OSEAN Meeting Minutes

2021-01-19

*Ottawa South Eco Action Network is a group of volunteer environmental activists working in*

*Ottawa South. Our aim is to support people in our area who are taking action in motivating and*

*enabling others to become low waste households, protecting green spaces and wildlife,*

*combating climate change, and encouraging the government to pass more sustainable*

*legislation. We believe in thinking globally and acting locally.*

In attendance: Marianne, Erin, Heather, Aija, David, Manuel

Regrets: Kari-Anne, Kat

1. January Meet and Greet:
   1. Attended: Councillor Brockington, Get Growing, Riverside Park members, and lots of new members.
   2. Christine is concerned about waterways, especially Sawmill Creek, and would like more effort by the city. Possible options:
      * add waterways to the "Adopt a Park" initiative; Erin contacted the City and learned that only parks and roads can be adopted, not waterways;
      * Ottawa Riverkeeper - RiverWatch program https://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca/what-we-do-2/initiatives/riverwatchers/

Dave tried to recruit people to monitor/clean up the shore of the Rideau River (to look for development, pollution, trash) but got no takers;

* + - OSEAN could adopt a creek informally;
    - Great Shore Clean-up, supplies given, other interested people could help, online sign-up, families could sign up, can sign up for any date;
    - Cleaning up the Capital
    - Manuel emphasized the importance of the presence of all 4 flows - recycling, composting, garbage and paper - at each public disposal station.

**Action Item: Aija will research waterway clean up options and make a list of spots needing clean up.**

c. Barb and Christine want to expand the Get Growing Initiative. We can send a call out for volunteers for this as well?  Marianne sent Barb the list of potential gardening plots that Riley procured from the city.

d. There was a lot of interest in getting apartments and condos to compost/recycle better.  Riley put forth the information that there are city planners who will meet with property managers and "bend over backwards" to help them set these things up.  Our thought was to put this information up on our website/Facebook/Twitter with Riley's info so he can connect property managers with city planners. Still waiting to hear from Riley. Katerina would like to have a pamphlet on recycling and composting that could be distributed to apartments.

Canoe Bay as a new build must have space for 4 shoots.

**Action Item: Dave will call Canoe Bay again to ask what recycling/composting facilities have been provided for residents.** DONE - Dave emailed his contact at Canoe Bay with no response to date (Jan 21/2021).

e.Riley was also to send us stats on our city's composting/recycling and how it is processed. Some of recycling goes to 2 companies in Ottawa that use the material to make new products. We talked about making this information more public, not only on our site but on the new Ottawa website.

f. We also talked about providing feedback for the upcoming website and reiterated this to Riley.  He mentioned another councilor (Scott Moffat) was Twitter arguing about its merits and we reinforced why it was so important to have information and education available to the public.  I would propose we talk again about how we can consult on the website.  Heather can maybe speak to her dealings with Cloutier's assistant on this.

**Action item: Heather will follow up with Councillor Cloutier's office to find out if there have been any new developments on the Green Ottawa website, timelines, webpage contacts at City Hall and how OSEAN can be involved. One of our members is a teacher with experience in making website formats accessible and functional to increase educational impact**. *DONE - email sent 2021-01-20*

g. Food security, boulevards and front yard gardening  (follow up with Alta Vista neighbour and our conversations with Riley. Other cities are much farther ahead than Ottawa on this.. lots of precedent setting).  Covid provides a unique opportunity to possibly push the food security issue.   
Heather suggested that members contact the City via the Engage Ottawa website where forms can be completed under the Official Plan umbrella. There is space to provide comments, including on food security and to ask the City to change the by-law to allow planting vegetable gardens on boulevards and homeowners' right of ways.

h. Ottawa’s official plan. - what does OSEAN want to or can do?  (Possibly with intensification, promoting walkable communities.)

**Action item: Homework - members to fill out "one pager" forms on Engage Ottawa Official Plan website: https://engage.ottawa.ca/the-new-official-plan**

i.Walkable Ottawa is joining with Ecology Ottawa to host walkability (15-minute neighbourhood) workshops.

**Action Item: Marianne will reach out to Ecology Ottawa to ask that a neighbourhood in OSEAN's jurisdiction could be the focus of a future workshop.**

j. Riverside park had a presentation from the city about their neighbourhood. You can watch the video here (although apparently not very useful) <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/IEqNIjr2wU0VvZW8GGebjkiaiQJk00uc9Opql7aa0cIzdUmqeourCuW-qx3jQjtb.AmY8PxoICz6z1GC8> user the Video Passcode: ?3ecYy.W

Erin has been in contact with George Brown who has been to an OSEAN meeting or two and is the liaison with the community garden. He is interested in intensification, food security, solar panels on buildings, etc. She gave him contacts and suggested he contact OREC.

2. Initiative to support or showcase frontyard/backyards with gardens that promote biodiversity and support pollinators. We could have prizes for the top 3 or for everyone who enters. Great opportunity to teach people who want to learn about how to enhance their own gardens.

**Action item: Erin will create an invitation to people with notable gardens to enter a contest or allow a tour.**

**Action item: All members to ask neighbours if they would like to participate in the competition or to allow tours of their garden**.

3. Recap on support for climate action in Ottawa.

Marianne will reach out to her contact who heard back from Envari, the Heat Pump pilot offer. Dave and Marianne have not heard anything.

Dave says right now, it is best to do Bull Frog type offset measures.

Carbon pricing will slowly improve the cost benefit towards heat pumps.

4. Erin's video project is in progress. More will happen once the weather warms up.

5. Anti-idling— Glebe Community Association is starting an anti-idling campaign. There is a meeting this Thursday at 7 pm for those interested. The City produced flyers on idling some years ago. If they City could print off more, we could distribute them and also provide them to this anti-idling campaign.

**Action item: ?**

6. Heather gave an update on Council Watch. Ecology Ottawa will have a new website to launch around the end of January and Council Watch will have a tab/link from the main page. The Council Watch page will have the latest analyses and blogs about City decisions related to the environment.

**Action item: Heather will create a website page for related links including a link to Council Watch.** DONE

**Next meeting: Tues February 16, 2021**