

## Walk Ottawa

### Meeting #12 – Draft Agenda

February 3, 2014, 7-9pm, Ottawa City Hall, Richmond Room

1. **Introductions** (Name, neighbourhood)
2. **Agenda**
3. **Approval of minutes**, See [Document 1](#), draft minutes of Meeting #11 (Also circulated Jan 23)
4. **Business arising from previous minutes:**
  - a. Previous updates were sent out on October 3 and January 23, see [walkottawa.ca/blog](http://walkottawa.ca/blog)
  - b. “Near Misses” – update from Cheryl Parrot, see [Document 2](#), p.4
  - c. Logo/Banner
  - d. In November, some WO members met to discuss the draft updates to the Transportation Master Plan and Ottawa Pedestrian Plan, which have since been approved by City Council.
  - e. Budget 2014 submission sent in shortly after the last meeting, see [Document 3](#), p.5
  - f. Pedestrian Safety Evaluation Program (PSEP): Public Works will be requesting \$500,000/year funding for this programme as part of the 2014 Development Charges By-Law review. (See [Transportation Committee agenda for 4 December 2013](#))
5. **Steering Committee Report**
  - a. Member Recruitment
    - i. Recruitment poster (Margaret Back)
    - ii. Talking Points, see [Document 4](#), p.6
    - iii. WO Branding (logo/banner)
  - b. WO website ([walkottawa.ca](http://walkottawa.ca)) and e-mail address ([ottwalk@gmail.com](mailto:ottwalk@gmail.com))
  - c. Submission re: Bank Street sidewalk patio, see [Document 5](#), p.7
  - d. Council on Aging (John W)
  - e. Pathways Committee meeting with the NCC (Chris T)
6. **Review of major pedestrian incidents since the last meeting**
  - a. **Woodroffe/Knightsbridge** Oct 15, 2013 (Elderly woman) – Marker installed Oct 25
  - b. **Centrepointe/Dalecroft** Oct 28, 2013 (66 y.o. man) – Marker installed Nov 15
  - c. **Bayshore** Late Nov, 2013 (75 y.o. woman) – No marker installed
7. **Winter Maintenance**
  - a. See attached memos:
    - i. **Winter Maintenance on Sidewalks** ([Document 6](#), p.8)
    - ii. **Paramedic Service calls for slips and falls during icy week** ([Document 7](#), p.10)
    - iii. **Total amount paid for sidewalk claims, 2012** ([Document 8](#), p.10)
8. **Announcements/Other business**
  - a. An **Elgin Street Walkability Audit report** was released by Ecology Ottawa and the Centretown Citizens Community Association. One for Bank Street is forthcoming.
  - b. The NCC built a ‘**pedestrian refuge**’ (**median**) on **Colonel By Drive** in the fall to facilitate crossing as part of the implementation of the Rideau Canal Corridor Pedestrian Crossing Study to improve pedestrian access to the pathways.
  - c. The Ottawa Board of Health endorsed the **Healthy Eating Active Living Strategy on School-based Active Transportation** (SAT) in October, in the leadup to the approval of the City’s Transportation Master Plan and related plans.
9. **Next meeting:** April 2014?

DOCUMENT 1**Walk Ottawa****Meeting #11 – Draft Minutes****September 23, 2013, 7-9pm, Ottawa City Hall, Honeywell Room**

