



**CITY OF KINGSTON
NEAR CAMPUS NEIGHBOURHOODS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NO. 01 - 2012
MINUTES
Wednesday, December 7, 2011
5:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Glover; Chair
Ms. Denniston-Stewart
Mr. Dossett
Mr. Gervan
Mr. Grenville
Ms. Lougheed
Mr. MacKinnon
Mr. Ohtake
Mr. Sinkinson

STAFF PRESENT

Inspector Brian Cookman, Kingston Police
Mr. Phil Healey, Supervisor, GIS
Ms. Judy Reichstein, Research & Policy Analyst
Mr. Steve Orme, GIS Technician
Mr. James Thompson, Committee Clerk
Mr. Terry Willing, Director, Building & Licensing

OTHERS PRESENT

Councillor Neill
Ms. Finley
Mr. Rogers
Mr. Sumbler

THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT

MEETING TO ORDER

The Committee Clerk called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved by Mr. Grenville
Seconded by Mr. Ohtake

THAT Councillor Glover be elected Chair of the Near Campus Neighbourhoods Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

Moved by Mr. Ohtake
Seconded by Councillor Glover

THAT Mr. Grenville be elected as Vice-Chair of the Near Campus Neighbourhoods Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Mr. Gervan
Seconded by Mr. Ohtake

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Grenville
Seconded by Mr. Sinkinson

THAT the minutes from the Near Campus Neighbourhoods Advisory Committee Meeting No. 02-2011 held on November 2nd, 2011 be approved.

CARRIED

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none.

DELEGATIONS

Mr. Don Rogers was present to speak to the Committee regarding alcohol use in near campus neighbourhoods.

Mr. Rogers informed the Committee that he was appearing on behalf of the SONAG pressure group. He indicated that the group strives to be assertive in hopes of making the near campus neighbourhoods a more liveable area of the City of Kingston. He was of the opinion that the biggest problem in the near campus neighbourhoods is alcohol abuse.

Mr. Rogers commented that he has witnessed a decline in the quality of life in the near campus neighbourhoods over the course of the last thirty years. He noted that there has been some improvement since 2008 due to the work of Queen's University and the Alma Mater Society.

Mr. Rodgers stated that in most instances, one half of the front lawn of student housing is actually City of Kingston property. He noted that the police only intervene if people are consuming alcohol on either a sidewalk or a city street. He suggested that the property line should be clearly defined to make it easier for the police to enforce laws regarding the use of alcohol. Mr. Rogers proposed that bricks be utilized to delineate the property boundary.

Mr. Grenville questioned what objective measurements were utilized to measure the decline in quality of life in the near campus neighbourhoods. Mr. Rogers responded that the decline is noticeable if you live in one of the impacted

neighbourhoods. He indicated that many of the families and seniors have moved out of the area and have been replaced by students. He elaborated that a major influx in students can be seen as a tipping point for a neighbourhood.

Mr. Sinkinson stated that he takes issue with Mr. Roger's statements. He indicated that he is not supportive of the approaches that the SONAG pressure group utilizes. Mr. Roger indicated that the group's flyer is designed to cause discomfort as there are few opportunities to express their concerns to student's parents.

Mr. Rogers circulated photographs to members of the Committee. A copy of the photographs are attached to the original set of minutes located in the Clerk's Department.

Mr. MacKinnon questioned if other factors such as taxes or a lack of amenities have contributed to people moving out of the near campus neighbourhoods. Mr. Rogers replied that there are likely other factories which have contributed to the flight of the families from the near campus neighbourhoods. Mr. MacKinnon mentioned that it is becoming increasingly difficult for young families to afford housing in the downtown.

BRIEFINGS

There were none.

BUSINESS

a) Quality of Life Working Group Progress Update

Ms. Denniston-Stewart informed the Committee that the Quality of Life Working Group is investigating eighteen action items and will provide the Committee with updates accordingly.

Ms. Denniston-Stewart indicated that the Quality of Life Working Group has begun to analyze student movement and distribution and will report the findings to the Committee in the near future. She noted that eighty two percent of Queen's University students live within 1.5 km of the intersection of University Avenue and Union Street. She mentioned that graduate students often live a bit further away from campus.

Ms. Denniston-Stewart stated that the Quality of Life Working Group is seeking feedback from the Committee regarding defining near neighbourhood boundaries, the student move out period and garbage and recycling collection.

Mr. Gervan was of the opinion that landlords should be held responsible for the cleanup of their properties after a tenant leaves until mechanisms are in place to ensure that the tenants clean up a property in a responsible fashion.

Mr. Grenville stated that garbage collection is the most prominent issue during the student move out period. He elaborated that garbage being dumped in City of Kingston parks is also a significant issue.

Mr. Ohtake noted that the garbage dumps were not open last year during the student move out weekend.

