



DRAFT MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

MAY 29, 2019, 7:30 P.M. – TERRY FOX CENTRE

Board Members Present: Adam Robb (A/President & Vice President), Elizabeth McAllister (President), Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté (Past President & Fundraising/Membership), Pat Dunphy (Treasurer/MP Chronicle), John Forsey (Transportation & Safety), Mary Hickman (Community Outreach), Sheilagh McLean (Environment), Natalie Belovic (Fundraising/ Membership), Don Lishman (Development & Wateridge Village), Debra Sharpe (Website/Communication), Diana Poitras (Secretary)

Regrets: Derek Taylor (Member at Large)

Attendees: 30 Manor Park residents signed into the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Acting President, Adam Robb and commenced at 7:42 p.m.

Welcome

Adam Robb welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Encounters with Canada for being our host. He acknowledged City Councillor for Ward 13, Rawlson King; Sarah Rimbach from MPP Natalie des Rosier's office; Jacques Moissac from MP Mona Fortier's Office; Erin Yoshida from the Manor Park Community Council; and Michelle Proulx and Sandra Malette from Yule Co-op.

Adam advised that he hoped the meeting would be interactive and that although we were off to a late start, he hoped to finish shortly after 9:00 p.m. Questions that may need more time for discussion should be given to the Board Secretary, Diana Poitras, for follow up.

Val Amigo, Director, Encounters with Canada

Adam introduced Val Amigo, the newly appointed Director to Encounters with Canada. Val indicated a desire to work with the surrounding community and advised that

pamphlets about the program were available in the lobby. He briefly described the facilities and indicated that the program participants had an opportunity to practice “the art of conversation”.

MPCA: The Year in Review

Adam spoke to the PowerPoint presentation and a number of MPCA highlights over the past 16 months.

1. Sébastien LaRoche-Côté and Martha Patterson gathered Census information to help the Board better understand the demographics of the community. A number of statistics were surprising – for example, the child poverty numbers are much higher in Manor Park South than in the rest of the City.
2. MPCA President, Elizabeth McAllister has been working diligently to bring together with six Community/resident associations (The Community Collective) to build synergy, identify common, larger issues, save resources and harness the power to work collectively. Some of these larger issues include influencing new Official City Plan and the Transportation Master Plan.
3. The Community Collective initiated a new all community Beechwood Village Alliance to explore impact investment vehicles to influence Beechwood Development to be aligned Community needs and a vibrant retail community.
4. Developing a Poverty Strategy has been a priority within the Riding (18th worst in Canada for Child poverty and worst in Ottawa) and in particular, for MPCA in Manor Park. Unfortunately, none of the City, province or federal governments are addressing poverty in Ottawa Vanier.
5. Emergency Preparedness – in the aftermath of the 2018 tornadoes, it became evident that the City’s emergency plan and emergency preparedness were insufficient. Much of the responsibility for dealing with emergencies was downloaded to the Community Associations without preparation, direction or funding. Under the leadership of Joe McAllister, Manor Park developed an emergency plan resource guide for residents prepare Community Associations to assist responsible authorities.

Committee Chair Reports:

Transportation and Safety: John Forsey

1. **Safety:**
 - a. In 2017 a WISE safety audit conducted in Manor Park East resulted in a number of recommendations to increase safety. Progress has been slow in terms of getting these recommendations implemented or addressed by the City. City Councillor Rawlson King spent some time earlier in the day looking at the affected areas.

2. **Crime and Security:**

- a. John thanked Joe McAllister, a retired RCMP Superintendent, who has been spearheading crime and security initiatives in this area. He uses the Manor Park List Serve to disseminate information. John also thanked Pilar and Ed Doe for managing the List Serve. As noted above, Joe McAllister is also responsible for Manor Park's Emergency Preparedness Plan.

