



## **Greater Avalon Community Association**

### **MINUTES**

**Re:** Meeting of May 10, 2021  
**Location:** Virtual Meeting  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

<b>Present:</b>		<b>Regrets:</b>
Rachelle Lecours	Brendan Walker	
André Arsenault	Mudassir Syed	
Cyan Berkel	Stefan Baginski	
Sandra Baker-Gregory	Mélanie Vinette	
Denis Bohémier	Ian Baker-Gregory	
Gail McQuaid-Bohémier	Geneviève Mollema	

#### **1. Welcome**

The President welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and thanked Mudassir for organizing it.

#### **2. Approval of the agenda**

The President proposed to include two items under Item 7c: Establish a committee to review the maintenance of parks and 7d: Review Metrics for web. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was proposed by Sandra Baker-Gregory seconded by André Arsenault. All in favour, **Motion carried**

#### **3. Reading and approval of the minutes of the last meeting**

##### **Councillor Catherine Kitts Follow-Up**

An email was sent to the board members on May 10<sup>th</sup> providing the answers to the GACA inquiries from the April meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of April 12, 2021 as read, was proposed by André Arsenault, seconded by Stefan Baginski. All in favour. **Motion Carried.**

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$18,975.64. An amount of \$8,882.89 is still earmarked exclusively for the Gisèle-Lalonde Edible Forest project. No new expenditures were reported for the month. A deposit of \$3,308. was made as the third instalment for the ice maintenance contract. The Treasurer noted however that this amount is under review since there appears to be an overpayment of \$713.70. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was proposed by Stefan Baginski, seconded by Brendan Walker. All in favour. **Motion Carried.**

## 5. Discussion on Resignation Protocol

The board discussed how resignations should be presented and approved by the board. As lessons learned, all members should be made aware of ongoing issues to be able to discuss as a group and make recommendations on how to proceed.

The President noted as a lesson learned to bring the issue up to the whole board, early on, for discussion and to ensure all new board members are aware of the constitution and the responsibilities that come with being a board member.

Denis proposed that everything that is not a routine decision should be brought to the group as a whole. A special meeting can be called if a decision cannot wait for the next scheduled meeting.

## 6. GACA Way Forward

### a) Vision, Mission, Values

**Our vision** is: Make our community a great place to live, shop, work and play. André suggested including the term safe to our vision. The proposed Vision statement is: Make our community a great and safe place to live, shop, work and play.

**Action Item:** All members are to provide their comments of the vision statement and send them to the President.

### b) **Our mission** is more than doing social events. We influence and advocate for the neighbourhood. The purpose of the GACA is to:

- work closely with the City of Ottawa to advise them of your concerns regarding the neighbourhood such as parking, traffic, transit and community safety;
- advocate on behalf of and represent the community on issues such as zoning applications at the City of Ottawa for large-scale real estate projects;
- organize community events such as BBQs and Family Day celebrations, community garage sales and community activities such as Yoga in the Park;
- help deliver messages about future events and new projects for the City of Ottawa such as protecting our greenspace and forests, provide advice on the expansion of the François Dupuis Recreation Centre, parks, bike paths, public art project, etc.; and
- work closely and in cooperation with other community associations for the good of Orléans South, and other organizations such as the Federation of Citizen's Association (FCA), Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES), Ecology Ottawa and others who share our values.

### c) **Direction – Way Forward**

Everyone agreed that the BBQ, Family Day Celebration, Yoga in the Park and Annual Garage Sale are activities we want to continue.

We need to find a way to attract more members. Geneviève wonders if we are doing enough on social media. We have been posting notices, especially regarding COVID.

It was previously suggested to hold social meetings rather than just business meetings – an option we can look at once the COVID restrictions are lifted.

One suggestion was to offer a virtual yoga night, paint night or virtual cooking classes, etc. It would create visibility for the GACA and increase our membership.

We also need to refresh the GACA Garage Sale signs to bring more visibility as well.

**Action Item:** Sandra will call the Chef at OCCO Kitchen to see if it is feasible to hold a virtual cooking class around the end of June.

Someone enquired if it was possible to move to e-transfer rather than cheques? This may not be possible since the cheques require two signatures.

**Action Item:** André will check with the bank to see if this is possible.

At the request of the group, the President (or Secretary) will circulate a draft agenda for input before a meeting. The meetings are too long and the discussions ramble on. It was recommended to keep the agenda short and have a timekeeper keep track of the time allowed for discussions.

**d. Constitutional Amendments Required**

The constitution needs to be reviewed before the AGM in November. Stefan agreed to help review and propose amendments to the constitution.

**Action Item:** The President will arrange a meeting with Stefan to review the constitution and present the proposed changes to the board by September.

**e. Additional Comments**

**Facebook Update**

The facebook page needs to be modified to show Geneviève Mollema as a director and Ian Baker-Gregory as a Member-at-Large. Mélanie made the corrections.

**7. Other Business**

**a. Fête FrancOrléans**

There will not be a Fête FrancOrléans this year. The funds being held in the GACA account for that purpose will be released as approved by the Organizing committee of the Fête FrancOrléans to MIFO.

**Action Item:** The President will follow up on the cheque information for MIFO and advise the Treasurer accordingly.

**b. Comments on Official Plan - Ottawa**

Stefan will work with the president on this item. Cyan will assist.

**c. Committee to Review Maintenance of Parks**

The President approached the University of Ottawa Summer student program to see if students could conduct a survey of the parks within our catchment area and prepare a report. She mentioned that 2 students had already signed on to the project. Anyone interested in working with the students to offer them guidance can contact the President.

**d. Review Metrics for web**

André Arsenault stated that 41% of our website visitors are from the United States. The GACA web site is basically now used as a document storage system with little other activity. He suggested holding a contest with University of Ottawa students in communication to see if they could propose a communication strategy that would help attract more people to the site. A \$500. prize could be allocated for the best proposal.

**Action Item:** The President will contact the University of Ottawa Summer Student Program to see if anyone would be interested in taking on this project.

**8. Round Table**

**a. GACA Jackets**

The jackets are \$49.99 each, we require 7. A motion to approve the purchase of 7 jackets to replace those that do not fit was proposed by Sandra Baker-Gregory, seconded by Bren Walker.

**Action Item:** Bren will send the order in for the 7 jackets.

**b. Pickleball Courts**

The city has agreed to provide the paint for pickleball courts. The nets will cost approximately \$1,500. The GACA will sponsor the courts. A motion to approve the purchase of 5 pickleball nets was proposed by Sandra Baker-Gregory, seconded by Stefan Baginski.

**Action Item:** The President will request an estimate for the 5 nets before approving the purchase.

**c. Update on Nuclear Waste Disposal**

Stefan brought up that there was a presentation this morning, May 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Nuclear Waste Disposal.

**9. Next Virtual Meeting June 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm.**

**Action Item:** The President will ask Mudassir to arrange the next virtual meeting.

**10. Adjournment**

The President adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm. and thanked everyone for their collaboration.