Minutes

OSEAN meeting November 17, 2021

Attendees: Marianne, Erin, Heather, Aija, Kristina (Alta Vista) (has a native plant garden, Teresa, Marisa (learning from Kristina about native gardens)

Regrets: Dave

**A. Debrief on Pumpkins for Pigs**

* 1000+ pumpkins collected (including 230 intact), media interest from CBC radio, CTV news and CTV Breakfast Television.
* Food for Thought had so many pumpkins they made a pumpkin meal fundraiser!
* A huge thank you to Bryony (our intern from Sustainable Eastern Ontario (SEO)) and Suzanne, logistics volunteer and driver, and all the folks that provided collection sites. One volunteer made several trips to drop pumpkins off at a pig farm.
* Next year use google forms to streamline engagement of volunteers
* People were very keen to bring their pumpkins, even past the collection date. Need to add a “stop dropping off pumpkins” button and/or update all Facebook posts with “no more pumpkins” and remove the addresses at the end of collection. Need to make it very clear what the drop off date is.
* Next year we hope to work with Castor River, Stanley’s Ole Maple Farm, Arc Acres (Manotick), Beez (Quyon) and Sweet Williams (Kanata)
* Possibly our program could be a template for people in other areas of the city.

**B. Update with Pollinator Patches**

Currently we have 23 potential residents interested in the Pollinator Patches program.

$1700 was received from the City of Ottawa. Sustainable Eastern Ontario is holding the funds now. Insurance for this project is covered under SEO.

**Action items: Heather offered to keep track of receipts and funds; Marianne will open a bank account, possibly at Tangarine or Desjardins (non-fossil fuel bank).**

Will include garden centres in promotional materials. They could give us a discount for native plants - Green Thumb Garden Centre may be interested.

**Action items: Erin and Heather will sprout seedlings (*Monarda fistula* and ?) for participants in the Pollinator Patches project.**

Erin hosted a native seed exchange in her driveway this past Sunday. Melanie (Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library), Masters in Policy and Analysis, has a seed saving and exchange website, and has packaged seeds by drought or shade tolerant, etc. The packages have QR codes and a picture of the flower. Asks that you give seeds back to give to other people. Exchanges occur in Glebe, Nepean, Orleans and several other locations.

**C. Confederation Heights Master Plan meeting**

This meeting will take place on Tuesday Nov 23 at 6 pm or Thursday Nov 25 at 2 pm

- Attendees could ask for a “safer” bike path that is not hidden from view of the road (there were warnings of cyclists being approached near Vincent Massey);  
- 15-min neighbourhood asks: grocery store, community centre, library, food bank, a housing co-op, truly affordable housing?

[https://engage.clc-sic.ca/realize-the-potential](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fengage.clc-sic.ca%2Frealize-the-potential%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2VPlMog1MFpXH2wBmD8ry7DucI_obWwrjxcwx6Jg3nMbd9nM8MJMp6hNU&h=AT0qF-sM3Nn604ceMpD8LXuVcn1yBQSjD2GB7anYQy0nzBHm8iC2U3IOxSsJWQUYfnf04kFYhP1Bb4Soz-eAl_4gON5UdUt7bAa-oZGQR9NoJG_I2t1Se8JE88VkDwicWwu5ANM&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5B0%5D=AT2ZcQmUuFXJI7JGSn4C2EjgggSOL1uCAmghKuYAEYsCsL0LCkxbSVJ92HeHz_eCAVPsUiZRrBz7ZxTbJjfG0RMlnpzLIV5gZa85ytdW6dWdJAHpZ0qBp-OuLXWL2IODxcrEf9etK-fInSFXhuXmnKo1MPRiSW_uVcB_LFnQe_VoVzBFuz7bLJJzbzYteXB4ND9Xi5tg)

D. **Ottawa’s Budget and Climate Change**

Energy Evolution is being defunded 69% (from 2.6 M$ last budget to $889K 2022 budget because of a decrease in Hydro-Ottawa surplus dividends).  City staff claim a lot of their climate change action is happening across all city departments. CAFES is saying the city shouldn’t be counting “business as usual” as climate action.  E.g., LRT funding isn’t climate action.

4 pilot e-buses were delivered at the end of 2021 and are supposed to be in operation early in 2022. A CBC article June 2021 mentioned a $400M loan from Canada Infrastructure Bank and up to $493M in grants from Infrastructure Canada. There are currently about 932 buses in the Ottawa bus fleet.

**Post meeting note:** According to staff recommendations, approved at the [June 2021 Transit Commission meeting,](http://app05.ottawa.ca/sirepub/cache/2/4fm2usqb5lm01wadlvca01p5/71590712082021021527568.PDF) the Ottawa bus fleet will be zero-emission by 2036, 74 40-foot buses are to be ordered in 2022 and delivered in 2023 and 450 zero-emission buses will be procured between 2022 and 2027 and are to be phased in by 2027.

**Motions/Actions that OSEAN may wish to support:**

**i) Invasive plant removal in parks**

Jean Cloutier is asking the city to look into establishing a program to remove invasive species and plant native species as well as estimate the cost for a “co-management” approach to invasive plant removals. All agreed with this approach.

**Action item: Heather will write a letter of thanks to Cloutier. (DONE)**

**ii)** **Boulevard Bylaw Reform**For our Kids and Ecology Ottawa and Envirocentre will be working with Councillor Rawlson King to get the boulevard bylaw changed to allow residents to plant (ideally native) species on the boulevard. OSEAN members agreed with this.

**iii)** **Phase out Gas-powered landscaping equipment**   
Councillor Rawlson King announced he is planning to put forth a motion to phase out gas-powered landscaping equipment (ideally including leaf blowers).  [These are huge GHG emitters]. OSEAN will wait for them to officially adopt this motion before any action.

**F.  Thoughts for the future**

* **Joint campaign** invite 1-3 groups to our December or January meeting and see if we can jointly launch some initiative:
* **Reduce food waste** in Ottawa South with Ottawa Foodsharing (and thus battle food insecurity at the same time).  Ottawa Foodsharing works with grocery stores (and possibly restaurants to take leftover food and donate it.   <https://foodsharingottawa.com/>
* **Divert Waste** reduce waste and help preserve our landfill by helping organizations like *Helping with Furniture* or *From House to Home* (the latter is based out of Ottawa South and Marianne spoke to them <https://www.facebook.com/FromhousetohomeOttawa/>
* Organize a pilot where we ask Councillor Brockington for funding (or fundraise) to make waste collection more sustainable. Apartment dwellers can't put stuff out on the curb.
* OSEAN host clean-ups - waterways or parks.
* Marianne plans to write an article about Pumpkins for Pigs tying it in to sustainability and helping the planet.

**Action item: Aija will write a blog post on what waste exchange/"take it or leave it" programs other cities have.**

**Round table**

* Heather plans to write blog for the website on her experience with installing a roof top solar system

Next meeting

December social on Wednesday December 15 6:30pm

Next meeting January 19 6pm