3. **Transportation:**

- a. Hemlock Road with its heavy traffic volume, high traffic speeds, and unlawful truck use continues to be an issue of concern. Lack of Police enforcement makes it difficult to change the existing conditions.
- b. The new #17 bus uses Hemlock Road with eastbound stops on the south side, leaving passengers stranded without a safe way to cross the busy road. The MPCA have been advocating with OC Transpo for a pedestrian crosswalk at Hemlock and Thornwood to address this issue.
- c. Interprovincial Bridge Crossing – Although somewhat vague, the recent federal budget provided funding for a study of a potential new bridge crossing. John is a member of Sustainable Solutions/Solutions durables, a multi-community group that has been working since 2013 (and the last bridge “battle”) to find ways to deal with truck traffic downtown. The tunnel option got as far as a completed feasibility study. However, the next step – an environmental assessment – did not proceed as the federal government would not provide funding. (Note: Both the City and the Province were willing to fund 1/3 of the cost of the environmental assessment.) The threat of a bridge at Kettle Island remains.
- d. **Questions from residents:**
 - i. Where are the recommendations from the WISE safety audit?
The recommendations will be uploaded to the MPCA website:
<https://manorparkcommunity.ca/home/>

Community Outreach: Mary Hickman

1. Mary joined the MPCA Board about a year ago. One of her goals is to help make Manor Park more inclusive – on both sides of St. Laurent.
2. **Seniors:** There is a large population of older adults living in Manor Park, and Mary was very pleased to be part of our MPP's Senior Council and to explore ways to do outreach to this segment of the population. With the upcoming departure of our MPP, Natalie des Rosier, it is Mary's hope that the Senior Council will continue with this important work.

3. **Youth and Children:** Working with youth and tackling child poverty are high priorities. MPCA had partnered with the Rideau Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC), and Yule Housing Co-op to support the work of the Board under the leadership of Michele Proulx. The Board is determined to address threats to the quality of life and to build a more healthy community. Yule and RRCRC have been given a community grant from Crime Prevention Ottawa for “Paint It Up” – a mural painting program open to youths 13-18 years of age. If anyone know of youths who might be interested in participating in this program, please take a flyer (at the front table) and pass it along. An after school program was made available at Yule Co-op through the RRCRC and a community garden grant has also been approved for the Co-op.
4. Mary is looking for volunteers to assist her on her “committee of one” and is also interested in forming more partnerships in the community.

Development and Wateridge Village: Don Lishman

1. **Wateridge Village:** Don is a member of a group of neighbouring communities monitoring the development at Wateridge Village with a view to ensuring compliance to the plan of subdivision and minimizing negative activity on the surrounding neighbourhoods – especially as it relates to traffic.
2. **Redevelopment:** The MPCA also monitors redevelopment, zoning and rezoning applications in the neighbourhood.
3. **Mature Neighbourhood Overlay:** Don explained that the MPCA applied for the mature neighbourhood designation from the City a couple of years ago. This overlay regulates the type of development that can take place within the neighbourhood. The MPCA’s application was rejected; however, the City indicated it would continue to monitor site plan and development applications in Manor Park. Don advised that the MPCA is doing its own monitoring.
4. **Official Plan (OP):** An update to the OP is now in progress. This is a very important process, which will take place over the course of three years. Year one is public consultation (we are currently in year one). Year two, City staff will put together a draft OP. Year three will involve more consultation and reviewing the draft OP. The following link will take you to the City’s website and further information on the OP process. <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/new-official-plan>
 - a. The Official Plan includes areas such as the environment, energy, economy, climate, etc. (i.e. not just development and zoning). There is a feedback survey that residents can complete prior to **May 31**. The public consultation process will not wrap up until the end of the year. The

MPCA will be putting forth a position on the OP. The draft document will be posted on the MPCA's website and we will likely have a meeting in the fall to finalize our submission.

5. **Questions from residents:**

- a. Q: Have any audits been done on past Official Plans?

A: At a recent Federation of Community Associations meeting, it was observed that all previous Official Plans had NOT been followed well. There is an effort now to link the new Official Plan to other City strategies and plans, such as the Transportation Master Plan. **Please share your thoughts on the Official Plan with us.**

- b. Q: Can you clarify the time lines for submissions?

