

## Chair's Report – March 8, 2016

### Main Street construction

Hydro pole replacement appears to be close to completion north of Clegg, with tree trimming and removal proceeding south of Clegg.

### Clegg / Fifth Avenue pedestrian bridge

As a follow-up to the discussions at the public information session on February 4, the OOECA sent a letter to Craig Anderson, the City's senior project manager on this file, on February 24 (copied to our Councillor, MPP and MP). The key purposes of this letter were: to note our support for the possible acceleration of the construction of the bridge; to thank our local, provincial and federal representatives for their support in moving the project forward; and to provide our comments along with some recommendations on the bridge design.

In terms of the new design, we recommended the following tweaks:

***Additional Stairs:*** Stairs should be built at the northern end of the switchback on the east side and at the northern end of the ramp on the west side.

***Lookout / Resting Area(s) at Mid-Span:*** The loss of the previous design's comfortable viewing area at mid-span is regrettable so we recommend redesign that allows people to stop and safely take in what will be glorious new views of the canal.

***Structural Ramps:*** One of the stated goals of the bridge is to be "slender, light and transparent." However, the new proposal for a large and lengthy berm on the west side and the previously proposed berm under the switchback on the east side do not contribute to this goal. So we recommend that the ramps all be supported on slender piers so that views aren't blocked and the mass of the bridge is reduced.

***East Side Landing Area:*** The current proposed landing is situated on a small boulevard between Colonel By Drive and Echo Drive. We recommend the design consider all possible opportunities to enhance the size, safety, connectivity, landscaping and efficacy of the east side landing area. "

### Greystone Village - New park

The OOECA hosted a public information session on Monday, February 29 to preview the latest design concepts for the Grande Allee and Forecourt of the Greystone Project. Eddie will be providing further information in his report to the Board.

## **The Corners at Main**

Domicile is planning to demolish the existing row houses on Main Street soon. By the end of the month they expect to start site preparations and excavation.

The Domicile Presentation Centre is almost done. Inside, it will feature one fully furnished model along with a large display/sales area. They plan to open the Presentation Centre at the end of the month for a couple of specific invitation events. The public opening is currently planned for Saturday, April 2nd.

## **Secondary dwelling units in accessory structures (i.e., coach houses)**

The OOECA sponsored an information session on the City's proposals on Monday, February 22. We subsequently sent a request to our Councillor on Wednesday, February 24 for assistance in addressing some of our questions and concerns with the proposals. In particular, we noted our concerns with respect to:

**Public consultation** – very low response rate to original questionnaire and decision to drop a second questionnaire.

**Integration with urban context** – desired goal of no adverse impact on adjacent properties (in terms of privacy, shadowing and overlook) could be difficult to achieve with some of proposed rules, e.g., 2 storey height.

**Inconsistency of recommendations to existing bylaws** – in particular, proposed set-backs could be insufficient for construction and maintenance, and that ideal of private green space in rear yards as proposed in Infill 2 rules would be ignored.

## **Main Event, June 18**

I am happy to report that Ed Janes, our VP, has agreed to take on the duties associated with organizing the barbeque. Thank you Ed!

## **Queensway sound barriers**

The OOECA will be sending a letter to our MPP and Ministry of Transport staff on the lack of sound barriers at the far ends of Havelock, Montcalm and Greenfield. Thanks to Glen Linder for drafting the letter and filming a short video of the current traffic situation.

## **On-going safety concerns on the Bank St Bridge at the canal**

We are supporting the efforts of our sister organizations in Old Ottawa South and the Glebe to request a comprehensive road safety study of the Holmwood to Aylmer section of Bank St which would identify and implement measures that will alleviate the safety concerns.

## **Review of Minimum Parking Requirements**

On March 3, I received the following information from Tim Moerman, a City of Ottawa planner in the Policy Development and Urban Design Branch, regarding a City-initiated zoning amendment.

Additional information regarding this proposal, **including PDF maps at a higher resolution**, is available online at [ottawa.ca/minimumparking](http://ottawa.ca/minimumparking)

If you have any questions or require additional information, contact Tim Moerman by telephone at 613-580-2424, extension 13944 or by email, at [tim.moerman@ottawa.ca](mailto:tim.moerman@ottawa.ca).

Please provide comments to Tim on or before **April 5, 2016**: by mail using the comment sheet available from Tim, or by e-mail at [tim.moerman@ottawa.ca](mailto:tim.moerman@ottawa.ca) or [minimumparking@ottawa.ca](mailto:minimumparking@ottawa.ca).

Note that if you request to be included and/or submit comments, you will receive notice of when community and committee meetings are happening and further information related to the decision regarding the application.

## **Police, police services and community safety**

Our Community Safety representative Mark Seebaran has provided the link below to a provincial initiative.

The Province of Ontario is currently consulting with the public on a new provincial policing plan. To date the province has prepared a discussion paper, created an online survey (to be completed by April 8, 2016) and will be holding a number of public consultations across the province. The Ottawa session will be on April 2, 2016 at the Old Firehall in Old Ottawa South.

More information plus the links to the paper and survey are available at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/police-police-services-and-community-safety#section-1>

### **Proposed boundary changes to Elgin Street Public School**

The Ottawa Board of Education recently announced that they will not be making the proposed boundary changes for OOE at this time. I have asked Catherine Pacella (our Communications rep on the Board + a co-chair of the Elgin Street School Parent Council) if she could provide feedback and an update on the latest school board decisions.