1. **Introductions** - 14 people were in attendance
2. **Agenda**
  - a. Move item 8 (budget 2014) up to after item 5. Carried
3. **Approval of minutes**, See Document 1, draft minutes of Meeting #10 (Also circulated Aug 28)
4. **Business arising from previous minutes:**
  - a. Minutes and updates were sent out Aug 28, 2013, which are also available at [walkottawa.ca/blog](http://walkottawa.ca/blog)
  - b. List of improvements made by Traffic department to the top 20 intersections for ped collisions, which Ron discussed last meeting.
    - i. WO received the stats from the traffic monitoring group and sent it to the traffic signals group to seek out changes that could be made immediately. As a result the changes are only to traffic signal timing and only reflect the raw numbers.
    - ii. A member observed that staff said that they would look at near-misses (Phil Landry). **ACTION: Cheryl to follow up with Phil Landry**
    - iii. WO's website was established as ottawawalkingproblems.ca specifically to report problem pedestrian areas. Traffic on the website fell off after the initial creation, and the info didn't go anywhere.
    - iv. **ACTION: Charles connect Georgia with Lana about capability for people to report near-misses on the Walk Ottawa website**
  - c. Additional Ped Safety Statistics sought in item 6b were circulated Aug 28. See Documents 3 through 6 attached to this meeting agenda.
5. **Steering Committee Report** (\*Wallace Beaton, Judith Wouk, Chris Tucker, John Woodhouse, Margaret Back, \*\*Les Whitney)
  - a. There are **two vacancies on the Steering Committee** (Ron Brown and Michelle Perry). There has been some interest expressed but please come forward if you'd like to help.
    - i. Also looking for someone who can help with the [ottwalk@gmail.com](mailto:ottwalk@gmail.com) address.
    - ii. \*Wallace won't be active until further notice, for personal/professional reasons.
    - iii. **\*\*Les Whitney agreed to join the group, no objections.**
  - b. Car Free Day booth, Sep 22
    - i. Les attended the booth and distributed the green flyers. Some new member names came out of the event.
    - ii. A Walk Ottawa banner would be good to have. **ACTION: Charles trace the logo or design a new one. Forward agenda: banner/new logo**
    - iii. Also, an expense of \$15.30 (\$14 US) was incurred for the domain registration. Hat was passed to collect contributions. \$70 was collected, Les has it. **ACTION: Charles to connect Les with Lana to get her the money.**
    - iv. **ACTION: reimburse Lana Stewart for the expense of the domain of the website, with the balance to be held in reserve.**
  - c. Main Street letter in support of complete street (see Document 7)
    - i. The goal of the previous letter was to get Walk Ottawa on record as supporting Complete Streets in general. Representation on the working group would help iron out any pedestrian-related concerns on the detailed design.
    - ii. **MOTION: That Georgia Lay be the Walk Ottawa representative on the Main Street design working group with respect to the Complete Streets concept. MOVED by Chris Bradshaw, SECONDED by Robert Crout. CARRIED. ACTION: Georgia to contact Coun. Chernushenko's office.**