A: (May 31 for the individual online feedback form; yearend for submissions from public/associations.)

- c. Q: Will the MPCA be working together with other Community Associations to have a common position?

A: Yes – the MPCA will be working the Community Collective within our Ward to identify common issues and make recommendations.

Environment: Sheilagh McLean

1. Sheilagh joined the board in the past year and assumed responsibility for the environment portfolio.
2. **Edible Tree Program:** Sheilagh noted that Manor Park Public School currently has 240 children registered for the breakfast program. That program can be enriched through the provision of fresh produce – grown and harvested in Manor Park.

The MPCA applied for and received a grant from Tree Canada to purchase and plant 30 edible trees/shrubs. Sheilagh has been working with homeowners and Yule Co-op in this regard, and on **June 8th**, the 20 trees and 10 fruit shrubs will be arriving from Ritchie's Feed and Seed – to be disseminated to their new "homes". The corporate sponsor for this program is Fed Ex, and ten volunteers from that company will be at the Manor Park Fieldhouse on the 8th to assist with the transportation and planting of the trees/shrubs. Tree Canada will also be providing three or four staff to supervise the planting.

Homeowners/recipients of the trees/shrubs will be responsible for the watering and care of the trees and will then share the bounty that is produced in years to come.

Planting day is June 8th, at 11:00 a.m., Manor Park Fieldhouse. Additional volunteers are needed. A celebration of the planting of the trees/shrubs will take place at the Rock the Block event in September.

3. Sheilagh also noted that she works with a number of local groups including Ecology Ottawa, Ottawa Renewable Energy Corporation, Ottawa River Keeper and others (see PowerPoint presentation on MPCA website).
4. Sheilagh would welcome volunteers to work with her on environmental issues or to provide suggestions or ideas for the MPCA Board to consider.

Fundraising and Membership: Natalie Belovic

1. **Manor Park Garage Sale:** Natalie thanked Pilar Doe and Lynn Markel for spearheading the garage sale event – to be held on **June 15th**. All participants – whether selling items from their driveway or from a table in the Manor Park field, are asked to donate \$20 to help raise funds for the MPCA.
2. Anyone with other fundraising ideas should contact Natalie.

Office of MPP, Natalie des Rosiers

Sarah Rimbach, from the MPP's office, expressed Ms. des Rosier's regrets (she is currently in Queen's Park) and advised that as yet, there was no firm date for the MP's departure. The office will continue to function in her absence and until a by-election is held and a new MPP elected.

It was noted that the MPCA had been very active and involved in preparing residents for the recent municipal by election and expects the same level of activity and involvement in the upcoming Provincial by election.

Sarah advised that she would take any questions for the MPP back to her office.

Office of MP, Mona Fortier

Jacques de Moissac, from the MP's office, expressed Ms. Fortier's regrets (she is currently in Parliament). He noted that the last time he was in the Encounters with Canada building it was as a student participating in the program.

With respect to the possibility of a sixth bridge crossing, Jacques advised that the MP's office wants to be open and talk to Community Associations about this issue. A meeting

will be planned to discuss this issue, and Jacques would be available following the meeting if anyone wished to speak with him.

Councillor Rawlson King: Key Challenges and Priorities

The Councillor was introduced and received a standing ovation from the audience.

The Councillor advised that this was his first AGM since being elected. He values the work done by Community Associations and said it was important to have strong community voices. He noted MPCA's leadership on advocating for a poverty strategy, one that focuses on better, more integrated approaches that are proven efficient (less costly) than the current approaches used. He also noted that he has already met with MPCA four times and our AGM was his first.

