



EWRA meeting November 8, 2023

Present: Christine Guptill, Christine Lowe,
Keely Storr, Mark Vuotari, Goretti Pernitzky, Laura Dragone
Regrets: Kim Tytler

City Councillor Report

- Councillor Bradley just got out of the City Council discussions about Lansdowne 2.0, sends her regrets
- Staff change: Rachel recently left for another City opportunity; ask for patience as staff navigate and find a new person to replace her. Another new member has joined the team, Jennifer Ramnarine.
- Budget consultation meetings with Councillor Brockington, Menard, and Carr; Nov. 14 6-9 pm at Jim Durrell. Attendees must RSVP with Councillor Brockington's office: courtney.mcrury@ottawa.ca
- Trying to involve residents in budget consultations this year; this is in part because of new councillors who find it challenging to understand the Budget. <https://engage.ottawa.ca/city-budget-2024>
- Send feedback about the budget ahead so Councillor. More information on the budget: <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/budget-finance-and-corporate-planning/budget-2024-information>, and <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/budget-finance-and-corporate-planning/budget-2024-information/2024-draft-budget-tool>
- Snow tour: Nov 27. They get a lot of calls about snow clearing. If there is an area near you that doesn't get cleared properly or is always an issue, they flag it to Public Works and they drive around with them and stop at locations that are on the schedule. Residents can speak directly to Public Works staff. Trying to prioritize people who have not been visited before. Visits will be short. A reminder that many of the files that were held by Diane Deans office were not carried forward to Councillor Bradley. The office can always take concerns via email too. To register: jenna.besharah@ottawa.ca
- Councillor Bradley has written about her stance on Lansdowne 2.0 on her website.
- OC Transpo route review: There is a route review team and this week they came out with changes they want to make. If you have concerns, please use routereview@ottawa.ca to express concerns, and you should receive a response that addressing your particular concern. Mark asked that this be highlighted on their webpage; Christine L. confirmed that the email address is not on the page for OC Transpo Route Review. Discussion with concerns expressed about how unreliable OC Transpo is for getting to work. Keely also noted that it is more cost and time effective for her family to drive. Laura noted that there were some

concerns with people on Ontario Works not qualifying for Equipass, and that the City is working on this.

- Ottawa Public Health is offering updated COVID vaccines and flu vaccines. Main point of contact is local pharmacies; also primary healthcare providers, walk-in clinics, and community health hubs (including Greenboro, located on the 2nd floor of the library). If you want to book a vaccine, COVID vaccine booking: <https://www.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/> and flu vaccine: <https://reservation.frontdesksuite.ca/oph/influenza/Home/Index?pageid=76eac0b9-f686-456d-a107-6230e356618b&culture=en&uiculture=en>
- EngageOttawa: opportunities to get involved in City issues. <https://engage.ottawa.ca/>
- Wildflower seed giveaways in Nov. and Dec. wildflowerseedlibrary.ca/events
- Community emergency preparedness grant: Any registered charity and NFP corporations. Allows people to buy sandbagging machines, generators, etc. Deadline is Nov. 30th.
- Trappers fires: had mtg with the community police officers about this, because there have been ongoing concerns. They are patrolling more often and also working more with bylaw to try to address the concern.
- Hydro: Kingsdale, Queensdale, Rosebella have been experiencing unreliable hydro. They will be looking into this further. They have been quite backed up due to the strike.
- Mark asked about the Community Insurance program: Does the councillor's office have any information? Laura shared an email address to get more information. The city had recently hosted an online Q&A; Mark did go over the notes from this meeting.

Holiday Party Planning

- 1-4:30. Event is 2-4pm. Do we want to advertise with more flyers for the AGM and Holiday Party, possibly on mailboxes? Goretti says without sufficient advertising, there probably would not be much attendance.
- Santa: Mark has agreed to be the Santa.
- Crafts: Goretti had a few suggestions about how to spread the work out among the executive members.
- Volunteers: Vivian has volunteered her daughter (in the gmail account; Goretti will forward).
- Would hope to have 6 teens – 1 per table; Colouring table which doesn't need a volunteer.
- Goretti will post on FB to encourage volunteers and families to sign up their children.

EWRA Insurance

- Changes are being discussed to the insurance that EWRA holds through the City. The amount that keeps being brought up in the media for commercial general liability is \$1200. The proposal is that we would have to pay for it upfront to qualify for the grant, for which we would then have to apply. We would have to increase the membership fees to \$20/year to cover this, as well as our Director's Insurance; would potentially come into effect in June 2024. If the increase does not happen, we could guarantee that we would invest those funds into events and decrease the fees in the next cycle.

AGM

- Mark will chair the meeting. Christine G. will monitor the EWRA email to create a list of attendees and circulate the Zoom link ahead of time, as well as creating a list of paid members who can vote and share that list with Goretti. Goretti will count votes, as a non-returning executive member.
- Transition planning: locks on the bulletin board should be serviced as they are getting a bit loose.
- New Facebook chat should be created; admins (Goretti and Kim) should remove themselves; change password to EWRA FB account.
- Should change email account password; website should be updated with new exec names; bank signatories should be changed, go in with the minutes of the AGM. Bank card PIN and internet banking app password will need to be changed.
- Adjourned 8:55.