- d. WO member recruitment
  - i. The stack of ½ page green paper Walk Ottawa flyers is with Charles in Coun. Holmes' office. Anyone can come by to pick some up if desired.
  - ii. Margaret Back presented some draft text to use on a poster to use in recruiting members at universities. There was a discussion about what elements would be added in the final design (logo, colour, e-mail address, etc).
  - iii. **ACTION: Margaret to circulate the poster to the Steering Committee after formatting has been added.**
- e. WO website (walkottawa.ca) and e-mail address ([ottwalk@gmail.com](mailto:ottwalk@gmail.com))
  - i. The website is now at **walkottawa.ca**, and the home page freshened up.
- 6. **Budget 2014**
  - a. Walk Ottawa submission to the budget (Wallace)
    - i. There was a discussion on which items should be included in the letter. It was agreed to focus on the first point
    - ii. **ACTION: Wallace to prepare letter, include SC names.**
    - iii. The Pedestrian Safety Evaluation Program will come to Transportation Committee in December, so we can comment on that program then.
- 7. **Presentations**
  - a. **Updates from Safer Roads Ottawa** – 5-year Collision data 2008-2012, including Pedestrian stats (deferred from previous meeting): **Deferred**
- 8. **Review of major pedestrian incidents since the last meeting**
  - a. **August 12:** Pedestrian hit and killed on Frank Kenny Road (Ottawa Citizen article: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Frank+Kenny+Road+closed+after+fatal/8774982/story.html> )
- 9. **Announcements/Other business**
  - a. **Transportation Master Plan, Ottawa Pedestrian Plan, Ottawa Cycling Plan** were scheduled to be released earlier today, but this has been postponed. **Assistance will be needed to review these documents in October;** a working meeting can be scheduled.
    - i. [A working meeting was held in early November to review the plans and develop some points for Walk Ottawa to focus on.]
  - b. Chris Tucker took over as Walk Ottawa's rep to the NCC pathway steering committee.
  - c. The Elgin Street walkability audit results are supposed to be done at the end of this week. Walk Ottawa had input into the report prepared by Ecology Ottawa and the Centretown Citizens Community Association. Another one is scheduled for Bank St.
    - i. Seniors Transportation Committee is developing its own walking inspection audit process
    - ii. Ottawa Public Health is also conducting audits in various areas.
    - iii. **ACTION: Invite someone from Ecology Ottawa, Ottawa Public Health, and Ottawa Seniors Transportation Committee to come to the meeting to talk about their walkability audits with different parts of the city?**
  - d. "Walk your bike" signs were installed on Argyle near the YMCA-YWCA.
  - e. If you find the patios on Elgin Street sidewalks leave too little room, make sure to complain to 3-1-1 so it can be included when future patio permits are reviewed.
- 10. **Next meeting: Monday, February 3, 2014, 7pm.** Motion to Adjourn: Chris Tucker. CARRIED.

DOCUMENT 2

**Update on "Near Misses" from Cheryl Parrot:**

Sorry I can't come to Walk Ottawa tonight but I do have a report>

I spoke with Shawn McGuire from the City who is the Co-ordinator of Cycling & Pedestrian Safety about the idea of capturing "near misses" where pedestrians are almost hit.

He says that can be done by just making a report through 311. He says they will forward the information to them and they can keep a data base. When there are several at an intersections they will start looking at what can be done.

He also said that he looks at the Walk Ottawa map to see where there are issues and suggested that this could also be a place for info to be logged. He said it would be easier if there was a link on the home page to go directly to the map and also some clear instructions on how to add a comment about a location. He said he also has to use Firefox to be able to see the "dots" for locations.

So I suggest articles in community newspapers - I will do one for ours - encouraging people to report to both 311 and Walk Ottawa. Encouraging people to report is probably the hardest part. We will have to follow-up to see if 311 does actually forward them to the right place.

Cheryl

DOCUMENT 3



[www.walkottawa.ca](http://www.walkottawa.ca) / [ottwalk@gmail.com](mailto:ottwalk@gmail.com) / @ottwalk

September 25, 2013

Mayor Jim Watson & Members of City Council  
City of Ottawa  
Via e-mail

**Subject: Budget 2014**

Walk Ottawa is a group of citizen volunteers who contribute their time, talent, and resources to promote walkability and advance the interests of pedestrians in Ottawa. We are pleased to provide the following recommendation for your consideration in developing the City's 2014 budget:

**Allocate consistent and sufficient financial and human resources to implement the Pedestrian Plan and policies affecting pedestrians in the Transportation Master Plan in a timely fashion. In 2014 this should include a minimum of \$3.5 million for the Pedestrian Facilities Program with the same or higher amounts forecast for 2015 and beyond.**

