

READ

Rosemount Expansion and Development Group

Meeting #3

Final Approved Notes

Monday, February 9, 2015

7:00 pm

Hintonburg Community Centre, Basement Meeting Room

Notes

Present: Richard Van Loon, (Chair), Emily Addison (HCA), Andy Billingsley (CHNA), Bonnie Campbell (WBCA), Barb Clubb (a/recorder), Paulette Dozois (HCA), Blaine Marchand, Penny Rose, Jeanette Rule (Champlain Park), Megan Therrien (DCA), Valerie Stam, James Valke.

Regrets: Linda Hoad, Elizabeth Whyte, Vicky Smallwood

1. Chair's Report: Richard Van Loon reported on a number of meetings since the last READ group meeting:
 - READ's Presentations and Communications committee members had met twice at Richard's home and prepared the one-pager and the objectives for discussion this evening.
 - Richard set up a meeting with the OPL CEO Danielle McDonald Friday, Feb 6 but it had to be cancelled due to a library emergency. He also wrote to the CEO asking for her assurance that development of Rosemount was still a high priority.
 - Richard met with Councillor Jeff Leiper. In the short term Councillor Leiper advised that likely nothing will happen, but in the longer term there is a good chance that something could be done on the Rosemount file. He is very supportive of READ's efforts.
 - Richard met with Michelle Taggart of Tamarack to review the situation regarding options for the OPL working with them on its Tamarack-WestWellington project (1140 Wellington W). It was felt that there was value in continuing discussion.

The chair noted that he felt the OPL staff were pre-occupied especially with the Main library now that the mayor had declared a new central library a City priority for the next four years. The Chair also advised that he would be back teaching at Carleton in the fall and so would not be as available starting then.

2. Review of READ objectives: following review of the draft statement the elements following mission statement was agreed upon:

"READ is a group of community association representatives and residents, mobilizing broad community support to work with the Ottawa Public Library Board to ensure that the Rosemount Library Branch is an expanded, fully functional and up to date facility, centrally located and fully accessible to all community residents."

- *We believe the current Rosemount library location is ideal but that the facilities are not adequate; the building was first built 97 years ago, in 1918 and has not been significantly updated/improved since 1982, 33 years ago.*

- *The Rosemount catchment area has grown substantially since that time.*
 - *The current building, the last Carnegie library in Ottawa, is much beloved by the community but READ's primary aim is to have a fully functioning and expanded library facility that is a community hub.*
 - *READ will work tirelessly with the OPL Board and staff and other members of our community until this mission is obtained."*
3. Project Timelines for next few weeks/months include:
 - Raising basic awareness with the public, the OPL Board and Staff, news media and community associations as well as the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA).
 - Attendance and possible presentation at OPL meetings and city-wide and area budget meetings and Council meetings where budget is debated.
 - Get confirmation as soon as possible that Rosemount is still the #1 branch priority for redevelopment.
 - Clarification as soon as possible on what funds might be available through Section 37 and Development Charges processes/funding mechanisms.
 - Further discussions with Tamarack.
 - Development of Facebook Page, Twitter account, and mailing list of supporters.
 4. Presentation to OLB February 10, 2015: The one pager was reviewed; the revised version is attached and was available for the Feb 10 board meeting.
 5. External Communications-getting started:
 - **Jeanette Rule** will set up FB page Twitter accounts (they will not go live just yet); **Paulette Dozois** will assist.
 - **Richard** will investigate Ottawa AM Radio (CBC) and Alan Neal (CBC All in a Day-afternoon).
 - Should try to get article in The Centretown Buzz <http://www.centretownbuzz.com/> (Possibly the March issue). Contact is Archie Campbell. Follow-up: **Elizabeth Whyte**
 - Set up linkages with all community newspapers in the area; investigate options for articles and notices. Follow-up: **Elizabeth Whyte**
 - Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA): Andy Billingsley noted that a good contact at the Main Library FOPLA committee is Carol Kerfoot. (**Bonnie Campbell** to provide email contact; **Barb** to follow-up while Bonnie is away).
 6. Attendance at upcoming meetings:
 - City-wide budget meeting: Monday Feb 9, 2015 (City Hall): **Linda Hoad** attending.
 - OPL Board Meeting Tues Feb 10, 2015 (City Hall): **Richard Van Loon** attending with **Paulette Dozois** and **Linda Hoad**; he will use the revised one-pager as well as some facts regarding the circulation/square feet that he has worked on (of all the OPL branches, Rosemount has the 3rd highest circulation/SF and of the branches that are OPL's stated priorities, Rosemount has the highest circulation/SF)
 - Budget Speak (Councillors Chernushenko, Leiper, McKenney), Tom Brown Arena, Tues. Feb 10; there will be working groups; **Valerie Stam** can attend; **Jeanette Rule** will attend if she can arrange child-care
 - OPL Board Meeting March 3rd (Richard will be away): **Paulette Dozois** will take the lead and **Valerie Stam** will assist; the messaging for that meeting will be refined focussing on READ's request for OPL to confirm Rosemount as capital planning priorities and will be informed with

what is learned at the OPL board meeting of Feb 10.

