

SLNA DELEGATES MEETING
May 25, 2005

OWN CO-OP, 115 The Esplanade

Executive Members in Attendance:

President: Cam Miller, King George Square V
V.P. Internal: Ronny Yaron, Woodsworth Co-op V
V.P. External: Robert Prowse, Space Condos V
Treasurer: Paul Smith, St Lawrence on the Park V
At Large: Joan Campbell, Market Square V
At Large: Connie Yang, OWN Co-op V

In Attendance:

Cherril Baker, David B Archer V
Randy Bath, 15 Scadding Ave, V
Patricia Bear-Claw, Cathedral Court Co-op V
Barbara Bell, Woodsworth Co-op V
Alice Briesmaster, New Times Sq 2 V
Bonnie Dew, OWN Co-op V
Elisabeth Ecker, St Lawrence on the Park V
Pam Gierman, Windmill Line Co-op V
Dennis Glasgow, The Wellington V
Helen Henderson, 109 Front St E V
Aurie Hensman, 160 Frederick St V
Suzanne Kavanagh, St Lawrence on the Park
V
Marcus Little, The Wellington V
Beatrice Magdar, OWN Co-op V
Frank McLean, Twenty Five The Esplanade V
Susan McLeod, Market Square V
Ron Monteith, Woodsworth Co-op V
Dawn Murray, Windmill Line Co-op V
Dan O'Leary, 15 Scadding Ave. V
Anna Lee Orr, David B. Archer Co-op V
Michael Pyatt, Old York Place II
Sherri Russell, F.A.N. V
Nancy Sheppard, St Lawrence on the Park,
Assoc. V
Wally Simpson, Crombie Park V

Michael Waring, New Times Square 2

With Regrets:

Samantha Hewit, Space Condominiums, V
James Honeyman, St Lawrence C.R.C. G
Eva Jarmicka, Harmony Co-op V
Karen Serwonka, David B. Archer Co-op V

ACRONYNMS

BIA: Business Improvement Area

CMHC: Canadian Mortgage and Housing
Corporation
CPLC: Community Police Liaison
Committee
HRSDC: Human Resources and Skills
Development Canada

Arlyss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

Jennifer Arp, Bill Graham's Office

Sean Bassin, George Smitherman's Office

Michelle Buckley, Councillor McConnell's Office

Peter Jackson, 30 Front Street G

Stephanie Hickmott, King George Square G

Sgt Dan McDermott, 51 Division G

Erin Harris, St Lawrence Resident, G

Beverly Carr, St Lawrence on the Park G

OMB: Ontario Municipal Board

PSB: Police Services Board

SLCRA: St. Lawrence Condo Ratepayers Association

SLCRC: St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre

TIACAC: Toronto Island Airport Community Advisory Committee

TCHC: Toronto Community Housing Corporation

TWRC: Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Committee

V = Voting Delegate, N = Non-Voting Delegate,
G = Guest

1. Welcome & Round Robin

Cam Miller called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. He introduced himself as President and he chaired the meeting. A round table of introductions was conducted. An attendance sheet was passed around.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Amendments:

- After City Update, add "Billboards—Dennis Glasgow"
- Before Nancy Sheppard, add "Newsletter—Joan Campbell"

Motion: to approve the Agenda as amended.

Moved by: Patricia Bearclaw

Seconded by: Aurie Hensman

CARRIED

3. Approval of April 27, 2005 Minutes

Amendments:

- Page 7, a) Gala/Festival Update, first paragraph, last sentence: "The Festival's slogan will be "celebrating our past and ~~greeting~~ **greening** our future."

- Page 3: “Bicycle Theft: [delete paragraph and replace with] ‘**Sherri Russell asked whether the police knew anything about gang bicycle thefts using vans, and the officer said no.**’”
- Page 8, 13c) Wrap-up on Clean-up, second sentence: “Connie Yang noted that 10 seniors from York Towers and ~~6~~ **16** people from OWN attended”

Motion: to approve the April 27, 2005 minutes as amended.

Moved by: Alice Briesmaster

Seconded by: Conny Yang

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Update from Police 51 Division

Cam Miller welcomed Sergeant Dan McDermott of the Community Response Unit. Sergeant McDermott gave the following update.

A month ago plain clothes officers on foot patrol arrested 3 people breaking into cars. The rash of thefts has since slowed down. Sergeant McDermott’s patrol will be monitoring the Methadone Clinic at Frederick and Front Streets early mornings next week. Patrols have increased around the Market due to complaints about vagrants and drunk and unruly people. Patrols are also monitoring drug dealing at the rear of OWN.

