



Emerald Woods Residents' Association Meeting
September 13, 2023, 7:00pm

Present: Mark Vuotari; Christine Lowe; Keely Storr; Christine Guphill; Goretti Pernitzky; Laura Dragone (Councillor Bradley's office); Community Police Officers Brad Burleau and Marcus Cibischino; Alex Riccio; Casey Lahey

Regrets: Kim Tytler

Councillor's Report:

- A few staff changes in the Councillor's office were announced.
- Ward updates: Development at McMahon and Ridgedale: Councillor has met with the developer. Planning 7 family homes, and also planning to keep as many trees as they can and plant to replace those they must take down. Roads will begin to be built in summer 2024.
- Budget process: Councillor is seeking feedback on priorities for the budget and will be seeking this from neighbourhood associations. Survey will be coming to EWRA. City has also posted a survey on their social media.
https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=PQPM34ffbkyhuI6qc_G3LqdwWjcb9TFDm9Bd-11RvqRUNkRPMjRaMDJKOUZTWU9ZRVJaU1I0SDk4UC4u&web=1&wdLOR=cB4B2D708-3E80-AC41-922B-AF184597187D
- Planters for traffic calming on Trappers: A response from the neighbourhood Association is needed soon.
- Sawmill Creek pathway: concern that it was not maintained in winter between Kingsdale and Albion. It will now be maintained as a packed snow path (because it is gravel).
- Service requests were made for potholes on Albion.
- Ecology Ottawa: Air quality will be assessed in several locations around the ward soon.
<https://www.ecologyottawa.ca/breatheeasy>
- Cleaning up the Capital: Sept. 15- Oct. 15. Sept. 15 at Blossom Park PS 10 am - 3 pm.
<https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment-conservation-and-climate/public-spaces-and-environmental-programs/cleaning-capital-program>
- Hydro: Councillor cannot really speak to the labour dispute, because Hydro Ottawa operates independently of the City. Councillor's office has been getting more calls about the strike.
- Mark Vuotari raised the issue of the porta potty at Trappers, which seems to have been repeatedly kicked and its roof is collapsed; garbage in the park, which is overflowing onto the ground or has been knocked over; and the tennis court was damaged. Laura will look into this.

- Gorette asked whether there is an update about the request for the new bulletin board installed at Baden Park. Laura will look into this.
- Alex Riccio spoke about a call to 911 re: a fire in the park. 911 transferred him to the fire department, and no police were called. Community police officers will look into why police were not dispatched. Officer Cibischino indicated that they will review the 911 call and report back.
- Non-emergency number: frustration with reaching people. 7300 will bring you to reporting a non-emergency event. It brings you into a queue, which lists a number of things that are to be reported online. If you then press 2, you will get to speak to a live person at the police reporting unit. Needs to give hours of operation; needs to not ask you 3 times whether you want to connect in English or French; pressing 0 often doesn't get you to an operator. If you do dial 7300 after hours, they can help you get to the right place. During business hours, press 0.
- Project Noisemaker: May-Oct-Nov. Issue thousands of tickets related to speeding. They use 'heat maps': If there are 100 complaints in this neighbourhood but only 2 in Emerald Woods, then the area that has 100 complaints will get more resources. We may not hear back specifically; but they will try to report back to us about how many charges were made.

Other business:

- Gorette is working on the newsletter. Children's holiday party: Dec. 9 (date amended after this meeting due to venue availability). Registration will be Nov. 28 and Nov. 30. Christine offered to run the event.
- Nov. 22nd: EWRA Annual General Meeting. Mark Vuotari will chair. We will do elections at this meeting. Gorette will be stepping down as President, to focus on other commitments. All positions will be open for election; candidates for President must have served on the Executive previously (please see the [EWRA Constitution](#) for details).
- Next membership drive will be in spring. Gorette will add this to the newsletter.
- Keely Storr (Treasurer) noted that the balance in the EWRA account is \$1700.
- Email account: Need more people to read and respond to emails and a system of who is responsible for what. Some emails have been missed or forgotten. Mark will add the account to his phone. Keely will handle everything to do with memberships and payments. We need someone to address: Resident concerns, volunteers, meeting organization. Mark will consider the best way to organize the email account and report back at the next meeting.
- Resident engagement: Needing more volunteers to help with events; September Fun Day in the Park was cancelled due to a lack of volunteers. Casey Lahey suggested that we need to attract young families, and he will try to engage those he sees in the park. Also suggested a survey of residents to determine activities they may be interested in, and the possibility of a WhatsApp broadcast feature.
- Adjourned: 8:31pm