

OLRA Board Meeting – February 10, 2015 Minutes DRAFT Lisa Ebel's @ 7:30pm

ATTENDANCE

Boyd Waites, Lisa Ebel, Caroline Glasbey, George Niblock, Amanda Holden

Guest – Ben Palmer, Resident

REGRETS

Pierre Gagnon, Bob Laughlin, Chris Coderre, Clemens VanZeyl, Trudy Murray, Marcia Todd

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

Motion to approve: Amanda Holden

Seconded: George Niblock

TREASURER'S REPORT Caroline Glasbey (for Trudy Murray)

No changes since last meeting

PLANNING Boyd Waites

Downtown Streetscape Study -

The OLRA has been involved in the Downtown Streetscape Study from the beginning participating in several Residents Association Meetings, Public Meetings and Focus Groups. Two main options for changes to Lakeshore Rd streetscape are currently being considered. Both would have the center lane of Lakeshore removed and the sidewalks would be widened. Trees would be enlarged. There would be more space for retail and there would be more space for bikes along Lakeshore. There would be other streets that could be used for purposes other than traffic when the need arose.

<http://www.oakville.ca/townhall/downtown-transportation-streetscape.html>

<http://www.oakville.ca/townhall/downtown-plan-dts-options.html>

Boyd has attended many meeting and focus groups over the past few years and continues to remain at the forefront in the process. There is a town council meeting later this month and Boyd will represent the OLRA and residents and present the following:

At this time the OLRA is generally in favour of Option 2 as defined by town Staff however we feel that we would also like to stress the following items that we believe are important to the continued vibrancy of the Downtown and to mitigate as far as possible the impact of construction to business, residents and visitors in the area:

Action: THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE AMENDED

1. Parking

During construction of Lakeshore road there will be lost parking spaces limiting access to downtown and it is important to take all measures in order to ensure that both the existing parking situation and the worsened parking situation during construction are mitigated to the greatest extent. In view of this we believe that the town should be looking at ways that the new parking structure study can be expedited to the extent that we believe it is important that a new parking structure be available ahead of the construction of the streetscape in downtown.

Additionally we would urge that the inadequate signage and way finding measures in downtown are improved to facilitate optimal use of the parking that would be available in the same timeframe.

2. Timing

OLRA believes that the project timing should be expedited in order that the disruption be contained to as short a period as possible and also at this stage as quickly to start as possible while allowing for access to

the businesses in downtown. We strongly encourage the town to plan construction so that the overall duration of construction is minimized.

Prior to this town council meeting, Boyd and other residents' association board members will be meeting with our Ward 3 councilor Nick Hutchins.

HERITAGE

The Town of Oakville is kicking off an update to the First and Second Street Heritage Conservation District Plan on MARCH 3.

The First and Second Street Heritage Conservation District has been in place since 1989 and the district plan has not been updated since 1991. The district plan contains guidelines to help manage change within the district boundaries. **Over the next few months, town staff will be working with consultants from FGMDa architects to update district plan and guidelines.**

What's going to happen as part of the district update?

- A brief review of the history of the district and inventory of district properties was planned for January. This will ensure accurate information and images of existing properties, buildings and streetscapes within the district.
- Focus groups will be formed with stakeholders such as property owners and residents, professionals such as architects, planners and real estate agents, the Oakville Lakeside Residents Association members and heritage advisors. Meetings with these focus groups will be held in February and March. These meetings will collect feedback from stakeholders on how the current district plan and guidelines function and what can be improved and changed.
- A draft of the new district plan and guidelines will be written by the consultants based on stakeholder feedback, best practices in heritage conservation and town staff experience.
- The draft of the district plan and guidelines will be presented at a public meeting in the spring of 2015 for additional feedback and revision.

How we can participate:

- *The Board of the Oakville Lakeside Residents Association has been invited to participate in a focus group. The Town would like 5-7 volunteers from the OLRA to attend on behalf of the association. At the focus group meetings, the Town would like to receive feedback on what works and doesn't work within the existing plan to assist us as they revise and improve the guidelines.*

Boyd, George, Pierre, Bob, Caroline, Lisa have said they will be part of the focus group. REMEMBER, even if you cannot attend all the focus group meetings that's ok. The Town would like as many of us there as possible on the focus group.

"We'd really appreciate several more volunteers for the OLRA focus group, they don't have to be residents of the heritage district but should have an interest in heritage preservation. Board members are welcome to email me back directly so that I have their contact information to send out information about the focus group meetings when we have dates/times/location." susan.schappert@oakville.ca

MEMBERSHIP Caroline Glasbey

No new members

NEWSLETTER Amanda Holden and Lisa Ebel

Topics:

1. Downtown and Streetscape Plan
2. Cultural Hub
3. First and Second Street Heritage Conservation District Plan
4. Hospital Lands Update
5. Membership
6. AGM
7. Community events
8. ?Parks and Greenspace
9. ?Local property updates

Timing:

Articles submitted to Amanda by Friday April 10

To printer Monday May 4

Delivery wkend of Friday May 8

GREENSPACE

No update at this time

AGM PLANNING

Lisa to secure date at the Oakville Club.

1st choice Tues May 26

3rd choice Thurs May 28

2nd choice Wed May 27

4th choice Thurs May 21

Caroline to email residents requesting suggestions for AGM topics.

OTHER ISSUES

Election Signs-

Town Council has moved to ban election signs on public property.

There will be a town council meeting on FEB 23.

We received a letter from the JCRA outlining their issue entitled **Fair Visible Elections** and their stand against banning the signs on public property. They have outlined a number of reasons why signs should be allowed on public property. **The biggest concern is that banning signs on public property gives an unfair advantage to the incumbent.** Any new candidates would have a hard time getting their names noticed, as not everyone goes on the town website, reads the Oakville Beaver etc. We support the JCRA's position.

It is the opinion of the OLRA that there should be the following restrictions:

1. A shorter period of time during which the signs are displayed
2. Tighter restrictions re size and numbers of signs displayed

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tues March 10 Caroline

Tues April 14 Amanda

May AGM

June TBD