

CARLETON HEIGHTS AND AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CHARA)

Minutes of the CHARA Annual General Meeting

7:00 pm, Monday, June 20, 2022

Zoom meeting

1. **Call to Order and Welcome**

Attendees Elizabeth Anderson, Tim Patterson, Yvele Paquette, Lorraine Neville, Elizabeth Costello, Michael Mack (later), Andrew Hickey (Councillor Brockington's office), Angela Grandinetti and residents, Regrets: Darren Dicks

2. **Establish Quorum (5 required): Yvele Paquette**

3. **Approval of the Agenda (2 minutes) and approval of AGM June, 2021 Minutes** Lorraine Neville, Elizabeth Anderson seconded.

Approval of minutes for June 14, 2022 with changes below Lorraine Neville, Elizabeth Anderson seconded.

- Elizabeth Costello moved, that the Board approves these Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2022, as presented for CHARA, and that the Board forwards these statements to the CHARA AGM for their Approval, Seconded by Lorraine Neville. Motion carried.
- Elizabeth Costello moved, that the Board approves CHARA's investment in Directors and Officers insurance to support CHARA's sustainability and mitigate risk," Seconded by Darren Dicks. Motion carried. (This vote completed by email, included for ratification).

4. **Introduction of current CHARA board members** (10 minutes), roundtable introductions completed.

5. **President's Report** - Yvele Paquette (5 mins, speaking notes attached)

The President recounted CHARA achievements for the year, presenting at Committee, attending City-wide engagements, engaging at different events with other volunteers and the work of the volunteers and board members that upheld the quality of the rink for residents' enjoyment through the winter.

6. **Guest Speaker - Mayor Jim Watson** (15 Minutes)

Mayor Jim Watson thanked the volunteers locally and across Ottawa for their service and recounted City of Ottawa advancements over the past few years under his leadership.

7. **Approval of the Financial Statements** (2021-2022, ending March 31)

Elizabeth Costello, presented the consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022. The Financial Statements indicate Total Assets of \$20,190.81 and Total Liabilities of 4,042.95, leaving an accumulated surplus of \$16,147.86. The revenues for the year reached \$5,358.40, primarily due to the city grant of \$5,325 for running the outdoor rink. The Association expenses included outdoor rink maintenance honorariums, memberships, website hosting and insurance costs (no in-person event fees due to the impact of the pandemic), totalling 4,042.95, leaving an operating surplus of \$1,305.45. E. Costello moved that the Financial Statements as of March 31, 2022, be approved as presented at the AGM by the Board, Seconded Kurt West. Motion Carried.

8. **Rink Report** - Mike Mack (5 minutes)

CHARA board members have maintained the years for the local community for years. Some of the plowing and the boards for the rink are in need of replacement or repair. Volunteers come back year over year to help out. It was difficult for volunteers through the pandemic. The team aims to continue with a response to the new requests for proposal due for release this fall.

9. **Election of Directors**

Lorraine Neville advised the AGM attendees that there are four Directors positions open, for a two-year term, and one position for a one-year term. All nominees must be 18 years of age or older and residing in the CHARA area.

L. Neville indicated that the following nominations have been received from: Elizabeth Anderson and Tim Patterson. Yvele Paquette moved that the nomination of Elizabeth Anderson and Tim Patterson, as Directors of CHARA, be Approved, Seconded by Kurt West. Motion Carried.

Yvele Paquette moved, that the nomination of Angela Grandinetti, as a Director of CHARA, be Approved, Seconded by Kurt West. Motion Carried.

Kurt West Moved, that Mike Mack be nominated, as a Director of CHARA, be Approved, Seconded by Yvele Paquette. Motion Carried.

The President asked all nominees if they agreed to stand for office, as a Director of CHARA. All responded Yes.

L. Neville informed the AGM attendees that there was still one more position to fill on the Board for a one-year term. L. Neville called once, twice for any additional nominations. Since no further nominations were received, L. Neville closed the nominations. The four nominees were DECLARED Directors of CHARA for a two term. L. Neville, advised the AGM attendees that, in accordance with CHARA By-Laws, the Board may appoint a Board Member for any vacancy on the Board, if they wished. With Kurt West's resignation for the balance of his term, one position remains open for a one-year term.