*Rationale:*

- 1. When Council adopted the current Pedestrian Plan in 2009, it directed staff to allocate \$3.5 million per year for the Pedestrian Facilities Program (PFP). In reality, this commitment has never been met. In 2011 for example, funding for PFP was \$0, rising to just \$750,000 in 2012. The forecast for next year (as per Budget 2013) is also \$750,000.*
- 2. While the investment in new sidewalks and pathways through Ottawa On The Move has been very welcome, it should be seen as a one-time down payment in our city's walking infrastructure. As Ottawa On The Move enters its final phase, Council must maintain this momentum if we are to reduce the years-long backlog of pedestrian projects that still remains.*
- 3. More than 10 per cent of Ottawans use walking as their primary mode of transportation and the vast majority of transit trips begin and end on foot. Around the world walkability is critical to the success of transit and the City of Ottawa needs to ensure that, by 2018, it has a world-class pedestrian network to match its world-class LRT system.*
- 4. In recent years Council has increased its annual funding for the Cycling Facilities Program with impressive results. Walking deserves no less.*

Sincerely,

*Margaret Back, Wallace Beaton, Chris Tucker, Les Whitney, Judith Wouk, John Woodhouse*  
Walk Ottawa Steering Committee

cc. Nancy Schepers, Deputy City Manager, Planning & Growth Management  
cc. Marian Simliuk, City Treasurer

DOCUMENT 4**WALK OTTAWA MEDIA TALKING POINTS****Our Mission:**

- to provide a voice for pedestrian safety and walkable communities for the City of Ottawa
- through policy advocacy and community empowerment.
- disseminate reliable information
- seeks common cause and welcomes cooperation with others in the best interests of pedestrians

**Who We Are:**

- **volunteers** who contribute time, talent, and resources to promote walkability and advance the interests of pedestrians in Ottawa
- inspired by City Council's signing of the **International Charter for Walking in 2011**
- objectives intersect with the mandates and missions of numerous other bodies:
  - o City departments
  - o Council committees (such as those dealing with environmental, infrastructure, social, recreational, educational, policing, health, finance, transportation and transit matters)
  - o Community Associations
  - o BIAs
  - o the NCC and Province
  - o other advocacy groups (including those concerned with the needs of older adults, cyclists, persons with disabilities, and the environment).

We have a minimal organizational structure. Any interested person is welcome to attend and participate in Walk Ottawa meetings. Decisions are normally reached by consensus, although anyone present may request a vote on an issue – in which case a simple majority of those present determines the result.

Walk Ottawa is guided by a **Steering Committee**

- five-to-seven members
- selected from among people participating in Walk Ottawa meetings.
- one-year terms
- take turns in planning, chairing and following-up its meetings
- normally held at least four times per year
- a Coordinator maintains a record of actions taken, and matters pending
- Steering Committee members may serve as spokespersons
- contact points are through the Steering Committee, a website and a gmail account

## Meetings of the full Walk Ottawa group

- normally four times per year
- receive information from individuals and partners from the City and community groups
- make decisions about Walk Ottawa actions, positions and priorities
- propose items for the Steering Committee's attention
- receive and respond to reports from the Steering Committee about its activities and their results
- offer advice to the Steering Committee on matters under its consideration

**What We Believe In:**

- our elected officials and public servants need to ensure our streets—important public places—serve all users, no matter their age or abilities
- Using a **Complete Streets** policy to improve Ottawa's existing road network will help make our city more liveable. **Complete Streets** recognize the needs of all users, including pedestrians, automobiles, bicycles, and wheelchairs. They generally have wide sidewalks, bike paths, slow speed limits and reliable and fast public transportation to encourage people to frequent their local businesses, socialize, and linger in their neighbourhoods longer.

DOCUMENT 5

**From:** Walk Ottawa [mailto:ottwalk@gmail.com]

**Sent:** January 23, 2014 7:00 PM

**To:** Stephenson, Sarah

**Cc:** Diane.Holmes@ottawa.ca; Chris Tucker; John Woodhouse; Judith Wouk; Margaret H. Back; Akben-Marchand, Charles

**Subject:** Outdoor Patio Proposal 425 Bank St

Dear Ms Stephenson,

Councilor Holmes has copied Walk Ottawa her response to the proposed outdoor patio at Bank St. and Frank. Walk Ottawa is a group of citizens concerned with pedestrian safety and walkability. The proposed sidewalk patio would result in both a safety hazard and diminished walkability.

