



Emerald Woods Residents Association Meeting

March 8, 2023

Attended: Goretta Pernitzky, Mark Vuotari, Keely Storr, Christine Guptill, Kim Tytler, Christine Lowe

Called to order: 7:00 pm

Councillor Jessica Bradley's Report

- Office has re-opened at Greenboro community Centre.
- Staff: Laura and Olivia – 9-4:30, drop by no appt needed. Monday and Fridays closed; Monday Councillor Bradley works at home and Friday she works at City Hall.
- Has hosted 2 Meet & Greet events this year so far.
- Issues raised at these Meet & Greets included that a pathway in Sawmill Creek wasn't maintained this winter; will be meeting with winter operations team at the end of April and will raise this.
- This morning, hosted an International Women's Day event at the EY Centre. Had about 100 people; had a guest from the Somali Hope Foundation.
- Airport parkway: In 2013, the City conducted an environmental assessment on widening of the parkway. Phase 1 was twinning of the parkway as far south as Hunt Club; Phase 2 was to be widening of Lester; phase 3 widening of the parkway between Hunt Club and airport. Funded by development; as a result, Phase 1 has been delayed until 2027. Funding was discussed at the recent Council budget discussions. There was a motion at committee that we should revisit whether there is a need to widen the airport parkway at this time. Motion suggested delay/phased implementation of the project. The City will move forward with off-ramp on Walkley and improvements on Walkley as well as the pathway beside the parkway. This motion did pass with the budget.
- Christine G. asked about the proposed bicycle pathway: as was suggested by Cycle Ottawa, could the wall be between the road and the bike path, rather than between the bike path and the walking paths? Christine L. noted that walls mean that incidents on the paths cannot be seen from the road; may make paths unsafe. Councillor Bradley will keep these comments in mind.
- There was a previous meeting about proposed Bank St/Hunt Club modifications with Councillor Deans. The plan was to optimize intersections for motor vehicles. It was proposed that there would be an additional lane of traffic on the south side of Hunt Club all the way to Albion, with the addition of a cycling lane but only on the south side (in conjunction with the proposed construction). This proposal received significant push-back from community; the community wanted to see upgrades to pedestrian and cycling

infrastructure everywhere, not just on the south side where the widening was proposed. More discussion to come.

- Reinstatement of traffic calming measures in our neighbourhood will be moving forward, including flex stakes on Trappers Road and Mory Street. More temporary traffic calming measures will be going in school zones around the City.
- D’Aoust will be re-surfaced this year. There is discussion of adding cycling lanes, although it is challenging on this roadway because in parts it is quite narrow.
- Last week, Council approved a 2.5% increase in property taxes. This included additional public washrooms in parks – specifically, 2 portable toilets per ward. Councillor Bradley asked whether the EWRA would like to identify a site for a portable toilet; no need for this was identified at this time. An accessible bus pad will be installed on Bridle Path at Hunter’s Point.
- Reminder to residents about the vacant unit tax: All residences are required to complete this, and it is easy to complete online. Deadline is the 16th of March.
- Christine G. asked a question about lifeguard/swim instructor salaries; asked whether raising these has been considered, as a means of combatting challenges to access to swimming lessons. Councillor Bradley noted that having a city job used to be coveted; lifeguards and some other job categories have been discussed as areas where increases could be considered.
- Two funding applications coming up:
 - 1. Community Civic Events funding is now open, for local non-profit; develop family-friendly events in local Ottawa communities. \$3000. Deadline March 10.
 - 2. Paint it up funding: Due April 14th. For outdoor mural projects.
www.crimepreventionottawa.ca
- Presidents’ report: nothing new to report at this time.
- The executive proceeded to book dates for events for the year:
 - Cleaning up in the park: Saturday May 27th
 - Yard sale: June 3rd
 - Mini soccer: May 16-June 30th
 - Fun Day in the Park: discussed moving it to September. Consensus was to move this to September going forward. September 17th
 - Children’s Christmas party: Dec. 3rd. Of note: Feedback from residents was that they missed having Santa at the party this year. Decision was made to continue with Christmas theme, and to continue to ask residents to help with ideas for organizing a more inclusive winter activity, if there is a desire to do so.
 - AGM: November 22nd
 - Membership Drive: plan to solicit renewal or new memberships with the spring newsletter. Discussion about whether we needed to raise membership fees at this time. Expenses include Director’s insurance and the cost of maintaining a bank account, and the Treasurer noted that we are currently able to cover these costs for the next three years; therefore, it was not felt that fees needed to be increased at this time. (Current EWRA financial information can be provided to members upon request.)

- Ice Rinks: Guest speaker, Andres Onu. He has been running some of the outdoor rinks for the last 3-4 years. He first reached out to the city because he is a hockey person. There is a City staff person designated for outdoor rinks, and Andres contacted them to ask if he could help. Answer initially was that the 3 rinks – Trappers, Baden and Emerald Woods parks - were city run rinks (as opposed to community run rinks). City run rinks are not usually maintained by anyone except the city. Ultimately, they gave him a bucket of hoses and a curb key, and he helped by shoveling them off and adding water. This year, he did not pay attention to these three; he was officially volunteering at Aladdin and Sawmill ice pads.
 - Work that needs to be done on the rinks: Officially, none. When you go skating, bring your shovel, that helps. Don't leave anything on the ice.
 - Rinks were effectively not opened this year. Very difficult weather this year. The City works on the rinks only during the week.
 - Scheduled time for activities: If there are nets and boards, there will be hockey; if there are not, it is treated as a skating rink. City won't run a schedule. You can, however, reserve the ice.
 - Andres has called for volunteers to help on FB in the past.
 - If there is serious interest in helping, Andres suggested asking the city to convert one of these to a community-run rink. He felt that Trappers would probably be the best candidate because it is the largest. Community rinks will always have a bunker to store equipment.
 - Andres reported that it can be frustrating to get the city to respond; difficult to convince the city staff to support helping to look after the rink.
 - The EWRA executive thanked Andres for the information about the rink. More discussion will be had offline.
- Presentation by Mohamed Gazarin, co-owner of the Bridle Path PharmaSave, who is proposing an award for mothers. EWRA will discuss offline.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 pm.

Next meeting: April 12th at 7:00 pm.