



FAIRWINDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Monday, May 16 @ 7:30pm

Stittsville Sobeys Community Kitchen (Carp Road @ Hazeldean Road)

Chaired by: Glen Gower

Minutes taken by: Joe Boughner

Board members in attendance:

- Tara Jowett
- Alex Chen
- Eric Felhaber
- Martin Stein

Regrets:

- Sean Toogood

1. Approval of Agenda (Moved by Eric, Seconded by Tara)

2. Approval of Minutes from April meeting (Deferred as minutes not ready)

3. Neighbourhood Watch (19:34)

- Vic McNabby (sp?), from Ottawa Police, and residents Monique (Deer Run community) and Chad (Tempest on Fairwinds) introduced by Glen to speak to their experiences with Neighbourhood Watch.
- Glen suggested it would be great if a few more streets joined Tempest as Neighbourhood Watch streets in Fairwinds.
- Vic provided an overview of the program in Ottawa. 27 watches in Kanata/Stittsville area; 1800 members in those programs. Programs dates back to OPP coverage of the area (12-15 years). Vic has been involved for 12 years as volunteer coordinator. He says the program thrives based on what citizens make of it; it's totally voluntary. Police provides the tools and citizens take ownership. It's not an onerous time commitment beyond the initial canvass. Otherwise it's just looking out for their neighbours, which they do anyway. Police can't reply to random comments on Twitter and Facebook but information has to formally funnel into the police; Neighbourhood Watch promotes that. Initially Fairwinds (2-3 years ago) wanted to do a big area and it didn't get off the ground. Chad started

smaller and has had some success. Community association can be a guiding light, give it visibility, but people in the community have to step up and start the watches themselves. Too often CAs become politicized; then the Watch programs collapse. It's all about making the community safer. Start with a safe house, which leads to a safe neighbourhood. So the Watch program includes free home security inspection service. Less than 10% of Watch participants take advantage of it. Communities need 50% participation before signage will be put up by the city.

- Chad then spoke to the Watch program he set up in his area. It came together after a suspicious car was seen in the neighbourhood on Halloween last year. Since then there's been some suspicious activity in the area that was communicated to OPS through the Watch program, leading to quick resolution. Chad said he started with a "soft knock" approach, just casual conversations. Then attended an information night, which led to more of an organized campaign. Campaign started around Christmas, had the Watch up and running by February. The group has since grown to surrounding streets. It's all communicated via email though phone numbers are also available in a phone tree if needed. Group continues to grow as residents on nearby streets come on board and canvass their neighbours. Secret is tenacity, keep going back to follow up to get people signed up.
- Vic reiterated that Neighbourhood Watch isn't a Block Parent program; Block Parent is no longer supported by Ottawa Police.
- Monique talked about her Watch program, the largest in the city. She said starting large made it difficult to get penetration in her community at first. She reiterated Chad and Vic's points about starting small. Most of Monique's communication is done by email as well. She said she's still dealing with apathy and people not wanting to call the police. Most people are content to complain on Facebook. Vic noted that block captains play a vital role in coordinating the Watch along with the Watch Coordinator. Keeps local eyes and ears on every street. Described it as a pyramid with each captain watching 20 homes, rolling up to the Coordinator. The Coordinator is the prime contact to the police. He emphasized that it's vital to make the call to police. Don't sign up to be a Coordinator if you aren't prepared to call the police.
- A resident noted that his experience canvassing was really nice because he got to meet his neighbours; this has led to additional participation in things like cleaning up the capital.
- A resident asked if his smaller crescent is big enough to still require the 50% participation. Vic explained that it depends on configurations of neighbouring streets etc.
- In response to a question about reporting, Vic explained that the witness should report incidents to the police then also to the block captain who can

determine what is a one off and what is a recurring issue that may require more coordinated response. Police will sometimes help canvassing after major issues but most times it's about the community.

- Vic said if anyone wants to start organizing their street they should call him (he provided business cards at the meeting). He can help define the parameters of a canvass (number of houses etc) that will be most successful. He also added that casual conversations like Chad's approach can help before a formal canvass.

There was a two minute break to allow residents who only wanted Neighbourhood Watch information to clear out of the room.

4. Johnwoods Closure (20:08)

- Joe Boughner provided an update on the Johnwoods public meeting and subsequent communications from the city and feedback collected from residents. In general, opinion is divided on the Johnwoods closure but concerns about communications and timing are consistent among all.
- Several residents expressed concerns about misleading timelines and commitments about consultations that never occurred.
- A proposal was laid out to send a letter to Councillor Qadri and discussion occurred about what could go into the letter.
- No change to roads until at least after Area Traffic Study is complete
- Ideally wait until the rest of the road infrastructure is in place (Robert Grant and the Stittsville Main connection)
- Clarification about OC Transpo
- Make sure traffic calming is guaranteed first
- More development is coming for this area; good faith is required and this would be an important step to restoring that faith
- **ACTION:** Joe to write the letter

5. Membership (20:33)

- Summary of brainstorm ideas

- Glen presented the membership ideas from last meeting
- Tara offered to assist in the membership committee

6. Events

- Garage Sale June 4

- Other summer events

- Glen reminded everyone that Hayley Kew is coordinating the garage sale. So far we have more streets signed up than ever before.
- Promotion will be ramped up in the next few weeks.

- John Ball has not replied with dates for summer movie nights as of yet but plan to have one in May, June and July.
- Jen Holmes is looking to coordinate late summer / fall BBQ.

7. Advocacy

- Development update
- CTC road closure signage
- Dog waste bin

- Development: Proposal for new large retirement residence, retail, parks and apartments on Hazeldean just west of Huntmar. Glen provided an update on this proposal, which is fairly new. Parking is underground; some residents have wondered if there are enough parking spots. Glen will monitor for opening of comment period and he will coordinate so feedback should go to him. Glen praised the work of David Jenkins, a retiree who serves as planning expert for Stittsville Village Association.
- Glen noted some residents are concerned about the giant orange signs left in place for CTC traffic announcements. Glen asked to write a letter to the councilor and the Senators asking for nicer semi-permanent signage or at least remove the signs between games.
- **ACTION:** Glen to write the letter.
- Dog waste bin: The Bandmaster Park garbage can is always overflowing with dog poop.
- **ACTION:** Tara agreed to look into a special dog waste bin for the Fairwinds parks.

8. Outreach

- Volunteers
- Community signage

- Glen asked if anyone has experience with Volunteer Hub website (used by local school boards) for volunteer management and scheduling.
- **ACTION:** Martin will look into it
- Joe provided sign update. City has been asked about process and permission or erecting signs in the parks.

9. Vacant board position

- Karrie has had to step aside so we're looking for a new board member and people to fill her roles on traffic and as secretary.
- Tara will take over the traffic file. Resident Frank Boeres has volunteered to assist Tara on this.
- The secretary role and board position will be filled next meeting.

10. Councillor's Update

- The Councillor sent his regrets. He submitted an update which will be circulated to board members following the meeting.

11. Other business (20:50)

- Residents asked for updates on traffic calming projects in Fairwinds (Tempest?)
- **ACTION:** Joe will follow up with the Councillor
- Glen noted there is no topic for the next meeting yet but could be traffic, could be someone from the new private school on Huntmar, or the future of CTC, or planning generally.
- Tara noted that FCA reps should set up with information on the association during the garage sale.

Adjournment (20:59)

Next board meeting: Monday, June 13 7:30pm. Location tbd.