

OOECA Lansdowne Committee – John Dance

Ian Sadinsky and Brendan O’Kelly have joined the committee.

Approved Changes to help OSEG with Pandemic and Other Financial Challenges

On December 9, 2020 City Council approved the bail-out provisions for OSEG which were previously approved by the city’s finance and economic development committee. As a result of Councillor Menard’s efforts and community action, two changes were made to what was originally approved:

- (1) OSEG has agreed that the Red Blacks and the 67s will stay for at least an additional 10 years;
- (2) The City and OSEG are to produce a strategy “to boost foot traffic at Lansdowne,” with a plan to report back to council by June 2021. Council also approved a motion to include a "stakeholders' sounding board" in the discussions, which would include the Ottawa Farmers' Market, community associations, business groups and representatives from the festival, theatre and music communities. No details have been released as to how community associations will be involved.

The seven councillors who voted against the bailout were: Jeff Leiper, Catherine McKenney, Carol Anne Meehan, Theresa Kavanagh, Rawlson King, Diane Deans and Shawn Menard.

Proposed Changes to Aberdeen Square

As of this writing, according to Dan Chenier, General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services, “The City and Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group are still reviewing the requested changes [from Councillor Menard] to the proposal and discussions on this matter have not yet concluded.”

In short, it appears as though the City and OSEG still intend on proceeding with what they proposed in August despite the fact that there was no community consultation factored into these proposals and none of the suggestions made in subsequent “consultations” has been accepted.

Lansdowne Use during the Pandemic

Despite OSEG’s struggles, the urban park portion of Lansdowne has been very busy over the last few months. Perhaps Lansdowne really is fulfilling its purpose of people simply enjoying themselves outdoors, whether on the skating rink, sliding down the hill of the “great lawn,” or simply strolling about. The Flora Footbridge has allowed lots more OOErs to easily walk to the park.