Councillor King indicated it had been a whirlwind since being sworn in – the day after the election. He spent three full days in orientation with City General Managers and staff. Because of City protocols where departing Councillors' computers are wiped clean, he and his staff arrived to an empty office with no handover notes, no computers and one phone. The Councillor currently has three staff – and is still dealing with phones that don't work. Because the computers of the previous Councillor were wiped clean, he asked that any individuals or groups with outstanding cases or issues contact the office again. (There was no carry over of outstanding issues from Tobi's office to Rawlson's office.) He and his staff are working through a backlog of emails – and he noted that communication is very important to him.

He has set up his office such that we will have one point of contact for Community Association questions and concerns. Racial equity is very important to the Councillor and he wishes to have public involvement from his black and multi-ethnic constituencies. Social inclusivity is also of great importance as is improving City governance

At his first Council meeting he was appointed to the Environment Committee, Ottawa Community Housing Board, Crime Prevention Ottawa and Ottawa Community Land Development Corporation (which deals with surplus City lands). He had asked to be appointed to the Planning Committee, but did not get appointed to that or the Built Heritage subcommittee.

Councillor King is establishing a Ward Council – the first meeting is to take place tomorrow (May 30) at the St. Laurent Complex. The Ward Council will bring together Community Associations, Service Organizations and BIAs to sit together to talk to one another and to listen to each other. He wants to take a holistic view of issues (for example, public safety and traffic). The Ward Council will meet quarterly and will identify key priorities and work together to address them.

The Official Plan is of high importance to the urban caucus, as is the associated consultation process and the Councillor advised there would be a June consultation process held by this caucus. The Official Plan sets guidelines for planning, development, zoning, and also deals with affordable housing, the environment and climate change and is intended to provide planning certainty. He is aware that there is a lack of confidence in the planning system and wants to see more concrete language utilized around these issues. There is an appreciation that there is a dynamic nature to the planning process, but not to the extent we've seen to date.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Councillor was sorry to have missed the recent cycling rally on May 16th, and noted there had been an excellent turn-out from Manor Park. He advised that he planned to vote in favour of the motion coming forward to utilize the gas tax revenues to improve cycling infrastructure.

Another priority is to institute an on-line booking system for ParaTranspo (currently only possible by pre-booking by phone). He is also supporting efforts to reduce gun violence. Food security is another priority and he hopes to see a pilot project (perhaps with the RRCRC) whereby children are able to receive a healthy meal at school.

Councillor King acknowledged that Manor Park has a very active Community Association and noted he had met with the Association four times within the past five weeks. He supports the MPCA's priority of reducing child poverty and noted that 50% of children living in community housing are living in poverty.

With respect to Kettle Island (or any location) for a new bridge, the Councillor is against any further crossings without first looking at other options. He believed this issue had been put to rest in 2013. The Overbrook community is not against a downtown tunnel – however, there is a need to see where its southern terminus would be and what impact it might have on Overbrook or any community. Councillor King noted that we have existing infrastructure that should be looked at before a new crossing is pursued. He agrees that proper public consultation, feedback and, in particular, clear terms of reference are all required.

The Councillor is interested in looking at a truck mitigation study (i.e. fewer trucks).

Earlier in the day, Councillor King was shown Alvin Heights Park. He acknowledged that improvements need to be looked into – especially areas deemed “low income”. Improving safety is also important and will ensure vitality of a community.

The Councillor would like to get to as many community events as possible, in addition to doing his work and advocacy at City Hall. He advised that his “door is always open” and is looking for ways to be more available to his constituents.

Councillor King acknowledged Oriana Ngabirano in the audience and thanked her for her contributions to the recent by election process. He noted that there had been 17

passionate people running for the office of City Councillor for Ward 13. He promised to do his best for the neighbourhoods in his Ward.

Questions from Residents:

1. Q: Is it possible to reinstate the Cycling Advisory Committee?

A: The Councillor would love to see that happen – however, he isn't certain as to whether City staff or the Mayor would support the idea. He will pursue this issue with his Council colleagues.

2. Q: There is a body of evidence that shows a correlation between health issues and heavy traffic to which MP is now exposed. There are strong health arguments for a ring road. Is it still a possibility? This seems to have fallen off the table.

