

**Williamsville Town Hall Meeting/May 14, 2012, 7 – 9 pm**

The meeting took place at St. Luke's Anglican Church, May 14, 2012, with Sue Bazely as Chair who welcomed those in attendance (approx. 40-45).

She introduced Councillor Jim Neill who commented on the Williamsville Main Street Study with recommendations that have been adopted by City Council plus an amendment to look into the possibility of bike lanes on Princess St. Councillor Neill also informed attendees that rain barrels may be purchased from the City at a reasonable cost.

**Mission Statement:** A large plaque copy of the Mission Statement (thanks to John Grenville) was displayed at the meeting and was commented on by Pat Hodge who said that the Mission Statement had been developed over the course of monthly meetings and would serve as a guide for future work of the Williamsville Community Association. The Mission Statement featured a logo designed by Nancy Douglas.

David Morris had several questions re the Mission Statement: who was elected to represent the residents of Williamsville; who was elected to determine the best interests of Williamsville residents, many of whom had no contact with the Williamsville Planning Group; City Council is the body to represent Williamsville businesses and people.

Sue Bazely indicated that the purpose of Town Hall Meetings was to hear opinions and concerns of residents and businesses.

Several people responded to David Morris statements: that people at the meeting represent opinions; a reference to the School's Parent Council that served re schools a similar purpose to the Williamsville Association; a reference to the Sydenham Ward Ratepayer's Association (SWATRA) that provided an opportunity for the neighbourhood to talk about concerns and to give feedback to elected Council representative.

**Farmers' Market at the Memorial Centre:** Sue introduced Natalie Grainger who has been hired as the Market Manager. The opening of the Market will take place on May 20 and will run from 9 to 2 pm. There will be children's activities, crafts, and the presence of about 20 vendors who will be selling 100% of their own produce. The market will run from May to October 21.

**Mural Project:** a short video produced by Sebastian Back was shown by Christine Dewancker showing work done on a mural on the Quick Stop store façade on Concession St. The project was done to celebrate National Youth Art Week and a similar project might be done in the future in Douglas Fluhrer Park.

**Development Watch Group:** John Grenville spoke of developments at Mack St. at Alfred St., 148 Nelson St., 203 Colbourne St. and 363, 365, 367 Johnson St. The development at 493-513 Frontenac St. and at 630 Princess St. are appealed to the OMB. Anticipated developments are at the 5-6-7-8 Dance Studio and at the Budget Rental lot. The Mayor's Task Force on Development will provide some input in the future. There will be an amalgamation of the Zoning By-Laws (re Amalgamation) and this may be done by about 2015.

**There will be a Proactive Property Standards inspection of Alfred, Albert, Frontenac, York and Princess Sts. From Bath Rd. to the foot of Princess St.**

**There was a question about empty houses on Johnson St. between Macdonnel and Toronto Sts. Councillor Neill said that these had been family-owned houses and had been purchased by someone from Ottawa. The area is zoned for one and two family units. Buildings would need to be taken down in order to do developments possibly for student rentals.**

**Good, Bad and Ugly: a video was shown depicting examples of good developments, bad developments and downright ugly aspects of the Williamsville District. Sue Bazely spoke of the Buy Your Neighbourhood slogan, the Services and Lifestyle Guide on which she has done much work and needs more help to assist in the information and production of the booklet. She also spoke of a future Award for Sustainable Businesses with a listing of requirements to qualify for the Award.**

**Silent Auction and Draw: very generous donations from Williamsville businesses were given as door prizes to those at the meeting. The Silent Auction was also a success. Both events contributed activity and pleasure to the meeting.**

**Near Neighbourhood Advisory Committee: John Grenville commented on the meetings and noted that Chairman Bill Glover was present. Future meetings will take place in June, August and November.**

**Website Update: Sue Bazely spoke of the Williamsville website and noted that it was necessary to keep it updated and to add more images. A feature could be favourite Williamsville services with suggestions contributed by residents. Some favourite places mentioned were John's Deli and the Star Diner. More help is needed to expand and keep current the Website.**

**Councillor Jim Neill:**

- value of neighbourhood walks to make a checklist of areas that could be improved;
- the Williamsville Main St. Study has to take into account some sewer capacity issues, especially with regard to the Kingscourt area in order to approve a few more developments. Holding Tanks underground are being looked into as a way of taking care of heavy rainfall and to enable Kingscourt and Williamsville to have future developments. He went on to say that an incremental tax increase (Williamsville is an opportunity for this). Student bedrooms are renting for \$600 plus utilities. Queen's lets the market take care of housing with resultant capacity issues and is looking at compatible student housing developments with private partnerships. There is value in mixed housing and we need to avoid a tipping point where the student population reaches 80% and residents feel under siege.
- school closure: it is important to maintain elementary and secondary schools in neighbourhoods. Queen' is in favour of maintaining schools as essential to attract faculty.
- there was a question about lack of garbage pick-up and rat problems Councillor Neill

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**recommended calling Property Standards and notifying Queen's AMS Commissioner if there is a problem relating to Queen/s students. He also mentioned that more blue boxes may be obtained from the City. The Hockey Hall of Fame will be torn down and could become the site of a raised community Victory Garden. Play space for older kids is also a need at the Memorial Centre.**

**With regard to cycle lanes on Princess St., 40% of the parking is used. Separated bike lanes will help more people to cycle and the amendment for a pilot project can explore this possibility.**

**A question was raised re the closure of the downtown Empire Theatre and whether it was possible for the City to bring another Theatre to the downtown. Councilor Neill said that this was beyond the City's capability and also spoke of the one remaining downtown theatre, the Screening Room, that needs to invest in new technology.**

**Announcements: CNIB Open House, Marketing Survey by Kingston School of Art.**

**Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at about 9:15 pm**

(Notes by Pat Hodge who takes responsibility for errors or omissions.)