

**Planning Committee of February 14, 2019**  
**Agenda item #1 – Ottawa Next Beyond 2036**

**Speaking notes**

I speak to today as a resident, a member of the Beyond 2036 Sounding Board, and Chair of the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital.

First, I wish to thank the City of Ottawa for inviting me to be part of the Sounding Board. It was an enriching exercise that provided the opportunity to meet a great number of outstanding men and women across all sectors of Ottawa's civil society. We didn't always quite understand where the scenario building and driver and disrupter identifying was leading but upon reading the report, I can at minimum recognize many scenarios that I would definitely not want see happen. That alone provides guidance.

I note with satisfaction that in the Executive Summary, it is stated that the report will inform the development of the new Official Plan, including the Greenspace Masterplan, which has not been updated since 2003.

I am especially struck by the recognition, in the Introduction on page 7, and I quote:  
"The four themes (mobility and urban form, economic development, environment, and quality of life) are not meant to be separate and standalone, but rather, should be read as interrelated with one another. Notably, the environment is at the base of our ability to develop our society, economy, and quality of life." A point to which I will return.

Section 6.3 on the Environment theme is exhaustive and well structured, and the planning considerations that are developed could on their own provide a comprehensive framework for the City's environmental plans and policies.

In the Staff report, we find references to the Air Quality and Climate Change Master plan, a Parks Plan, and elsewhere to a Greenspace/Parks master plan. It is difficult to ascertain from the report the basic structure of the new Official Plan and its relationships to associated masterplans. Some clearer articulation of these plan elements would improve the report and should be addressed before consideration by Council.

However, in the spirit of drivers and disrupters, there is one major omission in all of this material. Even though most of the work was performed just over one year ago, everything has changed since then. We are now without a doubt facing a climate emergency. Not sometime in the future, way out in scenario timeframes, but right now. And decisive and effective action must be taken in the next ten years, the period covered by this plan.

This new Official Plan must be the City's Climate Emergency Plan. As noted in the introduction, the environment theme underpins success in the mobility/built form, economic and quality of life domains. This has implications for the work plan that is outlined on pages 17-18 of the staff report. To truly put a climate lens on the next Official Plan, Wave 1 should be limited to setting out what imperatively must be achieved in the next ten years in terms of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and of increasing our carbon sinks. Wave 2 can then be built around how to achieve these goals through actions in the mobility/built form, economic development, environment and quality of life domains.

This is the City's first Official Plan in the era of the Climate Emergency. It must reflect this imperative above all.

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