The patio area on Bank St. is where passengers now wait for the buses and they tend to press close to the curb to see when a bus is coming. The proposal would leave them no place to stand other than in a flow of restricted pedestrian traffic. Waiting to the south of the patio would place them in a 'smoking zone' and would require a scramble to get to the bus along a narrow sidewalk. People, often encumbered with bags, packs, strollers, etc, entering and exiting the buses will exacerbate the jamming of the narrow passage. There are two busy bus lines (1 and 7) using this stop and those who remain waiting for the next bus would further block the way. Even an increased unencumbered width of 2.4 meters may well be inadequate for the competing uses of the sidewalk: waiting area, walkway and bus access.

The streetlight pole screens the view of what is ahead of pedestrians and, although the walkway jogs around it, creates a visual image of a blocked off street. Pedestrians from the south can cross to the west sidewalk safely at Gladstone to avoid this but those from the north would have to cross at uncontrolled T-intersections. The view along the sidewalk currently is of an open and airy space, comfortable for families and friends to walk side by side in safety. The proposed patio, the pole and the jam of bus passengers would be a barrier to a walkable environment only recently achieved through the Bank Street reconstruction.

Les Whitney  
Walk Ottawa

DOCUMENT 6

**From:** Wylie, Kevin (Public Works)  
**Sent:** January 16, 2014 3:31 PM  
**To:** Holmes, Diane  
**Cc:** O'Keefe, Larry  
**Subject:** RE: Issues with winter maintenance on sidewalks

Hi Councillor

I understand your concerns and we have been using all our resources to deal with the ice issue left from the storm of 2 weeks ago. Since getting your email I have toured your ward a couple of times and while many areas have returned to bare surface, the ice in some areas is still persisting, especially in the residential and low lying areas. We have made multiple passes on a number of the sidewalks such as Gladstone scraping and applying grit. We have also had backhoes steadily on catchbasins prior to the freeze up draining as much water as possible. Having said that I am meeting with my team to see how we can do things differently in future when faced with this type of event, as I agree it has been very difficult for residents to get around. Some ideas we may be trying out are:

- Is there a way to anti-ice sidewalks? Currently we have limited to no capacity on our sidewalk machines to carry liquid but maybe there is another way to do it.
- Trying “scarifying blades” on sidewalk machines. We do this now on gravel roads and it is a “comb” like attachment that roughs up the ice surface to provide traction.

The Department did try a “scrubbing” attachment that was designed to “chew” up the ice on sidewalks but found that it was too slow a process to be practical. We are also researching to see if there is any new equipment and or materials that may be worth trying.

Our winters are becoming less traditional and more challenging it is important to get a practical solution to this. I have responded to your questions below. [underlined and in red – WO]

I know this has been a challenging couple of weeks for residents and we are always looking for better ways to do things. I hope helps and I am happy to discuss further,

Kevin

**From:** Holmes, Diane  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 4:59 PM  
**To:** Wylie, Kevin (Public Works)  
**Subject:** Issues with winter maintenance on sidewalks

Hello Kevin,

44% of Centretown residents walk to work. The sidewalks are an essential piece of community infrastructure, for pedestrian commuters as well as the many wheelchair users and seniors who reside in the ward without a car. Over the weekend, I made the following observations:

1. The sidewalks along Gladstone Avenue need to be re-done. They were covered in ice all the way from Preston to Elgin Street on both sides. (as noted above we have been over them numerous times and they are in decent shape now)
2. In particular, on the north side of Gladstone between Bronson and Percy (in front of McNabb Park) there are very large perennial puddles created by snowbanks on both sides of the sidewalks. Can some of the snow on the boulevard be moved or removed to facilitate drainage from these sidewalks? Snow

was removed from Gladstone and the backhoe cleared catchbasins along there. It also cleared some areas for the sidewalk to drain.

