

## **OAKVILLE LAKESIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Annual General Meeting **Tuesday May 26, 2015**

### **Call to order** – Boyd Waites, President, OLRA

The AGM was called to order by the OLRA President, Boyd Waites, who acted as Chairman. Lisa Ebel acted as Secretary for the meeting. Boyd welcomed everyone in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes of May 22, 2014 AGM** –

Boyd Waites, President, OLRA

The minutes had been distributed in a package to all attendees. No questions or comments were heard from the attendees. A motion was made by Don Bowder and seconded by Laura van Zeyl that the minutes of the AGM held May 22, 2014 be approved as written and recorded.

### **Treasurer's Report** – Trudy Murray, Treasurer

Trudy Murray presented the audited and signed off Cash Flow statement of Income and Expenses for 12 months to December 31, 2014. The Association is well funded with a cash balance of \$5293.75. There also exists a GIC investment of \$10,000.00 at 1.1% reinvested every 100 days. There were no questions from the floor.

### **Introduction of the Current Board Members and Election of the New Board Members -**

The President introduced the current Board members, who were thanked for their services by who represented the members at large and the current Board was dissolved. Caroline Glasbey and Pierre Gagnon were thanked for their service in the past and will not be standing for re-election. Boyd then asked the attendees to refer to the nomination list for the upcoming year, 2015/2016, and asked the attendees if there were any further additions to the list. There were not. A motion was made by Brian Walsh and seconded by Jane Hawkrigg that the following nominees be elected as the 2015/2016 OLRA Board: Boyd Waites, Bob Laughlin, Trudy Murray, Lisa Ebel, Chris Coderre, Marcia Todd, Amanda Holden, George Niblock, Clemens van Zeyl, Anya Dunning, Simon Palmer and Tom Pugsley.

### **Opening Comments** – Mayor Rob Burton

In 1997, \$1.8 million was spent building the current Oakville Performing Arts Centre (equivalent to \$3.9 million in today's dollars).

Four yrs ago, in 2011, prompted by Don Pangman and the Oakville Symphony Orchestra, Burton unveiled a vision for a new Performing Arts Center to re-invigorate the Downtown, in conjunction with upgrading the Downtown Streetscape including the infrastructure of Lakeshore Rd.

### **Town Presentation on the Downtown Cultural Hub –**

#### ***Current Status of the Cultural Hub Project***

Jane Clohecy, Commissioner of Community Development, Town of Oakville

#### Downtown Cultural Hub Goal and Objectives:

Goal:

- To create an attractive, active, animated and vibrant downtown where people come together to live, work, shop, stay meet and engage.

Objectives:

- To contribute to an *economically successful* vibrant downtown
- To create a *cultural focus* for the town in the downtown area
- To provide facilities and infrastructure that *meet existing and future needs*
- To *protect and enhance* the natural environmental and cultural heritage of downtown
- To develop solutions that are *financially sustainable*

Cultural components needed to achieve the above:

1. Performing Arts Center: Two theaters within one – a 650-750 seat theatre and a 325-350 seat theatre
2. Library: 20,000 – 30,000 square feet
3. Gallery: 20,000 – 25,000 square feet
4. Open Space : program event space, outdoor amphitheatre and new riverfront park
5. Cultural Innovation Program Space: 10,000 square feet

Existing Facilities – What We Heard:

The existing cultural facilities on the Centennial Square site are valued but they must be *renewed and reinvented*.

The revitalization of Centennial Square facilities is needed to *strengthen Oakville's cultural presence and relevance and to ensure the long term viability of these public facilities*.

Downtown's beauty is enhanced by its proximity to Sixteen Mile Creek. *There is a need to consider linkages to the creek and surrounding open spaces*.

In JULY 2014, the following 5 themes were considered:

1. Status quo - doesn't allow us to build for the future so this theme was discarded
2. Adapt existing – this could be a *modest or a major renovation*
3. Centralized – all cultural elements in one location – this theme was discarded.
4. Dispersed – *build new* at several locations
5. Boutique – discarded

We were left with 3 options:

1. Adapt the existing facilities with modest renovations
2. Major renovation of existing facilities
3. New facilities on Centennial Square and Post Office sites

Option 1: Adapt the existing facilities with modest renovations

Would deliver:

- renovated 495 seat main theatre
- new 325 seat secondary theatre
- new lobby and new restaurant/lounge
- full gallery program
- full digital library

Would NOT deliver:

- a larger main theatre to accommodate current and projected needs
- new meeting/conference rooms
- new cultural innovation and program space

Option 2: Major renovation of existing facilities

Would deliver:

- new 750 seat main theatre
- renovated 325 seat secondary theatre
- new lobby and new restaurant/lounge
- full gallery program
- full digital library

Would NOT deliver:

- new meeting/conference rooms
- new cultural innovation and program space

Option 3: New facilities on Centennial Square and Post Office sites

Would deliver:

- new 750 seat main theatre
- renovated 325 seat secondary theatre
- new lobby and new restaurant/lounge
- new meeting/conference rooms
- new cultural innovation and program space
- full gallery program and full digital library on the post office site.

