**Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**November 5, 2020 at 7pm**

Present:

Karen Wright - President, Peter Eady - Vice President, Julie Westall - Treasurer, Lee Anne Graston - Secretary, Shane Quinn - Safety, Luanne Calcutt - Transportation, Laurel McIvor – Environment, Susan Chell - Membership, Matt Lemay – History and Heritage, Linda Niksic - Planning and Development and CHNA Members

Guests: Jeff Leiper - Councillor, Fiona Mitchell – Councillor’s assistant

1. **Introduction and general remarks**

Karen welcomes members to first CHNA virtual Annual General Meeting. She discusses some technical aspects, including the use of the Q&A function to ask questions and the fact that the meeting is being recorded. She notes that in normal times, she would provide an overview of all the events that took place during the year, which were not possible with COVID, but that the CHNA looks forward to holding events when possible. She thanks Susan Chell for her generous donation of $1,000 in lieu of her usual contribution to Pumpkins in Park. She also shares that a member wishes to pass along their thanks for the warm clothing donated by members to a drive held for Shepherd’s of Good Hope.

Karen introduces the PowerPoint presentation and provides an overview of the agenda.

Before proceeding to the election of the board, Karen wishes to thank Andy Billingsley as the founder of our for Heritage and History Committee and his many contributions ever since as its chair. As Andy steps down, co-chair Matt Lemay will assume the role as chair.

**2. Election of board**

Peter names the persons seeking to be elected as directors and/or directors-officers, which are as follows:

* President – Karen Wright
* Vice President – Peter Eady
* Treasurer – Julie Westall
* Secretary – Lee Anne Graston
* Safety – Shane Quinn
* Transportation - Luanne Calcutt
* Environment – Laurel McIvor
* Planning and Development – Linda Niksic
* Membership – Susan Chell
* Heritage and History –Matt Lemay

Peter confirms that as these persons are acclaimed as directors as they have run uncontested. He also notes that the constitution allows up to 13 members of the board, and directors may be involved in the various committees. He notes that several committee positions are vacant (Communications, Fundraising and Sponsorship, and Special Events), and that if persons are interested in any of these positions, they may present themselves for election before the next Annual General Meeting.

Karen thanks Linda Niksic for putting herself forward as the Chair of the Planning and Development Committee, and refers to Linda’s biography in the presentation. Karen then introduces an interactive poll, which asks members to vote on what they would consider are hot topics. The most popular in order are: transportation and traffic, planning and development and the new Civic Hospital.

**3. Finance snapshot**

Julie provides an overview of the finances. She notes that membership revenue is up owing to lifetime memberships ($3,469.25), and that the bank balance ($15,659.23) is high this year because of the lack of events. She lists some of the expenses incurred in 2020.

1. **Environment Committee**

Laurel informs members that the Environment Committee has 10 members. She mentions that at the last Annual General Meeting, Daniel Buckles had come to talk to members about trees and the work that is being done in the City to protect trees. Laurel says that the Committee had planned to do a neighbourhood tree survey, but changed tact due to COVID. They nevertheless promoted a few events, including inviting neighbours to participate in the international "City Nature Challenge” on Earth Day, using the I-Naturalist App to record wildlife observations, and a “Tree Walk” on World Environment Day on June 5, in which people identified interesting trees on their properties.

Laurel notes that in June, it was brought to the CHNA’s attention that the new tulip patch in Fairmont Park had become overgrown, and Jeff Leiper had asked whether there was an interest to upkeep the patch. The Committee agreed to turn the patch into a native plant demonstration garden, which they did over the summer. Laurel thanks Jeff Leiper for financially supporting this project. She asks members to keep an eye out for the tree survey next summer, and notes that there may be an opportunity for members wishing to help with this survey.

A member asks about the City’s plan to remove gypsy moths. Laurel says she will find out and share the information.

Karen runs a second poll that asks whether members would be willing to have persons conduct the tree survey on their property, in reply to which a majority of members respond that they would.

