



A Proud Past, a Bright Future

RICHMOND VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
Minutes for Meeting of June 06, 2005
St. Paul's United Church – 7:30 p.m.

Present: President – Harvey Snyder Vice President - Bruce Webster
Past President: Ted Brown
Directors – Jane Campbell, Jill Deboer, Ulrica McKim, Andrew McKim,
Bill Walters

Absent: Leslie Abraham, Don Flanders, Glendon Trebble, Judy Wagdin

Guests: Doug Arnold, Christa Snyder, Glenn Brooks, Moira Winch, Rosemary MacArthur, John Curry, Janet Bernard, Mike Westley, Brian Finch, Richard Bendall, Dave Hicks, J.P. Raymond, Paul Treboutat

Agenda:

Review of minutes from last two meetings. Minutes accepted as presented – motion from Jill DeBeor, seconded by Bruce Webster.

Harvey Snyder introduced Councillor Glenn Brooks, Rideau Ward.

Councillor Glenn Brooks, Rideau Ward, then spoke on a variety of subjects including ward boundaries, the new wetland designations, the Munster-to-Richmond forcemain and the financial problems facing the City of Ottawa.

Ward Boundaries: Councillor Brooks remarked that although no councillor had the opportunity to study the recommended changes to the ward boundaries, or have a chance to speak to their constituents about the proposed changes the recommendations were accepted at the April 29th meeting of Corporate Services. Councillor Brooks did not vote to accept the recommendations until he had a chance to speak to the residents in his ward. He also has a survey on his website: www.glennbrooks.ca concerning this issue and invited everyone in attendance at the meeting to feel free to fill out this survey. Councillor Brooks will review the survey and then present his views to City Council. He is concerned about the lessening of rural representation at the council table.

Councillor Brooks urged all to take part in the Rural Rally to be held at City Hall on June 8th, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Munster-to-Richmond Forcemain: Councillor Brooks originally supported the pipeline based on the data and recommendations provided by city staff. However, after meeting with Harvey, Glenn realised city council had made a mistake by approving the pipeline.



A Proud Past, a Bright Future

He now believes that on-site treatment, like the one in Mantotick, would have been the more preferable solution based on cost and operational ability.

Wetlands Designations: Councillor Brooks pointed out that government will do anything they want until faced with a united group of people who oppose their plan. He strongly suggested all those in attendance gather to form one group to try to have the designations reversed. He has raised this issue with the relevant parties to see if he can do something to have the changes stopped.

Financial Problems: Councillor Brooks believes the residents of Ottawa will soon be facing a 12% property tax hike in the near future. He predicts the City of Ottawa will be facing a debt of 714 million dollars by the end of 2005. He worries that, should interest rates rise and the economy slows, Ottawa will be facing a serious economic breakdown.

During a question and answer session Councillor Brooks commented on:

- suburban councillors are easier to work with on rural issues than urban councillors as they have more knowledge of rural issues
- he believes more money from the City of Ottawa should be spent on crumbling infrastructure
- regarding the O-train he is concerned about the amount of money involved in the project and pointed out that even though money is coming from provincial and federal departments it all ultimately comes from public tax money

Harvey thanked Councillor Brooks and invited him to attend any one of our meetings in the future.

Harvey then introduced Ms. Moira Winch, Rural Summit Project Manager who presented a short talk on the upcoming Rural Summit and why she believes it is a worthwhile event which will produce positive results for rural residents. This event will take place in the fall, after spending the summer gathering information from various rural organizations concerning issues. The point of the Rural Summit is to present viable solutions to the City of Ottawa on how they deal with specific rural issues and how their current “one size fits all” strategy does not work in rural areas of the city. All information on the Rural Summit is available on the City of Ottawa website or by contacting Moira at:

Moira.Winch@ottawa.ca.

During a question and answer period the following was discussed:

- items for inclusion in the Rural Summit: appeals on decisions, borough governance
- the question of the Rural Summit being supported by the Mayor and all rural councillors was met with extreme scepticism as most present expressed disbelief that the city has “suddenly” become concerned with rural issues
- the Summit format, as in who will have a chance to take part and speak, has not been formalized yet – Moira will let us know who will be able to address the Summit when she knows



A Proud Past, a Bright Future

- Harvey Snyder formally requested a position on the organizing committee in order to address the concerns of Richmond and area as well as to raise the profile of the clear and present danger of the Munster forcemain.

Business arising from Minutes

- 1) Treasurer's report – Judy absent
- 2) Canada Day – Jill presented for Leslie

All information concerning the Canada Day Celebrations in Richmond is available on the website. Gordon O'Connor and Janet Stavinga will both be at the opening ceremony. The organizing committee has raised \$1,500.00 so far and are trying to raise more money to help with the costs involved which is estimated at approximately \$5,000.00.

New Business: Doug Arnold has been having discussions with CBC radio regarding the forcemain issue. He has sent a long letter to Ms. Julie Ireton detailing the problems with the Munster-to-Richmond pipeline. He is awaiting a reply and will pass on the information to all interested parties when he receives an answer.

Motion to adjourn meeting from Andrew McKim, second by Bill Walters (approximately 10:00 p.m.)