This budget proposed a cost-recovery model which will put some financial pressure on school board budgets.
- There is a desire for better engagement from NRT for the community, including sharing of data and year-end results. Councillor Brockington met with the head of the NRT and had a worthwhile discussion. He was pleased to receive an email that summarized some traffic enforcement. For example, two officers were in Carlington yesterday as part of a combined NRT and Traffic Unit effort. In one day, 48 charges were laid. One person was charged with stunt driving on Fisher (going 95 km/hr) and the vehicle was impounded. Intent is to do these collaborative projects going forward to address traffic complaints in Carlington.
- Budget has funding to complete the final design for the expansion and renovation of the Alexander Community Centre (ACC) in 2025. Funding was also identified in 2026-27 to complete the construction of the expansion and renovation project. This is a reduction in timelines from when it was slated to begin in 2029. We now have a timeline and budget. This is a major delivery for Carlington! Whether the ACC can be kept open during construction is yet to be determined but is likely. Mayor to come to Carlington this winter to make a formal announcement about the project. This is pending final Budget approval, slated for December 11.
- For 2025, the City is engaged in the ACC expansion and renovation and water infrastructure renewal projects:
 - Archibald at Carling, east of old Travelodge, complete
 - Viscount, Veteran and Harrold, final consultation in early winter, budget pending that will be the first in Carlington to start.
 - Preliminary consultation in early 2025 about Anna, from Carling to General North and Crown Crescent on a water renewal project and road redesign with permanent traffic calming.
 - Merivale between Carling and Anna is in its first phase of redesign and has a city staffer assigned specifically to engage with the community on the redesign and how to rebuild Merivale to make it as cyclist- and pedestrian-friendly as possible.

Question: When deciding to eliminate Wed and Sun free transit for seniors, was keeping at least one day considered?

Answer: Councillor Brockington is not part of team who put together the budget but he does want to keep at least one free day and will advocate for that. Councillor Brockington is analyzing the budget this weekend. He will be meeting to discuss changes to fares and will not be voting for Budget as is, as we need to mitigate impacts to folks.

Question: Could you suggest Wednesday to accommodate appointments?

Answer: Yes, I would choose that. It's when professional services are available. Eliminating both days is drastic, keeping at least one would be helpful.

Question: Will Ontario's new proposed regulations regarding bike lanes affect Merivale redesign?

Answer: Likely no, because there is no plan to remove road lanes. Anything not yet tendered or contracted out that intends to swap traffic lanes for bike lanes requires provincial ministerial approval. Councillor Brockington was given permission to speak at a Standing Committee Meeting at Queen's Park and will be speaking against this bill. He believes that cities should look after cities and provinces after provinces. The benefits of bike lanes in a municipality far outweighs the risks. The risk of losing bike lanes appears greater for Toronto than Ottawa.

Finance (Mateusz Trybowski)

- [Treasurer's Report](#)
- Now have access to a Square and can accept digital payments at our events.
- We're over budget on activities in part because of pizza purchases at GMs.
- Our mandate is to support community activities within Carlington and we feel that it is justifiable to go over budget a little this year because we had a surplus last year.
- CCA Grant: Computer repair workshop'll be postponed until early 2025, goal is to complete it this fiscal.
- Administration: we purchased new equipment for these meetings, they were responsibly procured and will provide more quality meetings for those attending in a hybrid matter.

Question: Is there always going to be a line item for bouncy castles each year?

Answer: No, it is not an ongoing cost.

Question: How many computers were purchased? Were they under \$1000?

Answer: One computer was purchased for \$250, thanks to a Black Friday sale. With the hybrid model being as popular as it is, we wanted to have a CCA computer so that people were not using personal/work computers for CCA business. It takes three laptops to run these meetings: notes, online setup, monitoring chat.

New Business (Deirdre)

- **Deirdre:** Garden care for triangle garden at the corner of Merivale and Carling is the responsibility of the CCA. The season is now over and the garden is closed. There is no work left to do; the season wrapped up with bulb planting and the water tank has been emptied. About 10 volunteers came out sporadically throughout the season, but Deirdre was putting in a lot of work due to the size of the garden. Next year, goal is to have a team working better together. Another goal is improved signage for garden, as the sign we have now is small. Deirdre hopes to be able to talk to the Board in the new year about how we'll replace signage. Another goal is incorporating more pollinator-friendly ideas in the garden. If anyone is ever interesting in helping, reach out to Deirdre. With construction on Merivale, the only part of the garden affected is the southernmost part, where Merivale splits. We will lose one tree but it will be replaced with two. We will have input into what's going to happen.
- **Heather:** It would be great to send out an announcement to the community that Meadowvale Park playground and swing set is currently blocked off as the City is replacing the swing set and installing an accessible bench. I can send an update when the construction is completed. The rest of the park is open for use.
- **Alaine:** Merry and Bright is back! There will be one tree in each of Carlington's parks; big thanks to Charity for her support. We invite community members to hang an eco-friendly ornament and tweet or email a photo to enter to win prizes.
- **Jenn:** Seeking volunteers to help with rink maintenance at the ACC. The rink contract brings a significant amount of revenue to the CCA and assistance is needed.

Motion to adjourn: Michelle, seconded by Mateusz, all in favour, none opposed.