

DALHOUSIE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

755 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 6R1

March 11, 2025

Margot Linker
Planner II
Development Review Central
Planning, Development and Building Services Department
City of Ottawa

By email: Margot.Linker@ottawa.ca

Dear Margot Linker:

Re: Street Closure Application: Slater Street Road Allowance Between Empress and Bronson

I'm writing on behalf of the Dalhousie Community Association in response to your request for comments on the city's announcement that it will formally close the Slater Street road allowance between Empress and Bronson, known as Nanny Goat Hill.

Before a decision is taken on the future of the Slater Street road allowance at Nanny Goat Hill, the DCA proposes that the city convene a public, in-person meeting on the future of development in this area, with a focus on the preservation of its greenspace and heritage resources.

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The closure of the road allowance may at first appear to be of little consequence. With the reconstruction of Slater this section of the old road is no longer needed for cars and trucks.

Similarly, the future use of the property defined by the road allowance seems clear. The city identified the property as a "Future NCC Parcel" during the planning for the reconstruction of Albert, Queen, Slater and Bronson. The National Capital Commission, for its part, has included the property as a part of the "Albert District" within the LeBreton Flats Master Concept Plan.

It is expected that the NCC will reveal their specific plans for the property as part of a development application to the city. By that time these plans could be well-advanced, with little or no public engagement. (It is recognized that the NCC convenes a Public Advisory Group for the Building LeBreton project.)

However, there are good reasons for expanding public engagement in the planning for Nanny Goat Hill, before any development application is made, and in addition to the existing PAG meetings and the city's pre-application consultation process. Two stand out.

The first is the city's plan for the property, within the Downtown Ottawa Urban Design Strategy

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and the Escarpment Area District Plan. Here the property is envisioned as greenspace, helping to link Bronson Park to the Dominican properties. It enhances the eastern gateway to LeBreton Flats, while maintaining its traditional role as the connection to downtown.

It is vital that greenspace on Nanny Goat Hill is maintained. The recent greening of the property opposite Ādisōke, in the triangle made by Bronson, Slater and Albert, is a welcome development and consistent with this vision.

Secondly, the area is a cultural landscape of historical significance. Regrettably, the development of Nanny Goat Hill, and of LeBreton Flats in general, has resulted in the erasure of much of its heritage. But as Dave Allston and the late Robert Smythe have shown us, and in the paintings of Henri Masson, that heritage is still visible. What's left must be preserved.

Face-to-face public engagement about the disposition of the Slater Street road allowance and the future of Nanny Goat Hill is essential, and before development planning is advanced. The DCA can play a role in the facilitation of this engagement, and will work with the city toward this end.

Thank you for your consideration of the community point-of-view. We look forward to the response to our proposal.

Sincerely,

Catherine Boucher
President

Attachments:

<https://kitchissippimuseum.blogspot.com/search?q=Nanny+Goat+Hill>
<https://urbsite.blogspot.com/2010/02/henri-masson-on-nanny-goat-hill.html?q=nanny+goat+hill+retaining+wall>

cc. Councillor Ariel Troster
Michael Powell, Co-chair, PAG, NCC
Laura Mueller, Chief, Development Implementation, NCC