A: The Councillor would like the focus to be on promoting cycling and transit (over cars). He doubts there is an appetite at Council to pursue the ring road idea as many councillors are against new roads. He will continue to talk about the idea, but is not hopeful anything will change in the short term.

3. Q: This past winter the snow and ice made walking very treacherous. The roads are in terrible condition. Can anything be done to improve sidewalks and roads in winter?

A: This is a challenge. Previously, the City's approach to the property tax bill has been to keep increases at or below the cost of living. The City is run very efficiently, but departments and services are hitting the wall in terms of making further cuts to staff and the resulting impact on service levels. In addition to these past budgetary restrictions, the City is facing further challenges from the Province to make cuts. All this results in projects being deferred/delayed and services reduced. The question that needs to be asked is "do we have what we need to do the work that is required?" The City needs to balance a low tax rate with needed investments in City infrastructure.

4. Q: We hear that recycling programs don't necessarily work. What can the Councillor do about this in Ottawa?

A: The renegotiation of the solid waste (trash pick-up) contracts is underway. The Councillor would like to see a ban on single use plastics and get the beverage industry involved to produce less. One of the audience members spoke about a petition she has started against Farm Boy concerning single use plastics. She has over 2500 signatures so far.

The Councillor agreed that pressure from consumers can play a big part in reducing the amount of plastic that goes into the recycling process.

5. Q: A constituent asked when the flexi-posts would be installed at the edge of the bike lanes, acknowledging that the installation had been delayed by the major flooding in the region and the need to deploy City resources to that emergency. However, with two floods in as many years, this may become more common, and should not delay the installation of these important safety devices.

A: The 2019 floods were a major logistical issue for the City. All “routine” operations slowed down or came to halt in order to deal with flood issues. The Councillor feels it is essential that the “climate change lens” be applied in all aspects of the Official Plan review and redraft. Looking at a possible buy-back program for homes in the affected areas and possible causes of the flooding are being referred to the Province and Federal governments for review and response. Having said all that, he hoped to see the traffic calming measures rolled out in the coming days/weeks.

The Councillor thanked everyone present at the meeting and the MPCA for inviting him and giving him an opportunity to speak.

MPCA Business

1. Election of Board Members

- a. Mary Hickman, Chair, Community Outreach Committee;
- b. Sheilagh McLean, Chair, Environment Committee;
- c. Derek Taylor, Member-at-Large and Manor Park Chronicle Liaison;
- d. Diana Poitras, Secretary-Treasurer

Moved by Natalie Belovic, Seconded by Pat Dunphy that the above named by elected in the positions stated. Carried.

2. Adam Robb, noted that the MPCA normally donates \$200 to Manor Park School as part of the Mayfair Fundraising. This matter was missed at the last MPCA Board meeting and was being brought forward to the AGM for action.

Moved by Elizabeth McAllister, Seconded by Pat Dunphy that \$200 be donated to Manor Park School. Carried

3. Adam Robb acknowledged the contributions to the MPCA by outgoing Treasurer, Pat Dunphy and presented her with a gift from the Board.

4. Financial Reports

Pat Dunphy explained that the previous couple of MPCA Annual General Meetings had taken place in November – with the last meeting being in November of 2017. It was decided at that time to move the meetings to May to follow the conclusion of the Board’s fiscal year which runs from May 1 to April 30. As a result of this change, there are two years of financials to review and approve. Expenses are modest – paying for insurance, website upkeep and our share of the all candidate meetings for the recent by-election. There is little to no income other than a share of revenues from the MP Chronicle, and in 2019, from the Manor Park garage sale.

Moved by Pat Dunphy, seconded by Natalie Belovic that the financial reports for 2017-2018 be approved. Carried.

Moved by Pat Dunphy, seconded by Natalie Belovic that the financial reports for 2018-2019 be approved. Carried.

Adam Robb thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and reiterated that if anyone wished to volunteer to be part of one of the Board Committees, they are invited to reach out to any of the Board members.

The meeting concluded at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Poitras