



DAVID BARTLETT PARK – DOG WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting Summary of Minutes

October 18, 2016

Chair:	Thom Kearney	President
Executive:	Carol Hooper	Vice-President
	Jack Lazaruk	Vice-President
	Joy Clarke	Treasurer
Guests:	Scott Moffatt	City of Ottawa Councillor for Rideau-Goulbourn
Members:	51 members, including the Executive.	

The following information reflects a summary of the meeting, key statements, questions asked and answered, and future actions. Every effort was made to ensure the information was captured as accurately as possible. Minor revisions have been made to ensure clarity and a concise review without repetition.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President.

Opening Remarks: Thom Kearney welcomed members and Councillor Moffatt.

Summary: Thom identified two proposed developments in David Bartlett Park (“the Park”) on the agenda for discussion after which Councillor Moffatt would leave and the election of the Executive Committee would take place. Thom also noted that volunteer sheets were being circulated around the room for those willing to volunteer for certain activities.

Thom described his understanding of the two proposed developments. The first is the expansion of the parking lot and relocation of the entrance from Cecil Rowat Lane to McLean Crescent. We have seen this proposal before.



Thom's understanding of the second proposed development is an on leash corridor along the right hand side of the Park (the right hand side if you are standing in the parking lot looking into the Park) which would go along the backs of the house on that right hand side of the Park. This corridor would provide a buffer between the Park and the backyards of the houses. The separation would be created by a split rail fence of the same type as is now along the river side of the Park. This proposal has come up because a new waterline is to be laid through the Park in the near future so if the ground is already being disturbed it would seem like a good time to consider creating this corridor.

**Councillor Scott
Moffatt**

With regard to the parking lot expansion and entrance relocation, Scott noted that there is a safety issue with cars using and sometimes parking on Cecil Rowat Lane which is a fire access route. The entrance to the parking lot from Cecil Rowat Lane will not be cut off to pedestrians, only to cars through the use of bollards or something of the sort.

As for the idea of creating a shared space in the Park, one reason is the complaints over the years by homeowners adjacent the Park who have had dogs coming into their backyards. Also, given the size of the Park, sharing the space in some way should be possible. Any fencing to separate off and on leash areas would be a split rail fence with mesh as has been done next to the river. Scott has had some people ask for the mesh on the fence by the river to be extended up to the top rail. There would be openings in the fence to allow access at either end and into the water. Scott emphasized that these are very early discussions. No concrete plans on location, size or anything else have been developed. It is just an idea at this stage. The majority of the Park would remain an off leash area.

The idea of a chain link fence was raised, but Scott said that was not a possibility as it would be ugly and not in keeping with the look of the Park. There were several questions about the width and shape of the corridor. Would it be as wide as a bike path or wider? Scott indicated that it could not be too narrow, like a bike path, as the idea is to create two separate use areas within the Park. Likewise, Scott said that it was not just a matter of fencing off the backyards of the home owners because, again, the idea is to create a shared space. Scott also mentioned that the source of the funding he has in mind is a "cash in lieu of parkland account" which has the stated purpose of improving parks so anything that is done must demonstrate an improvement to the Park. There was some discussion of creating a picnic area and whether the area by the creek across Cecil Rowat Lane would be better for that use although dogs use that area to access the creek. Scott emphasized that no plan has been prepared, no clear idea of width or size, all of this is up for discussion.



A strongly made point by several members was that there are a limited number of areas in Ottawa where dogs can be exercised off leash and that the Park is very special because of its fantastic location and composition. Therefore, why should dog owners be asked to compromise the space available in the Park by creating a separate area for other uses? Also, other cities have large “dog only” parks so Ottawa seems to be falling behind in this respect.

Thom Noted that the use of the Park has increased considerably over the years. Areas around the Park have seen more and more homes being built. Dog owners are coming from Barrhaven and other areas to use the Park. The Park is a public place so it is important to consider ways to share that space with others.

