

**Walk Ottawa**  
Proposed By-Laws  
Chris Bradshaw, 2<sup>nd</sup> draft (May 27, 2015)

1. That the organization be known as “Walk Ottawa” in English and “Marchez Ottawa” in French.
2. The objective of this organization will be to represent those who self-identify as walkers and pedestrians and to work for the betterment of their walking environment and their status in the community.
3. The organization will be membership-based, which means residents of the city and those who visit it voluntarily apply for membership and the payment of annual dues, which should be low enough to all to join. Members should support WO’s objectives.
4. The membership will meeting at least three times a year, one of which will be the annual general meeting in September or October. Notice of meeting will be given by email at least two weeks in advance. Such notice will include a financial statement and the text of amendments to the by-laws, both of which can be adopted only by members at a meeting.
5. At the latter, its officers will be elected for the following year to run the affairs of WO between membership. The officers will be Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer. Additional directors will be elected as the membership desires to be responsible for various on-going activities: outreach, advocacy, audits and guided walks, for instance.
5. These positions will be filled by election by a show of hands, with nominations coming by email or at the meeting, including members nominating themselves. The terms of office will be one year.
6. Vacancies on the board will be filled by election at subsequent members’ meeting. A vacancy can be created by resignation or by removal by the board for either failure to attend three consecutive board meetings, or by action that is contrary to the organization’s objectives or reasonable conduct.

[Explanation: Walk Ottawa has limped along for three years, not because its leaders were poor, but because there were no agreed-upon rules that would give it stability and predictability. This was partly due to the Somerset Councillor’s support and leadership, which was to have been only temporary. After a year’s effort to find a volunteer to lead it, a volunteer “steering committee” was formed. Rather than proposing a structure, it proposed that it continue as the only structure really needed, reducing the number of membership meetings. It was filled by volunteers, who often resigned after only a few months (the one formed last November with five members, now has only two). The group also has no membership criteria or requirement to financially support it, and thus has no funds for expenses.