

## PRESIDENT'S SPEECH DCA AGM 2025

Meetings, meetings meetings.

Some people like them short, some people drag them out, but in the end, it always turns out we need to meet to agree on where to go and how to get there.

Sometimes we meet in parks or coffee shops or pubs, but now we mostly meet from the neck up on Zoom or Teams.

The DCA has a monthly meeting of the Board, with a break in July and December. The DCA Committees meet, some of them monthly, some on an as-needed basis. At the will of the Committee Chair.

In the past year, the Committees have worked on many issues that are important to making our neighbourhoods better, safer, greener, more affordable and healthier.

The Mobility Committee job description says it works towards an 8-80, Vision Zero use of streets, sidewalks and pathways. What does that mean? 8-80 is the idea that our streets and sidewalks should be safe for people from 8-80. Vision Zero is about aiming for no fatalities or severe injuries on our streets.

This year, our **Mobility Committee** worked on moving the inter-city Flix bus stop from a very unsafe spot at the new Library build site. We wrote a letter to the Premier about his vision of tearing up bike lanes. Keeping an eye on the MUP connections as it relates to 1010 site. Participated in the City's review of large events, mostly on Lebreton Flats and their effect on residents. Always trying to make Booth Street safer and quieter and hoping to get Albert as a complete street. And more. If you drive, transit, bike or walk, Ed McKenna is the guy to talk to.

The **Plan Our Neighbourhood** committee looks at the impacts of new development proposals on our neighbourhood and communicates concerns to City Hall.

It comments on proposed planning and zoning changes to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth that recognizes the strength and history of our neighbourhood. Like the proposal for the 1010 Somerset site, which took up quite a bit of our time this year. You can hear all about that if you join us for the walkabout.

This year, the volunteers commented on developments like the Dominican site on Empress and 15 Larch Street. We wrote in support of Heritage designation for 10 Empress, the phone exchange building at 43 Eccles and Dave's house. The Committee is still working on our comments for the new Zoning By-law. This is all nerdy stuff, but you too can become a planning nerd. Talk to Dave Seaborn.

The **Messaging Out Committee** looks at our communications and how to improve them. Nick Lepine has just taken the helm and his small but mighty group is hoping to get out a regular newsletter to our members. And Archie Campbell is our go-to BUZZ representative (always looking for delivery help!)

And they will be shepherding us through the name change and all that will entail.

**Peaceable Neighbourhood** Committee is Ryan Turley's baby and it's been busy, especially recently given the opioid crisis which has hit particularly hard over the past few months.

The DCA signed a Good Neighbour Agreement with SWCHC and the Chinatown BIA last summer. We attended presentations about the new ANCHOR project and the proposals for a HART HUB. The arrival of Northwood, a safer supply clinic, following the closure of the Safe Consumption Site, has resulted in very unwelcome behaviour which has migrated into many parts of Dalhousie. Ryan and others will be working hard on this in the coming months.

**Public Realm Committee** works to ensure that Dalhousie residents have a healthy environment and safe places to play for all ages. We never forget that our part of Ottawa has the least number of trees of any ward in the City. And we repeat it at every occasion!

But the last year was focused on a big WIN! The Sweet Willow Community Garden will be holding its official opening a week from today. The garden triumvirate of Debbie Barton, Nancy Campbell and Jane Darcovich (Take a bow!) have delivered a little miracle for the north end of Rochester Street.

And you know those planters and bulb-outs that are just a weed patch? Talk to Debbie about adopting one or two!

So, many volunteers working on different issues and all reporting to the Board, which is the ultimate decision maker, when needed. Most of this is arrived at by consensus and the votes at the Board are rare (except for spending money).

I'm thinking of how we name groups of animals, like a murder of crows or a gaze of raccoons. I think we can call ours a village of volunteers and I want to thank them all for their care and concern. Merci, merci, merci.