3. Although you are out on the radio telling people to clear the catchbasins near their homes, there are no yellow centreline markers on the streets in areas where water is pooling on or near the sidewalk. I don't believe these were repainted this past fall and now it is making things more difficult. I recently discovered that the paint used last time they where painted was waterbourne due to an Environment Canada requirement to stop using high VOC content paint for our road markings. Waterbourne is not as durable as solvent based and as a result has been removed / faded by winter plowing and vehicular traffic. We now use Acetone paint for the markings and is much more effective and may be used by catchbasin marking crews but has some H&S issues. We will come up with a solution to this regardless.
4. While sidewalks are passable, crosswalks are not, particularly at T intersections, which are plentiful in Centretown. For example, at Bronson and Christie, there is a thick layer of ice on the east side of Bronson between the road/crosswalk and the cleared path on the sidewalk. This ice berm prevents wheelchair users from crossing onto or off of the east sidewalk. During our clearing operations, crew try to clear as much snow as possible and as close as possible to activated signals and crosswalks. Following the initial plow run crews return to further clean up these areas.
5. Are sidewalk plow operators aware of the function of the pedestrian buttons at crosswalks, i.e. where the walk signal will only activate when a pedestrian presses the button? If it isn't already, this information should be part of their standard training and their mandatory AODA training. Most of these buttons in Centretown can only be accessed by climbing over a snowbank, and therefore the crossings are inaccessible to people in wheelchairs or with mobility issues, who need them most. As a standard design the traffic signal cycles should be modified to automatically activate the pedestrian signal at these intersections during the winter. All staff has been trained in AODA and I will touch base with our Departmental rep to see if a follow-up reminder can go out. Also with the pedestrian signal activation I will touch base with Traffic to see if this is technically feasible.

Sincerely,

**Diane Holmes**  
Councillor, Somerset Ward  
(613) 580-2484  
[Diane.Holmes@ottawa.ca](mailto:Diane.Holmes@ottawa.ca)  
[www.dianeholmes.ca](http://www.dianeholmes.ca)

DOCUMENT 7

**From:** Kelly, Peter  
**Sent:** January 16, 2014 2:17 PM  
**To:** Holmes, Diane  
**Cc:** Di Monte, Anthony; Jones, Susan (GENERAL MANAGER)  
**Subject:** Data request to Ottawa Paramedic Service on slips, trips and falls

Councillor Holmes,

Thank you for submitting your question regarding Paramedic Service responses for slips and falls since the ice storm last Monday. A review of our patient care records over the past week has indicated that the Service has responded to 42 requests for service due to slips, trips and falls.

All 42 of the responses occurred outdoors between January 6<sup>th</sup> and January 13<sup>th</sup>. Without reviewing each of the incidents individually it is not possible to determine if the fall was specifically due to ice/weather, if the fall occurred on public or private property or if there were other factors that contributed to the injury.

It does not appear that this is an abnormal number of responses for the Paramedic Service based on weather conditions or historical volumes.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peter Kelly (on behalf of Chief Di Monte)  
Deputy Chief  
Ottawa Paramedic Service

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DOCUMENT 8

**From:** O'Connor, M. Rick  
**Sent:** January 28, 2014 1:21 PM  
**To:** Holmes, Diane  
**Cc:** Dunn, Jenn  
**Subject:** RE: Sidewalk Claims - Inquiry

Councillor Holmes,

Further to the e-mail trail below, I can now advise as follows.

Upon review by the Claims Unit, the total amount paid by the City for sidewalk claims in 2012 was \$283,739.06. For greater clarity, I can confirm that this total includes all Claims for 2012 where the Claim Type was either ‘Slip and Fall’ or ‘Trip and Fall’ and the Event Location Type was ‘Sidewalk’ or ‘Roadway’ – resulting in a total of 62 Claims.

I trust that this information is satisfactory.

Thanks,

Rick