Ward 4 Neighbourhood Advisory Council  
Income Security Building, Room 2004  
(November 6, 2012)

Present: Alan Halberstadt (Chair), Shirley Jinkerson, Syd Lowe, Jim Meunier, James McVeity, Catherine Steen, Lori Foreman, Chris Schnurr.

MINUTES

Alan had everyone introduce themselves and informed the members that he is the only Councillor who is exercising the option of creating a Neighbourhood Advisory Council, as permitted by a City Council directive on Aug. 11, 2011.

The other Ward Councillors have chosen simply to conduct Ward meetings, which were originally mandated to be held twice a year in each ward, but so far have occurred once a year, in 2011, and now in 2012.

Administration is not resourcing the Ward 4 Neighbourhood Council meetings at this time, since the rest of the Wards are not participating. Therefore Alan said he would take his own minutes at the Nov. 6 meeting.

Alan read aloud highlights of the concerns and questions raised in last November’s Ward 4 meeting, and detailed the follow-up actions that have been taken since.

In relation to the parks, Alan noted that improvements have been made to Stodgell Park, with the planting of trees, and vandalism issues at Lanspeary Park have been addressed by a police security audit and a communication link between a citizen and the parks administration.

A request for a sound barrier along the tracks behind Memorial Drive, to buffer residents from the train traffic noise, is currently before a Transport Canada tribunal. Alan also noted that improvements have been made to the dog park in Memorial Park, and a public meeting is being planned in the New Year at Optimist Community Centre to discuss other issues involving the park.

Requests for more tree planting in the Central Riverfront area, and concerns about loss of tree canopy on city streets are moving forward. The Forestry division has agreed to give the Wyandotte Town Centre BIA 18 trees next year to plant on private properties, conditional on business owners agreeing to take and water a tree.

Also, the Walkerville Residents Association is working with Forestry and Windsor Utilities Commission to replace and water dead trees in Old Walkerville next spring.
Frustration with limited parking around Windsor Regional Hospital is ongoing, but Alan has been working with the hospital CEO to improve the shuttle service of employees from the Kildare Road parking lot so the employees don’t park on the street.

Council member James McVeity has asked for a review of the many stop signs along Ypres Blvd. in South Walkerville, and Alan agreed to make that request of the Traffic Division.

Alan also agreed to follow up on a request to pursue the feasibility of a noise buffer between the Chrysler parking lot and the back yards on Turner Road.

Member Catherine Steen stressed the importance of keeping the South Walkerville Library open. Alan reports that he is setting up a meeting with the new chairperson of the Windsor Public Library board on this issue.

Alan informed the members that a citizen named Kate Tapak has embarked on a Smooth Our Roads Campaign and he has agreed to assist her in identifying the five worst roads in Ward 4. Members identified Cataraqui and Chatham streets as examples of roads in horrible shape. Alan identified the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Chilver Road as well as Ypres Blvd. The members expressed interest in appearing before Council during Capital Budget sessions in February to make a pitch to increase the local roads budget to rehab these potholed streets. Willistead Crescent is due for reconstruction in 2013.

Alan informed the members that originally a sizeable amount of money was set aside to respond to annual capital funding requests from each Ward, but that protocol was abandoned because of budget constraints.

Each Councillor was subsequently given a $40,000 allotment in 2011, with another $25,000 allotment annually going forward. Alan has already designated $3,000 of that $65,000 fund towards a fence along Giles Blvd. at the back of a soccer field net recently installed in Lanspeary Park to prevent soccer balls from entering the road. He has $62,000 remaining this year for other projects that members or others in the ward might bring forward.

Members suggested we need better representation on the Neighbourhood Council from the area around Louis, Cataraqui and Tuscarora streets regarding concerns about what will replace the old Children’s Aid building, the vacant Social Services offices and the vacant Immaculate Conception School. Alan says he will attempt to identify a person in that neighbourhood to sit on the Council.

Members agreed to meet again on Tuesday, January 15. Alan will attempt to book a meeting room in the Optimist Centre on that date, and perhaps co-ordinate a meeting of the Memorial Park neighbourhood at the same time.