The CHARA Board of Directors for 2023-24 are Elizabeth Anderson (2 years), Tim Patterson (2 years), Mike Mack (2 years), Angela Grandinetti (2 years), and returning Directors, Darren Hicks, (1 year), L. Neville (1 year), Elizabeth Costello (1 year), and Rachel Vincent (1 year). L. Neville explained the CHARA executive stay in place until the September Board meeting, at which time, these Directors, will select/elect from amongst themselves, the executives of the association: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors at large, and portfolio responsibilities. L. Neville, thanked the outgoing President Yvele Paquette for many years of service to CHARA and her many accomplishments.

10. **Councillor Riley Brockington presents**

- Parking lot zoning application at 1111 Prince of Wales Drive.
- Ottawa Ward boundary review extends Ward 16 to Westgate, Clyde and new Ottawa hospital.
- Fisher repaving and Meadowlands repaving Ortona to Prince of Wales.
- Watermain infrastructure problems in the Rideauview Terrace area continues to be monitored; it is not on the 3–5-year window for replacement.
- Prince of Wales roadway resurfacing, not slated for repaving hoping to elevate on the list.
- Water meter replacement program (Neptune Technology Group) underway
- Sidewalk repairs (e.g., Arnot Road at Dynes)
- New speed camera (Fisher between Dynes Road and Kintyre Private) and speed bump on Dynes Road at Claymor this year
- New Vacant Property (fines) and Amended Property Standards By-laws (pest control)
- Infrastructure and Water Services reviewed Claymor between Dynes and Meadowlands area for rats and postcards were sent on how to prevent unwanted creatures.
- Baseline Road Rapid Transit Corridor: Phase 1 from Heron to Baseline station is first in the queue. Estimated cost of \$165million (2020 dollars) without updated real estate acquisition numbers. No dollars yet assigned. Public consultation as part of final design.
- New Vacant Property and Amended Property Standards By-laws

- Ditch Alteration Policy, June 27, 9:30am Joint meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Community and Protective Services Committees. This document will focus on policy. The report is expected to be released on June 17 (tentative).
- 780 Baseline Road Development – Public Session will be held June 28, 7pm, virtual meeting. Councillor will host a session for River Ward residents, with the applicant and City Planner. (Councillor Egli holding a session June 22). The development is not yet on the agenda of the Planning Committee (anticipated 2023-2024). **The deadline for input has been removed.** Updates available at: <https://v2.ottwatch.ca/devapp/D02-02-22-0049>.
- Join us at social events this summer in July and August.

11. Councillor Riley Brockington questions

Q. What if I don't want my meter replaced and I don't like the way it is billed?

This is a question for Infrastructure and Water Services; it doesn't seem negotiable.

Q. How has the City of Ottawa responded to the request for a moratorium on development in our neighbourhoods due to lack of comprehensive data and maintenance? Here is the GM of Planning's (Stephen Willis, June 20, 2022) response to Councillor Brockington's request for consideration of an Interim Control Zoning Bylaw for Courtland Park. Based on further analysis:

- The volume of development applications is too low to merit a freeze on development. We can't segregate Courtland Park from Carleton Heights, but here are some high-level numbers: Most of the development in Carleton Heights has consisted of singles replacing singles. We also note that much of that development occurred prior to 2020, when the new infill rules on minimizing driveway widths and requiring up to 40% soft landscaping in front yards kicked in. So, concerns that have been expressed about excessive widths of driveways and paving over of front yards, and high rates of tree removals for the same are based on zoning rules that were changed in 2020 expressly to manage these issues. New development must be consistent with zoning going forward.
- The Baseline Corridor Secondary Plan with engineering support work is likely to be a priority for the 2022-2026 Term of Council
- For all major developments, the stormwater engineering criteria already state that post development must be the same or less in terms of flows as pre-development, so new major development approved through site plan should not exacerbate existing situations
- We acknowledge that there are a number of Committee of Adjustment applications, although not enough to merit an ICB, and staff will pay close attention to surface drainage infrastructure issues when commenting on those in the future. Michelle Bellemare provided the following information on Committee of Adjustment applications for your entire ward: MAP (our database) listed 67 Committee of Adjustment applications in Ward 16, from January 2020 to present. This is comprised of 33 Consent (severance) Applications and 34 Minor Variance Applications.
- Any ICB passed by Council should be used in the most extreme situations where current policy and processes cannot manage the applications, or there is a fundamental gap in policy. They should not be used as a tool to block individual applications. Staff do not feel that the situation in this instance merits the use of the most extreme tool.
- A motion can be drafted, but it would not be staff supported as staff would answer that we feel it is not necessary and the Secondary Plan is the appropriate next step.

12. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was moved by L. Neville and seconded by Y. Paquette at 8:45pm.

Speaking notes for the President's Report

I am Yvele Paquette and I have lived on Normandy Cr. since 1982. The Carleton Heights and Area Residents Association normally meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday, except July and August. Meetings last 90 minutes. I want to start off thanking Councillor Riley Brockington because he has helped CHARA so much with the New Official Plan by keeping us in the loop as much as possible. Thank you, Councillor Brockington and Andrew Hickey, for always attending and participating, every month, and as well, thank you for researching issues and responding to our many emails.

Our focus this past year was to engage more residents and local businesses. That was difficult because we could NOT chase you down physically. We had to rely on 6 main ways to inform you of what we were doing. We used the following: banner, business card, paper flyers, e-mail, social media and website. You may have seen our huge CHARA **banner** at the skating rink or a flyer for issues such as, by-law changes and the Infrastructure Master Plan. Perhaps you received a little orange generic **business card to use as a reminder to keep in touch**. You may have witnessed my witty humour on our Facebook Page. We now have 287 followers. We recently activated our Twitter account for which there are 188 followers there. And you probably received a few e-mails from info@ourchara.ca (that's me) concerning anything from meeting invitations to how to remove a tree trunk from your roof. Since February, our website had 1,760 visitors and just last month 408 visitors. Popular pages - "Contact us" page and the page for instructions on how to make an ice candle holder or a frozen flower Christmas wreath. Our site does get a fair amount of spam — someone always wants to make our site better. Or someone is always proposing marriage to me.

Again, **COVID** forced us to cancel BBQ. BUT Once again the **CHARA rink** was awesome through a group of dedicated volunteers. Skaters were happy even with the COVID guidelines we had to put in place. I'd like to take a moment to thank Mike Mack for his leadership in maintaining the rink with many, many hours of shovelling, scraping, flooding. One Friday night he spent 6 1/2 hours working on the rink. All in an effort to ensure residents had excellent skating/hockey experience on the weekend. Could we take a moment to applaud him and all the men, woman, children and snow plow drivers for building and maintaining our community rink.

What have we been doing? We attended many virtual meetings in the last 12 months. City Council meetings, Committee of Adjustment meetings, other association meetings. **For the Committee of Adjustment** - Councillor Brockington kept us well informed and vice a versa. **We read many documents**, attended meetings, wrote emails asking for corrections or clarification and also providing written support to neighbours. We listened to residents' issues and lent our support when they objected to developers' plans and/or by-law changes or wanting to protect the tree canopy. After attending COA meetings, residents who were presenting their case often felt disappointed with decisions and they walked away scratching their heads. Recently Elizabeth Costello attended a workshop on inner workings of COA. Before the end of June, Elizabeth Anderson and I will meet (along with others) with KPMG who are reviewing this committee's work. We want to have a better understanding of COA

The New Official Plan: The NOP had to be exhaustively studied and questioned. We felt that there was not enough time and resources for anyone to do due diligence. Councillor Brockington provided assistance and guidance throughout this complicated process. We presented at Joint Committees and wrote motions to the planning committee members and city councillors. Along with the South West Ottawa Community Association Alliance (SWCAA) we wrote to the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. CHARA's objectives were to secure greater transparency and accountability. CHARA supports intensification but only if it ensures the health and safety of our residents in our neighbourhoods. The new plan should take into account affordability, outdated infrastructure and the lack of good bus transportation. There is a lot to consider with the

NOP, such as the Transportation Master Plan, Infrastructure Master Plan, New comprehensive Zoning By-Law, Baseline Secondary Plan, New Ditch Alteration Policy. You can find out more from our very detailed letters as they are posted on www.ourchara.ca.