Bob Kemp, Chair of the CPLC, reported that the police made four arrests on Victoria Day Monday of local teenagers “shooting fireworks off like rockets.” Police ask that people not give panhandlers money (newspaper sellers are registered and are an exception). Perhaps buy them food instead. For any complaints, call the police at (416) 808-2222. The number of phone calls received influences the number of police assigned to 51 Division. Furthermore, police don’t necessarily know what’s going on in the neighbourhood until they receive a phone call of complaint.

Delegates advised the Sergeant of suspicious or inappropriate conduct at 25 Henry Lane Terrace, the basketball court across from Windmill Line Co-op (particularly in summers), and St. James Park. Sergeant McDermott emphasized that even if you just have only suspicions, call Dispatch at (416) 808-2222 so that it is recorded. Cam Miller emphasized that Delegates should not assume that reporting suspicious activities at SLNA meetings suffices. It is necessary to contact the police directly.

Wally Simpson noted that his building is granting 51 Division access to their building, for patrols. Sergeant McDermott advised Delegates that, on request, a form letter of authorization for the police to enforce your building’s Property Act can be faxed to your management office by secretary Joanne, Crew Office, (416) 808-5152.

Ronny Yaron asked if the autodialer system is working again yet. Bob Kemp responded that it is not.

Dawn Murray thanked the police for making rounds in the neighbourhood, for being more visible recently.

Cam Miller thanked Sergeant Dan McDermott for his report.

6. City Update from Pam McConnell's Office (Councillor) — Michelle Buckley
Cam Miller welcomed Michelle Buckley. Michelle reported that people can call her office as well as the police when they see incidents in public places. Pam McConnell is meeting with Superintendent Michael Monroe to talk about "hot spots." The City plans to monitor them over the summer.

Last week a public meeting was held at the Hummingbird Centre regarding the City's Urban Design Guidelines for part of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. It was a chance for the public to give input. The Guidelines spell out a vision for the St. Lawrence neighbourhood, and were begun about a year ago when the City realized quite a few development applications were "in the pipeline" for this neighbourhood. The Guidelines will be adopted by Council and provide more protection for the City when development applications are considered for approval. For more information, contact Michelle's office at (416) 338-5157 or mbuckle@toronto.ca

The Mayor of Chicago was in town and toured this Ward, the waterfront, St. Lawrence Market, Regent Park, and the Distillery. He was quite impressed. Michelle made a point to mention that when Toronto's Mayor brings another Mayor here, he tours him through our neighbourhood.

At the SLNA Delegates meeting in March, filming was discussed. Since then Pam met with the Mayor's office. The Mayor wants to increase filming in Toronto. Most filming will take place in our neighbourhood. Pam has opened a dialogue to begin a policy discussion with the BIA and SLNA along with the film people. That will happen some time this summer.

Sherri Russell asked whether this area has been designated a historical site. Michelle responded, No, but that the Urban Design Guidelines are an important first step. Sherri Russell asked whether heritage status would be retroactive. Michelle responded, No. Robert Prowse noted that you don't need to be a heritage district to stop demolition. Olivia Chow has been getting many individual buildings in her Ward designated as heritage sites.

Marcus Little asked that another community meeting regarding the Goodwill site be held, with proper notice, as his and another nearby condominium building did not receive notice, representing a large population left uninformed and unable to attend. Michelle responded that as due process another community meeting will take place anyway.

Michelle explained that condominiums receive one notice sent to the Board, which the Board should post or distribute to all residents, as Pam McConnell's office does not have access to individual residents' addresses. Marcus Little pointed out that condominium owners in North York receive individual notices. Michelle will look into it. Jennifer Arp added, on behalf of Bill Graham's office, that, on request, she can look into the system for mail delivery of the notices.

At Michael Waring's request, Michelle reported that the Pedestrian Committee is still active, but that efforts to slow traffic have not worked so far. They have learned of two issues: changing the car culture of people who get on and off the Gardner Expressway, and finding a way to reach the people who are regular users of the route. Wally Simpson and Connie Yang reported that the Pedestrian Committee is organizing a demonstration to be held at Jarvis and the Esplanade on June 8, 8-9am and 4-6pm. Connie asked the police to send a representative as that gave them more visibility at last fall's demonstration. Wally invited volunteers to call him at (416) 367-8700. A flyer has already been distributed to Delegates.