Parking:

Option 1 and 2 – an underground parking facility is proposed below the new theatre. Two levels of parking could be accommodated.

Additional parking in the downtown would be needed to meet parking requirements.

Option 3 – An underground parking facility is proposed for the southern end of the Centennial Square site. Two levels of underground parking with a possibility for shared access and connections to the adjacent residential site is proposed.

NEXT STEPS:

*May* – stakeholder meetings (underway), costing of options both capital and operating, parking strategy

*June 24* – Community Meetings OCPA 7pm - Presentation of draft Downtown Master Plan

*July and August* – public comments welcome

*September* – Council meeting – Presentation of draft Downtown Master Plan

**Panel Discussion on the Downtown Cultural Hub,**

**moderated by Neil Lester -**

Discussion Panel members were:

Jane Clohecy: Commissioner of Community Development, Town of Oakville

Sharlene Plewman: Executive Director, Downtown Oakville BIA

Don Pangman: Founder, ArtHouse

Robin Howarth: Manager, Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts

Boyd Waites: President, OLRA

Residents put forth questions as follows:

1. What is the plan for the existing fire hall site?  
 Discussion to move the fire hall to what is currently the site of the Oakville Arena. There would be a renovation of the arena and an idea for a senior center as well.  
 The current fire hall site would be used for retail and residential.
  
2. How do you see the plans for a Cultural Hub as complimenting and improving downtown Oakville?  
 Don -culture and arts is the theme for this century and these add to the vibrancy of the downtown  
 Sharlene – retail is changing so we need to add culture and create a space that is attractive aside from the shopping and restaurants. We need to add to the community  
 Boyd – important to maintain vitality, bring people into the downtown  
 Jane – referred to the JC Williams retail study – we need to create the opportunity for other activities other than just shopping. It would be important to make the library easily accessible from the streets and shops and vice versa  
 Robin – we are on the cusp on something very special, and this will aid in economic growth and build community
  
3. What is the vision for programming in the new theatre and other cultural facilities?  
 Robin – 50,000 people, 1.2 million for ticketed events, 55 events, go for bigger acts, more seats mean more tickets, bigger acts, and lower ticket prices
  
4. The Cultural Hub is exciting and much needed but the creek edge is a lost opportunity. Are there plans for waterside hotel, bars and restaurants?  
 Don – yes to expansion along the river, can be a vibrant cultural hub because we are far enough away from Toronto and St Catherines.  
 Sharlene – hotel – supports the hotel at the performing arts centre site  
 Boyd – great to have commercial activity at the river, east side of river where the parking lot is may be allowed  
 Jane – flood plain runs thru the river front, we can build only as far back as the existing theatre as per Conservation Halton  
 Robin – supports restaurant and hotel – especially to house the performers, likes the idea of a condo/hotel
  
5. If Oakville Galleries moves to a new home, what will happen to the location at Gairloch Gardens and what do you see as the future of Gairloch?  
 Gairloch would be retained for public uses, and the gardens would be protected
  
6. How can the downtown area be enjoyed throughout the four seasons with heated sidewalks, outdoor gas fireplaces similar to Holland, Michigan where these elements have been incorporated with a Farmer’s Market at the foot of main street at the water’s edge.  
 Jane – look at opportunities to celebrate all seasons, look at options to do this  
 Boyd – ice rink, fireplaces, places for the community to gather, heated sidewalks  
 Sharlene – would love heated sidewalks, limitations currently to the ice rink currently, there would have to risk management for fireplaces
  
7. What would you like to see happen in Centennial Square and how does this affect the use of Town Square?

Sharlene – have activities that are complimentary in both squares at the same time  
Boyd – Town Square would be for more intimate events, Centennial Square for larger events like art fairs.

Jane – Both function well now. Need to understand how Centennial Square function before Town Square's purpose is decided

Robin – Centennial will have a weekly Farmer's Market every Saturday in June.

8. Upgrading the facilities will attract bigger talent. How big does it need to be?  
Don – 750 seat model is appropriate for the population of Oakville today
  
9. What is the potential design for the new Performing Arts Centre?  
There would be a great emphasis on design, however details have not been decided upon.
  
10. In addition to the Performing Arts Centre parking, are there plans for more parking elsewhere in the downtown?  
Yes there are plans for 500 parking spots in a garage to be constructed on Church St.

**Closing Comments – Mayor Rob Burton**

Oakville has a population of 190,000 people.

2/3 of population is north of the QEW.

If the main branch of the Oakville Library and the main theatre move north, the health of the town would be impacted in a negative way.

We turned this around in 2006 when it was decided that downtown would remain the hub of Oakville!

Keeping the Cultural Hub downtown and expanding and improving the Cultural Hub will enhance the attraction of the downtown and people will have a greater desire to spend time in downtown Oakville.

**Adjournment of Meeting - Boyd Waites, President, OLRA**