CHARA had some success with our advocacy. The first draft of the NOP put us into the inner urban transect but we were re-assigned to the outer urban transect on the basis of our concerns about inadequate infrastructure and public transportation. The City was going to eliminate the Carleton Heights Secondary Plan. CHARA ensured that a Secondary Plan was restored and we will be involved in further consultations on zoning for the plan and the revised Baseline Secondary Plan. CHARA worked with other community associations on issues surrounding the indicated, but non-existent and unfunded, Baseline Rd. Rapid Transit Corridor. Working together, a motion was put forward and moved for a Baseline Rd. Secondary Plan, and CHARA will participate in these ongoing consultations. We believe these accomplishments will help us safeguard safety, services and infrastructure for residents in the upcoming consultations concerning the proposed high-rise development at 780 Baseline Rd. We also struck a sub-committee to address the unique concerns of the small pocket neighbourhood of Courtland Park which unearthed similar concerns across our communities. The **New Official Plan subcommittee** created a guide booklet to their neighbourhood and physically led city officials around the area. We demonstrated how intensification is affecting our ageing infrastructure and the safety of residents especially with too many cars and lack of by-law enforcement. This advocacy has helped Councillor Riley persuade City of Ottawa staff to conduct a visual inspection of the ditches. That's a pretty good accomplishment.

City Park Play Structures - The City asked CHARA to solicit suggestions on the play structure in the Carleton Heights park at the community centre. Two plans will be sent to CHARA and we will be asked to vote on our favourite. I'd like to say thank you to the people who sand the current wooden structure. Splinters hurt tiny hands.

We were invited by a member of the Glebe Community Association to join in the zoom "meet the candidates" for the last **federal elections**. Residents whose e-mail addresses **we have received invitations to attend**.

Federation of Community Associations (FCA) - CHARA made a presentation this year to the Federation so they can see what we are all about. **The FCA is very well organized. There are 67 members.** Their membership is made up of other community non-for-profit associations. - like us. The benefits for us (when we participate) - have a powerful voice with city councillors and the province of Ontario and together we can address issues on the environments, safety, NOP (and more).

Sever weather storm: CHARA played an integral part with communicating to residents providing current updates during the **severe storm**. Updates came from the city, Council Brockington, Hydro Ottawa and other residents. We sent out as many e-mails as possible and posted updates and pics on Facebook and Twitter. We connected.

Connecting with you: At one-point last year during the boring almost sad days of COVID-19 I recorded and shared the video of a guy dressed in a kilt playing beautiful uplifting music on the bagpipes. He was walking down Normandy. Neighbours came out and sat on their steps and clapped and laughed. I immediately updated Facebook. It was the best feeling I had from a Facebook post where one person said "he was just here on my street" and someone else "saying send him over to such and such street, "I just wanted to share that residents are connecting whether it is about stolen ladders, coyote sightings and vehicle break-ins (and more).

Forward Planning (after COVID it should be different and better)

Increase members attending meetings and working on projects. According to our by-laws if you live in Carleton Heights and Area, you are a member of our association. As a voluntary not-for-profit association our strength is our active members. The more active members, the bigger our voice is. The city hears us better. Even if you just come to observe at our meetings is helpful. Without more input and volunteers CHARA cannot do the things we would really like to do this forthcoming year: winter carnival, gigantic garage sale, trivia night, bingo, community garden (we started looking into this and have documentation to get started), enhance our website using WordPress (would be awesome if a volunteer knows WordPress), newsletters / brochure, create a paper / electronic manual containing all our procedures (they are already documented), continue work by-law changes, NOP - your voice needs to be heard for all those master plans, and do you like Reading other peoples mail? Our electronic e-mail requires a volunteer to read daily mails and forward them to the appropriate people. You will receive many marriage proposals from various countries around the world. You don't have to be a director on the Board but you can volunteer to be a committee member or be the lead to a group to do let's say a garage sale. You could write a newsletter or blog. Volunteers are the key to the future of CHARA. Your experience and time will help us tremendously.

Next year I won't be a director or president but I will be an active volunteer. I would like to offer the following advice. You know when you join an exercise class and every week you just don't feel like going, you drag yourself off the couch and go and once you get there exercising amongst friends, you're so happy you went. Bring a friend when you volunteer to CHARA, you'll be happy you did and your buddy will too. I look forward to meeting and working with you in person starting in September. Thank you.

Yvele Paquette

2022 AGM

June 20, 2022