Scott Indicated that he still receives complaints about dogs straying into home owners’ backyards and that some separation between the off leash area and the homes would be a way to deal with that issue. Also, even with a corridor along the side of the Park, there would still be a large area left for off leash use. Scott also suggested that pressure will only increase to find ways of sharing the Park some way so being proactive and coming up with a plan now might prevent less acceptable plans down the road.

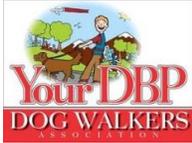
Turning back to the parking lot proposal, members speculated whether the parking on McLean will be reduced by enlarging the parking lot. There was also some concern that the site lines from the proposed new entrance to the expanded parking lot would be adequate to see cars coming from over the bridge. It was also noted that Cecil Rowat Lane is often in bad shape with pot holes and unstable sides that have resulted in damage to cars and cars getting stuck. Could Cecil Rowat Lane be paved? Will the new entrance to the expanded parking lot be paved? Should fire route signs be posted?

Scott responded to say that he thinks an expanded parking lot will help ease the issue with parking and that certainly doing nothing is not going to help. As for the site line issue, he expects the engineers to look into this when finalizing the design. Cecil Rowat Lane will not be paved but Scott will look into having the paving of the new entrance off of Mclean costed out. There are no parking signs all along Cecil Rowat Lane.

A question was asked about the proposed water line through the Park.

Scott responded to say that the current single water line to Hillside Gardens is not ideal, a backup is needed. The plan is to bring a second water line over from Riverside South, under the river, through the Park to connect up with the current line on McLean. The work is tentatively scheduled for 2018-2019.

Coming back to the corridor/shared space proposal, a member pointed out that Beryl Gaffney Park has a master development plan so we should consider future



development of David Bartlett Park in a coordinated way with Beryl Gaffney. Also, there might be some money for fencing included within the money for the new water line. Another member pointed out that there is/was a ten foot easement behind the houses adjacent to the Park which has been encroached upon by the home owners so any new corridor would need to be carefully monitored to prevent the same thing happening again. It was also pointed out that multi-use parks in Ottawa were recently in the news in terms of increasing tension between park users with and without dogs.

Scott noted that the Park was not originally identified as a single use Park. It has evolved into that with the off leash allowable designation. Some people are questioning why and those questions may become more frequent as the surrounding area is developed. He also repeated that the idea is just up for discussion right now. There is no firm plan on size for the new corridor/area. Scott will be back to meet with us when there is a diagram that can be used for the discussion. In the meantime, if anyone wants to ask more questions, they can e-mail him at Scott.Moffatt@ottawa.ca or attend the Town Hall meeting he is holding on November 15th.

[At this point Scott left the meeting and we moved on to other business.]

The next agenda item addressed was the election of the Executive Committee members. Of the existing members, Thom was willing to stand for President and Carol for Vice President. As Joy was not going to stand for Treasurer, Jack indicated he would do so. That left one Vice President and the Secretary position to fill. After discussion about the tasks of the positions, a proposal was made to add an additional Vice President position so that there would be three: Communications, Membership and Vice President – At large. A motion to that effect was made, seconded and approved with one vote not in favour.

After the amendment of the Constitution to add the third Vice President position, the following individuals offered to stand for the positions:

President: Thom Kearney
Vice President – At large: Carol Hooper
Vice President – Communications: April Campbell
Vice President – Membership: Robert Reid
Treasurer: Jack Lazaruk
Secretary: Erin Moore

The motion to acclaim each individual to their position was seconded and all votes were in favour.

The last item discussed was the newsletter. Linda Rychel asked if the newsletter was really necessary, given that the DBPDWA has both a Facebook page and a website. One member pointed out that some members have not



been receiving the newsletter by mail as previously. After a brief discussion, the Vice President – Communications said that she will discuss the newsletter issue with the rest of the Executive Committee and come back with a plan. In the meantime, Linda said she would prepare newsletters for November and December 2016.

Thom

Thom closed out the meeting by thanking members and indicated much of what was discussed tonight would require more discussion, more thought and likely more patience. The Executive will follow-up on the consultations and advise of news as it becomes known.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 pm