Annual General Meeting Notes: NOV 13, 2019

1. **Review of Agenda and General Remarks:** Karen Wright, President CHNA
2. **Guest Speaker - Joel Harden, MPP Ottawa-Centre**
   1. **The Addiction Crises:** Discussed the impact on so many families, including his own. The value of the St. Luke’s injection site and the connection between mental health and addiction. Investment in this area pays dividends both socially and financially.
   2. **LRT:** Reviewed his meeting in Centretown to help address the LRT deployment issues.
3. **Transportation Committee (*Luanne Calcutt*):** 
   1. Parkdale Initiative: Parkdale Avenue traffic management is now a strategic priority of the CHNA, as passed by a recent board motion. The issues on this street affect adjoining streets. CHNA acknowledge years of advocacy by Parkdale and Sherwood Drive residents.
   2. Focus is on the two points indicated on the slide i) relocation of blue H sign back to 417-Carling Avenue interchange and ii) permanent closure of 417- EE ramp closure. Both issues have added a significant traffic burden on Parkdale, a two lane residential street, and nearby streets in the community. A spin off effect is that traffic funnels through the rest of the community because Parkdale is inaccessible and unsafe.
   3. **H Sign:** Working to move it back to the 417 EB Carling Exit from Parkdale to divert some of the flow of traffic off congested Parkdale. The H sign was originally located at the 417-Carling EB off ramp, based on evidence from traffic engineers at the time (‘80s). Moved as a temporary measure during road work. MTO has no record of the move, nor why it wasn’t moved back. With 2 levels of government and a hospital involved it’s been difficult to get this resolved. We now have Joel and Jeff’s support for the relocation and they will advocate on our behalf with the Ministry of Transportation and the Ottawa Hospital.
   4. **417 Ramp Closures Impacting SAFETY:** CHNA opposed the permanent closure of the Carling East EB 417 on ramp, particularly as there had been no mitigation strategies identified or implemented to address the diversion of hundreds of cars to Parkdale Avenue and nearby streets. We request an intergovernmental solution to this outcome as it was the MTO who was responsible for the closure and the City who is responsible for Parkdale road design and safety.
      1. Traffic Increase: As predicted, the closure of the Carling East EB 417 on ramp plus the “temporary” closure of the Carling West EB 417 on ramp which remains closed has had a devastating effect on Parkdale Traffic. For Sherwood Parkdale, the traffic data from July 2017 to 2018 was available and shows a **10% increase Year over Year** with the permanent closure of the ramp.
      2. The Parkdale and Sherwood intersection serves as a prime example where children, cyclists, and motorists are particularly at risk. There have been numerous accidents on Parkdale including a most unfortunate and serious accident involving a cyclist at Ruskin and Parkdale.
      3. The community is requesting solutions to this increasingly dangerous issue. There are many potential solutions and we are requesting an open conversation about this.
      4. We also sought the installation of a crossing guard as several schools serve our community yet there will be no action for at least another full school year.
4. **Parkdale Traffic Management Sub-Committee (*Tanis Halpape*):** 
   1. New Sub-Committee managed to create and deliver 500 flyers in 3 days highlighting the marked increase in the last year in Parkdale traffic and accidents.
   2. No mitigation measures were put into place with the permanent removal of the Carling East Eastbound 417 on-ramp nor the “temporary” removal of the Carling West EB 417 on-ramp which has been extended multiple times, creating hazardous Safety issues.
   3. Quotes from School authorities at St. Georges and Fisher Park along with parents, expressing their concerns regarding the Safety of students.
5. **Traffic Q&A** 
   1. MPP on Pedestrian Safety: Joel talked of Vision Zero and offered to be a Crossing Guard the next morning at Sherwood and Parkdale, to access the situation and bring more focus to this safety issue
   2. Question: Red Lights. Moved here 1 year ago, never expected this. At Inglewood, someone runs the light every day. We need change. RESPONSE: The Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is about to be reviewed and it’s the time to look at changes and what is possible; re-designation the street was mentioned as an example. It is currently an arterial road which reduces the number of traffic calming measures allows (eg. No speed bumps, no flags).
   3. Question: Biking. Challenge to officials if they would cycle down Parkdale. RESPONSE: Jeff cycles Tyndale, Parkdale and Sherwood every day, and he doesn’t like it. Cycle tracks are the best answer, but the street was rebuilt 10 years ago so it will be 30-40 years before it’s rebuilt.
   4. Question: The Westgate Closure, Ped Bridges and LRT impacts. We see NO coordination between the City and MTO to mitigate the removal of the onramp. The Pedestrian Bridge is temporarily gone. Buses now feed Tunny’s and the LRT by going down Holland, increasing the volume. Why does a pedestrian bridge take 2 Years to replace?
   5. Question: Red Lights and Traffic Enforcement: Red Lights are also run at Sherwood. We need Jeff to increase traffic enforcement. RESPONSE: Jeff explained that the police do not report to councillors and while he advocates constantly, he cannot mandate increased enforcement. The police are hiring more officers for this area but currently, the best way to get them to increase enforcement is to report. Discussion around the fact the online form is a barrier and is an action item for the sub committee.
   6. Question: No Turn enforcement is VERY Poor:
   7. Question: Accidents almost daily at Kenilworth and Parkdale: RESPONSE: Staff (Phil Landry) has been asked to look at the design of this intersection.
   8. Question: Alternatives to Parkdale: Why is Parkdale the only choice? Jeff has been on the record being opposed to moving some traffic to Rochester. We need him to have an open mind to the fact the traffic load needs to be shared. Parkdale can’t be sacrificed to the point it is now, a complete safety hazard. RESPONSE: Jeff agreed he needs to keep an open mind regarding solutions.
   9. Question: Focus on Traffic needed: RESPONSE: Tom in Jeff’s office is dedicated to traffic and spends 1/3 of his time on the Civic.
   10. Question: GROSS NEGLIGENCE: It is gross negligence when two 417 exits close and there is nothing done to avoid the safety issues created. Someone will die, possibly a child. Someone else reported being knocked off their bike. There was a discussion on the need for a 4way signal at Sherwood and at Kenilworth.
   11. Question: Many comments on safety. RESPONSE: Jeff focused on the importance of the new Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan.
6. **CHNA Environment Committee: Laurel McIvor**
   1. Thank you to everyone (66 people) who responded to our “Greening our Neighbourhood” survey we did in the spring. Based on the survey, we have established a new Environment Committee and set the following priorities for the next year:
      1. Conduct a neighbourhood tree inventory to learn more about the health and diversity of our trees and develop a succession plan for the future
      2. Offer learning opportunities about wildlife-friendly gardening and native plant gardening
      3. Celebrate and learn more about the nature in our neighbourhood and how to support it
7. **Guest Speaker – Daniel Buckles, Community Tree Advocate** 
   1. **Retain, Replace, Renew** the Ottawa Tree Canopy**.**
      1. **Replace/Renew:** Our urban trees are getting old and we must focus on replanting
      2. **Retain:** It is difficult to stop a determined property owner from removing a tree
      3. **Community Actions**:
         * Need to celebrate Heritage Trees, e.g. The Champlain Burr Oaks. Focus on the value of trees. Edmonton showed that their tree canopy saves the city $30M annually…YES, EVERY YEAR!
         * There is a LOST TREE map that you can contribute to celebrate a tree that we’ve lost and explain your personal connection to it.
         * We began mapping our trees but stopped the focus on mapping as soon as the obvious need for more diversity in species and age of trees was established. Next step is encouraging individuals to plant trees on their own land and on city properties.
      4. **Updates to the current Tree Bylaw-** will be approved in January, improvements include:
         1. Boundary Trees – protect trees that are on a property line
         2. Reduce the size “protected” trees from the old rule of 50 cm trunk diameter (too large, especially for evergreens) to 30 cm for deciduous and 20 cm for evergreen
         3. Improve the permit process to allow and encourage builders to work around or near a tree instead of automatically clearing all trees before building.