Mr. Grenville indicated that the proactive approach taken by the Property Standards Department has made a significant difference. He commented that the garbage is being removed much faster.

Mr. Sinkinson stated that the Queen's University Alma Mater Society is working with many groups to improve the student move out period. He commented that large items are quite difficult to dispose of properly. He stated that the large garbage pile in Victoria Park during last year's student move out period was very disappointing to see. Mr. Dossett commented that he was in agreement with the comments of Mr. Sinkinson. He noted that traffic is also a major issue in the near campus neighbourhoods during the student move out period.

Mr. MacKinnon explained that the landlords often attempt to bill their tenants for the cleanup and stated that is very difficult to collect from the tenants. He reiterated that garbage being dumped in City of Kingston parks is a problem.

Councillor Glover informed the Committee that large item pickup has been discussed in the past at length. Councillor Neill noted that a large item pickup day is very expensive.

Mr. Willing commented that the Property Standards Officers were very heavy handed with their approach. He indicated that the cleanup following the student move out period was completed in about four days.

Inspector Cookman stated that the Police work closely with the Fire Department during the student move out period.

Ms. Finley expressed concern that the diversion rate plummets during the student move out period.

Ms. Lougheed indicated that she believes there is confusion regarding what items go in the blue and grey boxes. She commented that posters outlining the recycling process should be provided to students. Mr. Grenville was in agreement that education regarding recycling is very important.

Mr. MacKinnon stated that the landlords would prefer a single recycling bin rather than a blue and grey box. He commented that all recycling should be picked up weekly in the student area. He stated that if it was easier to recycle the diversion rates in the City of Kingston would increase. He suggested that staff should relax the criteria for recycling cardboard as it is the item left behind on most occasions. He indicated that the near campus neighbourhoods may require additional service and support due to the high number of people living in the area.

Mr. Dossett stated that cross contamination of recycling items is a major issue in multiunit dwellings. He commented that additional education should help students understand how to properly recycle. He suggested that industrial style recycling systems be placed throughout the student area.

Mr. Sinkinson withdrew from the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Ms. Denniston-Stewart thanked the Committee for their input.

b) GIS Presentation Regarding Near Campus Neighbourhoods Mapping

Ms. Denniston-Stewart noted that staff from the GIS Department has prepared the mapping. She commented that the intent is to eventually formally define the boundaries of the near campus neighbourhoods. She stated that this is the beginning of this process and indicated that this matter would be addressed further moving forward.

Mr. Healey conducted a presentation regarding GIS mapping.

Mr. Grenville questioned how the off campus response boundary is determined. Ms. Denniston-Stewart replied that the off campus response boundary mirrors the boundary of the campus security zone. She mentioned that Campus Security often works in conjunction with By-Law Officers.

Mr. Grenville questioned if the Committee will see the distribution of student housing at a later date. Ms. Denniston-Stewart replied that this is the intent. She mentioned that the Quality of Life Working Group will require the data from St. Lawrence College regarding the distribution of their students.

c) Update regarding the Program and Accommodation Review Committee

Ms. Lougheed provided the Committee with an overview of the context in which a program accommodation review committee operates.

Ms. Lougheed noted that a Program Accommodation Review Committee that has been tasked with reviewing schools in the north of Kingston is halfway finished their study.

Ms. Lougheed indicated that the Program Accommodation Review Committee for Sydenham District and Portsmouth District has just commenced. She commented that there is the threat of a school closure in the near campus neighbourhood.

Ms. Lougheed expressed concern that the Limestone District School Board is unaware of the City of Kingston's plans for intensification in the downtown.

Mr. Sumbler mentioned that the Committee could receive input from the Quality of Life Working Group regarding their perspective on this matter.

Ms. Dennison-Stewart stated that schools are a key component of the neighbourhood and are essential to providing a high quality of life. She commented that the Quality of Life Working Group will provide comment regarding this issue at the next meeting.

Mr. Gervan withdrew from the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

MOTIONS

Ms. Lougheed informed the Committee that the intent of the proposed motion is to provide the Program and Accommodation Review Committee with information regarding the changes that will be occurring in the near campus neighbourhoods in the future.

Councillor Glover provided the Committee with additional explanation regarding the framework of the proposed motion.

Moved by Ms. Lougheed
Seconded by Mr. Ohtake

THAT the Arts, Recreation & Community Policies Committee recommend to Council that the Near Campus Neighbourhoods Advisory Committee following consultation with the Quality of Life Working Group provide input to the Program and Accommodation Review Committee regarding the public elementary and secondary schools that are currently under review in near campus neighbourhoods.

CARRIED

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

There was none.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Near Campus Neighbourhoods Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on Thursday January 11th, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. MacKinnon

Seconded by Mr. Ohtake

THAT the meeting of the Near Campus Neighbourhoods Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

CARRIED