7. Work Assignments:

- Development Charges: **Valerie Stam** will speak to Dick Stewart as he is very knowledgeable on this topic; **Linda Hoad** continues to pursue clarification and her notes to date have been posted on the Google drive.
- FOPLA: **Barb** will continue to follow-up with the FOPLA President Colin Plows regarding READ's membership options as well as their support for READ.

8. Consultation with Community Associations: all association representatives were asked to report back to their associations on progress to date and advise the association boards that the project will be in need of their support in the coming months/years. Follow-up: **Elizabeth Whyte**

9. Other Business: Pauline Dozois suggested that it is very important to have Mayor Jim Watson in favour of the READ objectives and its priority as the OPL Board's #1 branch priority for redevelopment.

In response to a question from Blaine Marchand, the Chair indicated that some Community Development funds would likely come available from a condo proposal at the corner of Scott and Parkdale streets.

10. Next Meetings:

Monday, March 2, 2015 (preparation for OPL board meeting presentation Mar 3/15)

Monday, March 9, 2015 (regular meeting)

Location : Hintonburg Community Centre

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Approved

Richard Van Loon, Chair

Attachment: Chair Van Loon's Report on Feb 10 OPL Board meeting

**Ottawa Public Library Board
Meeting February 9 2015
Report by Richard Van Loon, READ Chair**

I have had the anticipated opportunity to make a presentation on our behalf to the Board. With me was Paulette Dozois although she had to leave to chair another meeting just before I spoke. Linda Hoad was also on the roster but disaster struck just before we were to go to city hall: she dropped her keys down the elevator shaft of her condo. Linda; we all hope this turned out OK.

I presented pretty much what we discussed Monday evening. I would say the Board was attentive and seemed supportive: nodding heads and a supportive comment from Marianne Wilkinson. Of course, as expected, no formal Board action was forthcoming.

BUT. The Board and especially staff have a really big problem. A pay equity decision came down late last week and it requires that OLB pay \$2.3 million in back pay immediately and take on an additional \$250,000 in annual base (salary) costs. This was not anticipated so from the Board, and especially staff, point of view it is a big and urgent problem and it calls the 2015 budget into question. Unless some source can be found elsewhere in the city budget, the OLB is on the hook. There are city contingency funds so this is not an unreasonable request on the part of OLB.

After the meeting OPL's CEO Danielle McDonald confirmed to me that since the \$100K for Rosemount study was approved as part of the 2014 budget and is currently in the capital works in progress (WIPS) account, it did not need to be part of the draft 2015 budget documents. However, the pay equity decision calls any discretionary money into question. It must be complied with, so until the 2015 budget is adopted by City Council on March 11, no promises can be made with respect to the Rosemount study funds. She will try to preserve all or part of planning money but we do have to recognize this problem may have an impact on us for this year.

I expect we will be advised of the staff advice when the draft revised budget is being submitted.

In spite of the pay equity elephant in the room, our discussion was a helpful one. The CEO assured me that Rosemount does remain the highest branch renewal priority. In this context we have to remember it is a *branch* renewal priority and the first priority is the Main Library. That will inevitably consume pretty much all planning effort until May. After that, work on Rosemount planning could begin again. This will mean exploring all options and costs to determine the best approach for the facility. The CEO also emphasized - no surprise - that OPL has adopted a project management approach for review of all facilities and the review will need to come before the Board before project funding can be approved, so first step will be to develop a feasibility study to build a business case for possible options. This will provide a sense of complete capital and operating costs for Rosemount. This is not work that we would be expected to do ourselves but we would want to provide lots of input. How much of that can be done in the immediate future will thus depend on how the pay equity problem is to be dealt with.

In sum, this is kind of a good news, bad news story. The Rosemount branch project is the highest priority branch renewal project. It can proceed into planning later this year if planning funds can be preserved. But the money to do the planning is in some question and timing of our renewal is uncertain.

We do need to keep up pressure that all or most of the planning funds be saved. The argument is simply that if we do not have defined options for Rosemount then we will not be ready when an opportunity to get building funds arises. It inevitably will arise but we will only be able to compete for the money if the OLB has in front of it detailed plans required for actual implementation.

I do not think we should waver from our objective to have a renewal in place for 2018 and to support and work closely with Board planners in defining the project. But we also need to recognize that they have unusual difficulties over the next few weeks at least.

As for the March 3 budget meeting I think we (which means Paulette & Co) should appear in order to assert what I would now call an understanding that Rosemount remains the highest branch renewal project and to emphasize that planning funds are necessary in this budget year so that we may be ready when a full funding opportunity becomes available. Whether we will need any motion to be put by a board member can't be determined until we see more information on how the Board will handle the pay equity problem. The Board staff has placed us (you!) on that agenda.

Please note that you should provide any notes or slides you will use to the Board (julie.tremblay@bibliooottawalibrary.ca) well before the meeting

Since much of our immediate success depends on the city budget writ large, it will also be helpful if we can emphasize at any budget consultation meetings how important it is that the city use emergency or contingency funds (these do exist) to cover all or at least most of the unanticipated costs faced by OPL this year.

Submitted by,

Richard Van Loon
Chair, READ Group