1. **Membership Committee**

Susan thanks everyone for supporting the CHNA, despite the challenges this year. She notes that the CHNA introduced lifetime membership two years ago and that there are now close to 80 households with lifetime memberships. Susan shows members the sample lifetime membership certificate that will be sent to lifetime members soon. She notes there are now approximately 250 household memberships in good standing. Susan encourages members to ask their neighbours to join as members, and invites any members who wish to volunteer on the Membership Committee to do so via the CHNA website.

1. **Transportation Committee**

Luanne notes that COVID-notwithstanding, it has been a busy year. She extends her thanks to the Transportation Committee consisting of 11 members, with many contributors. She notes that currently there is no members on the committee from the area East of and including Bayswater, should any members in these areas be interested.

Luanne highlights the following:

* Traffic management on Sherwood Drive: Luanne notes that Sherwood Drive is now eligible for a traffic calming measures survey, of particular importance in advance of the new Civic Hospital. She encourages members to respond to the survey noting the November 16 deadline. She notes that the survey has been shared with schools, school and parent councils, Bike Ottawa, etc.
* Crossing guard at the corner of Parkdale and Sherwood: She notes the Committee has been lobbying Joel Harden, Jeff Leiper, Transportation Minister Mulroney, and that pedestrian counts to support a request for a crossing guard at this corner should be available soon. Luanne asks Jeff Leiper whether there are any updates on this issue, including the pedestrian counts, and Jeff asks that she follow up with his office.
* Permanent bike lanes on Holland: She notes that Jeff Leiper made a motion to City’s Transportation Committee for permanent bikes lanes (which CHNA supports), which was approved and now will go to full Council. She expresses disappointment that the speed limit will be increased from 30 km/hr to 40 km/hr, but understands the tension between the need for safety and the City’s operational needs. A member asks whether there are plans for restoring the bus priority light, which will make commuting by bus on Holland easier. Luanne says this subject does come up from time to time, and refers the question to Jeff Leiper, who responds that he will look into this.
* Master Transportation Plan: Luanne raises the importance of the Master Transportation Plan and that links to the website were provided to members.
* Committee as liaison to Civic Hospital Relocation Committee (CHRC): She notes that the CHRC had asked for the terms of reference for the transportation study being conducted by The Ottawa Hospital.

1. **New Civic Hospital**

Peter tells members that he chairs the CHRC, composed of the Transportation Committee Chair, the Development Committee Chair and approximately 9 other members. Peter also sits on the Campus Engagement Group (CEG), which has been in existence for 2 years, but that the CEG had not met before last week since February, owing to COVID. The CHRC is waiting on some responses from the hospital’s planning and development consultant (Graham Bird Associates or GBA), who is also responsible for engagement.

Peter mentions that GBA made a high-level presentation at the CEG meeting last week, and that the Q&A session did not provide sufficient details, including answers to questions regarding the Parsons consultant study. CEG members therefore agreed to reiterate their questions to GBA in writing. Peter notes that it took some time for CEG members to be provided with the terms of reference of the Parsons’ contract, and notes that it is important to be able to review these to ensure that the engagement principles that members have worked on are included. Peter tells members that they will continue to fight for transparency, while keeping the dialogue with the hospital open.

Peter notes that the plan is for the new hospital to open by 2028, with construction to start in 2023. Peter mentions that he saw an article in the Ottawa Construction News to the effect that this would be a private-public partnership, which he finds surprising, considering the data that exists suggesting that P3s are not always successful.

Karen addresses a question regarding the Ottawa Heart ambulance route and temporary drop off on Melrose. She notes that she has been told that as soon as roofing work is done, the ambulance drop off would be moved to it’s original/permanent location.. She noted that discussions are ongoing on issues such as requiring ambulances to stop idling at the entrance, etc. and tells Jeff that it has been suggested that perhaps Jeff Leiper could intervene on these issues.

