



Vars Community Association

Meeting Minutes
January 13th, 2010

Opening:

The special meeting of the Vars CA was called to order at 7:05 PM on January 13th 2010 at the Bearbrook Community Centre by Ivan Tanner.

Present:

Ivan Tanner, Jean Séguin, Gary Larocque, Hélène Manning-Lemieux, Darlene Brown, Linda Payant, Francine Portenier

Excused: Barb Lavictoire, Hope Louis-Suggett

Absent: Mark Wall

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

C. Conflict of interest

- Gary Larocque excused during the Optimist Club Carnival discussion

D. Open Issues

- Choosing our Future Initiative (quick presentation by Francine)
 - Francine had a discussion with Michael Muir, City of Ottawa, Manager Sustainability Services about the above program
 - The goal of this multi-year project is to help Canada's Capital Region face the challenges of the 21st century, and integrate concepts of sustainability and resiliency into all facets of regional planning and design.
 - The aim of this program is to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan for the National Capital Region. The City of Ottawa is working with the City of Gatineau and the National Capital Commission to develop this Plan.
 - The long term goals for a sustainable, resilient and liveable region are attached to the back of these minutes. The goals deal with such things as:
 - climate change, energy, connectivity and mobility, water and waste water, economic development, health and quality of life, housing and affordability, food and agriculture, culture and identity, governance and decision making.
 - VCA could align the NPI issues with the project's goals.
 - Note: Choosing our Future website is <http://www.choosingourfuture.ca/>

- Plan for the Neighbourhood Planning Initiative before the CPS Committee on Feb. 4 & the Planning Committee on Feb. 9
 - Review of the process
 - Should pick 1-4 communities per year
 - Have modules prepared with either a rough framework or general guidelines for a systematic approach, have resources ready to take less time through the whole process
 - NPI is a good review of the village priorities even if different between residents.
 - 4 main priorities within a community are social, economic growth, environmental and security.
 - This type of consultation should continue with different communities, but need a commitment from the City.
 - Ivan, Francine and Jean will be present at the 2 meetings to represent the VCA and Vars residents. They will prepare a very short presentation before going forward to the council on these points:
 - Position of Vars and recommendations
 - The process
 - Lessons learned
 - Next Steps
 - Get the staff from process to result oriented
 - Need funding for potential needs of the community to justify priorities
 - Need willingness and assistance from the city.
- Bank issues for transfer of signing authorities (CIBC vs. other options)
 - Hélène will send by e-mail the letter of notice to Jean as past president to sign and then bring the package (bank notice letter and last AGM minutes) to Ivan
 - Ivan will go in person in a few days to the CIBC bank in Embrun to start the process of changing signing authorities.
 - The other members will need to go in to sign the proper documents required.
- Financial update
 - Darlene provided a written report. No cash in since last update.
- Web update
 - Darlene will reimburse Jean for the service provided from October 2009 to January 2010.
 - No update on the website since last meeting
 - Mark has contacted Jean by e-mail stating that he will send all the required info in order to change the payment process.
 - A written procedure for the Website needs to be written down for ease of task transfer to another person in the future.
 - Need to find the name of the resident that volunteered to help during the AGM if Mark desires
 - Agreement with all VCA executive board members that once the website company's info is known to the VCA, yearly payment by cheque will be processed.
- Review of the constitution

- Reported to next meeting

E. New Business

- Hope will be on a 'leave of absence' for an undetermined duration.
- The VCA received the City's contribution towards the Cenotaph in partnership with Rural Affairs.
- The 4 community signs are ordered and will be installed in the future.
- The benches at the Fieldhouse are installed
- Mélanie from the Optimist Club contacted Ivan for donations, gifts, prizes for the Winter Carnival. The VCA agreed to donate 10 Vars.ca water bottles. The banner will also be posted in the gym for the duration of the carnival.
- Discussion about fundraisers (and to donate to a charity group (ie. United Way).
 - BBQ in the park
 - Old fashion street dance
 - Movie night in the park
 - Spaghetti supper
- The City of Ottawa student summer jobs opened on January 11th until February 22nd 2010. The VCA will post on the billboards after the Winter Carnival in February.

F. Agenda for Next Meeting

- Choosing our Future Initiative (if Francine can get the rep for a 20 minute presentation)
- Feedback on the City of Ottawa council meeting held February 4th for the CPS Committee and February 9th for the Planning Committee
- Financial update and Banking
- Web update
- Review of the constitution

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM by Ivan Tanner. The next general meeting will be at 7:00PM on February 11th 2010 at the St-Guillaume church.

Minutes submitted by: Hélène Manning-Lemieux

Approved by: Francine Portenier and Ivan Tanner

Choosing our Future Initiative Long Term Goals

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health

Goal: The region continues to fulfill its traditional ecological functions, supporting a diversity of connected habitats for flora and fauna, regulating water and nutrient cycles, providing food and shelter to humanity and to wildlife living within the region or in neighbouring regions.

2. Climate Change

Goal: The region is responsible for mitigating all the greenhouse gas emissions it produces and uses adaptation measures to reduce the impact of climate change.

3. Energy

Goal: Energy is used efficiently and responsibly in the region and comes from a diverse portfolio of resources that are renewable, have a low impact on the environment and contribute to local economic development.

4. Connectivity and Accessibility

Goal: The region is connected at all scales, providing efficient and safe transport of goods and people, offering real choice in transportation modes, and providing frequent opportunities for high quality social interaction, and healthy, affordable lifestyles.

5. Materials and Waste

Goal: Rates of consumption and waste generation in the region are compatible with its capacity to absorb wastes, and have a net zero or net positive impact on the earth's long-term productivity.

6. Water

Goal: Regional water demand is consistent with the region's available water resources and leaves enough for healthy ecosystems. Wastewater and pollution are managed effectively so that our water is drinkable, swimmable, and supports natural aquatic ecosystems.

7. Prosperity

Goal: The region's prosperity is generated with a fraction of today's material and energy throughput, does not come at a cost to the health of ecological systems, and prioritizes local livelihoods and regional self-sufficiency. The region's residents have access to a wide variety of locally produced goods and services that are produced and consumed in a

responsible manner. We support and consume responsibly produced goods and services from around the world.

8. Health and Social Systems

Goal: Communities and neighbourhoods are healthy, safe, accessible and inclusive places where residents are empowered, involved in community life and enjoy a high quality of life. Basic human needs are met for all residents in the region.

9. Housing

Goal: Housing in the region meets the needs of the whole community. All residents have access to dignified shelter and housing is efficient and healthy.

10. Food and Agriculture

Goal: The region's farmers working on a well protected, highly productive land base produce a great variety of foods using diverse, sustainable practices. The food system provides the region with a high quality, healthy, affordable and secure supply of food.

11. Culture and Identity

Goal: The distinctive cultural heritage and diversity of the region is recognized, celebrated and contributes to a well-defined sense of place and identity, spiritual fulfillment and resilience.

12. Resilience and Adaptability

Goal: Neighbourhoods are adaptable and resilient by design, capable of accommodating both expected and unexpected changes in climate, technology, the economy, resource availability and demographics.