

## **Chair's Report - March 2013**

### ***1. Proposed Parking Lot on 160 Lees Avenue Greenspace:***

As of March 5, 2013 the city fully supported the locating of the LRT-compensation parking lot for the University of Ottawa at "193 - 200" Lees Avenue (north of uOttawa buildings) and NOT on 160 Lees (the greenspace) but uOttawa's decision on whether it was going to accept the new proposal was still pending with no indication of when the university would be making its decision.

The university has continued to be secretive and reluctant to share information aside from what it's done to promote sustainable activity elsewhere. However, in a conversation with the university's Alastair Mullin this week I was told that he's of the view that the university will agree to the parking lot NOT being at 160 Lees. If the university does agree to the new location then OOECA members propose that there be an OOECA-sponsored event to celebrate the efforts of many community members and those elsewhere in persuading the university and the city to come up with a better location for the parking lot.

Also, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre (Chris Osler) with help from colleagues and community members and the support of the Wolves Rugby Association held a well-attended 160 Lees event February 16<sup>th</sup>. 68 people signed a petition asking that the parking lot not be at 160 Lees and about 60 letters to Allan Rock and to Mayor Watson were signed.

### ***2. Proposed Ramp for Old Town Hall***

CAG, OOECA and Christine Honsl reviewed plans for the city-proposed ramp for OTH and made a number of recommendations for changes to the proposal - most notably that the ramp go along the side of OTH rather than occupy much of the yard at the Main-Hawthorne corner.

### ***3. Undergrounding of Hydro Wires for Central Portion of Main Street***

The city seems to be adamant that it will not fund the undergrounding of hydro wires on the west side of Main Street between Immaculata and Clegg Street. This position is despite the fact that the Council-approved secondary plan "priorizes" this undergrounding and undergrounding is being done along this stretch anyway because of the need to install lines for the institutional lands and for LRT.

### ***4. Consideration of Main Street as "Complete Street"***

As of March 5, 2013 there still had not been a "senior management" decision on whether the city would allow the consideration of Main Rebuild options whereby Main Street would be a "complete street," i.e., ensuring safety of pedestrians and cyclists. The delay does not make sense in the context of the Official Plan draft that has safe and efficient transportation infrastructure, sustainable transportation, complete streets, and active transportation as four of the 13 proposed priorities (really only 10, if you exclude the rural priorities).

### **5. *Mainstreeter* - OOECA Column**

I've asked Joseph Zebrowski if OOECA could have a regular (unpaid) column in the *Mainstreeter* but haven't heard back from him yet.

### **6. *OOECA Response to Official Plan Proposals***

Perspectives on what should be in the association's position on the official plan proposals would be welcomed so that we can provide input by March 18<sup>th</sup> (we'll have seen proposals for Planning Committee at that point). Suggested comments so far: support for priorities such as "safe and efficient transportation infrastructure, sustainable transportation, complete streets, and active transportation" but opposition to the Tall Buildings provisions. Also, we could restate our opposition to any road going through the AVTC lands.

### **7. *Alpha Food Lease***

A Saint Paul University mediator met with both parties and they resolved outstanding issues. Congratulations for working this out.

### **8. *Brantwood Rink***

March 3, 2013 was the last day for the Brantwood Rink. The rink, run by about 50 community volunteers coordinated by Cindy Courtemanche, opened earlier (Christmas) than virtually all other City rinks and closed later, even being open after the heavy snowfall of February 27. And a very big thanks to Mike Galazka, owner of Mike's Service Centre, who for more than 20 years has plowed the rink, and whose plow suffered in the clearing of the aftermath of the February 27<sup>th</sup> storm.