1. **Temporary Building at Civic Hospital**

Karen informs members about the temporary structure being built on the Grimes parking lot, at the corner of Carling and Melrose. She explains this is meant to house 40 beds in response to several issues, including that ambulances have been having to wait too long to offload patients, and in general, for extra space, taking into account COVID-restrictions, which limit the number of persons that may be placed in a long-term care room resulting in an increased number of ALC (Alternate Level of Care) patients occupying hospital beds. She tells members that she has met with Senior Vice President Joanne Reid, who was able to answer some questions. Construction will take place between 7 am-10pm every day, which represents somewhat reduced hours as compared to what legally could be done under the Ontario Emergency Act (i.e. 24 hours/day). Once work moves inside at the end of November, it is hoped that it will be quieter for Melrose residents. The hospital has implemented certain measures (deliveries on Carling, construction workers provided with parking, etc.). A concern remains however as to the location of the structure’s HVAC unit, and a request has been made to move the unit closer to Carling Avenue. Construction should be completed before Christmas.

On a related note, Karen addresses a question from a member to Jeff Leiper about the increased drug paraphernalia around the hospital campus. Jeff says that while he was not aware of this particular incident, vulnerable persons have been affected by a decrease in services during COVID. He says that community associations should put pressure on provinces to make sure these services are still being provided, and advocate for housing, but that he will provide some resources in his next newsletter, including what to do when needles are found.

1. **New CHNA website**

Matt provides an overview of the revised CHNA website. He explains that the goal is to make it easy to find information that the CHNA publishes on various forms (Twitter, Facebook) in one place on its website, and to provide useful links to the CHNA Committees’ work, and to external sources, including municipal and provincial information, and such things as garbage collection, skating rinks, and various maps. Matt further explains the website is not yet live, but that it should be by the end of the year.

1. **Guest speaker – Councillor Jeff Leiper**

Jeff thanks the Board and volunteers for their work, and thanks Andy for his service to the CHNA.

Jeff explains that he was interested in the poll that categorized members’ priorities and that these were also his priorities: traffic, transportation and development. His office has seen an increase in emails on theses issues, likely because there are more people working from home and taking notice of things in their neighbourhoods.

Jeff tells members that as compared to last year, the City is involved in significant high-level policy work, with a focus on development and transportation networks to support this development:

* Official Plan/Master Transportation Plan: Jeff explains that the City of Ottawa has an Official Plan that describes how city is going to grow. The Province has said that it will support growth mostly through intensification and electrified transit, and that the City must tell the Province how it is going to meet these goals. It is therefore “doubling down” on LRT, intensification, and looking at planning in a different way, mainly less focused on separating commercial from residential, while moving towards more mixed neighbourhoods, including inner urban neighbourhoods. He encourages members to engage with the City on the Official Plan. Fiona Mitchell provides a link to all the development files.

The Official Plan then feeds into the Master Transportation Plan, which in essence decides how people are to travel around the City, including bus routes, light rail transit, etc. This forms the basis for determining infrastructure capital costs, which then translate into development charges charged to developers to off-set these costs. Jeff mentions that there is also an infrastructure master plan for things like sewers, water and parks, which also translate into development charges. Jeff thinks that the flashpoints in the Transportation Master Plan are road widenings, road infrastructure, biking and transit.

* Ward boundary review: Jeff explains that there are currently 23 wards with one councillor each, and that wards are technically supposed to have the same numbers of residents. Kitchissippi is starting to be under-represented, meaning too many people for one councillor to represent. Fiona provides a link to the ward boundary review, and Jeff tells members that Option #6 is most likely to go through, but that under this option, a portion of McKellar Park would to Bay Ward, which concerns McKellar Park residents. Jeff has asked the consultant whether this option could see this portion of McKellar Park stay in the ward. Karen explains that the CHNA did inform members of this, and that the CHNA would generally be supportive of Option #6 as being the least disruptive.

Jeff takes some questions from the Board, including whether certain roads will be reclassified (Sherwood, Fairmont, Bayswater) as the Parsons’ contract terms of reference suggest, to which Jeff replies that he has no knowledge of this. Jeff answers a few questions from members, including whether COVID has meant that we are moving away from high-rise buildings. Jeff confirms that he has not seen that planners are moving away from this type of intensification, but it is important not to confuse overcrowding (meaning number of persons per unit) with intensification.

Karen tells members that we will follow up on some issues and unanswered questions in the chat and asks members to fill in the end of meeting survey relating to the format of this meeting. Luanne makes once last plea to members to complete the Sherwood survey.

Karen adjourns the meeting.