Increasing compensation required for a damaged/removed tree (e.g. for every tree lost, require 4 replacements)

1. **CHNA Fall Report:** Karen Wright**:** Due to a lack of time, we had to skip reviewing the slides on Events and Financials.
2. **Civic Hospital Relocation Committee (CHRC):** Peter Eady
   1. Next meeting is Nov 26, 7-8:30pm
3. **Getting Involved:**  Peter Eady
   1. Peter explained the open roles and the crucial importance of contributing to find solutions and to ensure your neighbourhood remains livable.
4. **Honouring Shirley Rayes!**
   1. **Shirley is named our Volunteer of the Year!**
   2. The person that nominated her said: *"I nominate Shirley Rayes for the CHNA Volunteer Award for her decades of fearlessly tackling neighbourhood issues and in particular being a champion at buttonholing our mayor when other elected reps seemed incapable of timely appropriate action."*
   3. Most recently, Shirley successfully got action with the city to get 40K on Sherwood. More to follow in the Spring when we present the plaque**.**
   4. **Other, very worthy people were nominated and we encourage people to re-nominate them next year.**
5. **Board Election!**
   1. Roles and Nominees (\*returning)
   2. *President – Karen Wright \* - ACCLAIMED*
   3. *Vice President – Peter Eady\*- ACCLAIMED*
   4. *Treasurer – Julie Westall\*- ACCLAIMED*
   5. *Secretary – Lee Ann Graston – NEW! - ACCLAIMED*
   6. *Safety – Shane Quinn\*- ACCLAIMED*
   7. *Transportation - Luanne Calcutt\*- ACCLAIMED*
   8. *Environment – Laurel McIvor (new role for Laurel) - ACCLAIMED*
   9. *Planning and Development – OPEN*
   10. *Membership – Susan Chell self-nominated at the meeting - ACCLAIMED*
   11. *Communications - OPEN*
   12. *Subcommittee Leads*
   13. *Heritage and History – Andy Billingsley\* and Matt Lemay co-chairs - ACCLAIMED*
   14. *Fundraising and Sponsorship – OPEN*
   15. *Special Events – OPEN (especially Pumpkins in the Park 2020)*
6. **Kitchissippi Update and Q&A:** Councillor Jeff Leiper
7. **Adjournment:** 9:15pm