At Paul Smith's request, Michelle will look further into cleaning up the underpasses/bridges at Jarvis and Sherbourne. Michelle reported that the lights have been repaired on the Jarvis underpass, and that now they are looking into how to remove the pigeon population.

Cam Miller thanked Michelle Buckley for her report.

7. Billboards — Dennis Glasgow

Cam Miller introduced Dennis Glasgow. Dennis reported on illegal billboards in Toronto, and read statistics collected for Ward 21: 28% of signs have no permit, 5% have permits but don't comply, only 19% have clear and proper permits for existing signs. City Municipal Licensing people cannot enforce signs put up in locations governed by higher levels of governments, so marketers have learned to post signs where they cannot be contested by the City.

Dennis distributed the following declaration:

“Whereas the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Delegates recognize that there is a problem with unsightly and illegal billboards and signs within the community. Free-standing or signs attached to the sides of buildings are placed on public and private property and are not built in conformity with City of Toronto By-laws and signage regulations. Changing technology, allowing the inexpensive and fast production of different types of large scale signage make this a crucial time for us to act before signage becomes an even bigger problem.

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association urges the City of Toronto to enforce the regulations and by-laws related to billboards and signs. In

addition, the prosecution of property owners allowing unsightly and illegal signs is consistent with the Mayor's Clean and Beautiful City initiative. Mayor Miller's initiative is endorsed by the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association."

Motion: that the SLNA endorses the above statement.

Moved by: Barbara Bell

Seconded by: Cherril Baker

CARRIED

Michelle Buckley noted that the City is working on harmonizing the sign by-laws, so this fits in well with that, and she will keep the SLNA updated.

Bob Kemp added that the BIA has recently removed illegal sandwich boards from the neighbourhood.

8. Provincial Update from George Smitherman's Office (MPP) — Shawn Bassin
Cam Miller welcomed Shawn Bassin. Shawn reported that the budget passed. He brought copies of the budget, and brochures with highlights (available also in other languages). He summarized major budgetary items: more money is being invested in post secondary education and in the healthcare system (52 family health teams, four located in Toronto). Bill 118 passed, aiming for full accessibility in Ontario for people with disabilities over the next 25 years, in a five-stage process. He brought documents pertaining to that. He mentioned partnerships with other levels of government regarding childcare/daycare spaces. The government is moving forward on affordable housing (15,000 units of affordable housing to come).

Shawn advised that although the SLNA asked George Smitherman's office to provide written reports, George Smitherman declines and instead offers that Shawn is available during and after SLNA meetings to answer questions.

Shawn will forward to George Smitherman a deputation by Wally Simpson against Bill 118. Wally expressed concern that the Bill gives the government 5 years to do anything, and 20 years before they have to actually complete what was promised. Shawn responded that this is the first time a concrete step has been taken in the matter, and called it a historic milestone. Shawn offered to find out whether a particular disability group mentioned by Patricia Bear Claw is part of the contact list for community input into this initiative, but that Patricia would have to speak with him separately.

Aurie Hensman reminded Shawn that many questions were given him two meetings ago, which Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel did not answer particularly well at the March meeting.

In response to Cherril Baker, Shawn explained that they are at an initial consultation stage for OMB reform, prior to putting a bill forward. The Minister, John Garrikson, and

Parliamentary Assistant are the contact people. Community members are encouraged to write in their specific issues with the OMB and with the OMB process.

Ron Monteith asked for consistency in representation from George Smitherman's office. Shawn could not guarantee that he would attend every meeting, but stated that any representative from George Smitherman's office was there directly on the Minister's behalf, and that George Smitherman took interest in the SLNA's concerns.

Cam announced that George Smitherman will be attending the SLNA meeting at the end of July now, rather than June.

Cam Miller thanked Shawn Bassin for his report.

9. Federal Update from Bill Graham's Office (MP) – Jennifer Arp

Cam Miller welcomed Jennifer Arp. Jennifer reported that Bill Graham's office has a new and improved website, www.billgraham.ca, which includes Bill Graham's newsletters and any recent funding information. The site posts a list of community organizations and ridings as one stop shop. She said they would be happy to include the SLNA. The site includes a procedure to post local groups' events.

Jennifer noted that the "hot buttons" on SLNA's website were not working, that she can get only the front page. Nancy Sheppard responded that the site seems to work for some people, and not for others, and that anyone unable to use the site should contact slna@bellnet.ca, and they will try to resolve it.

Jennifer summarized news in the latest newsletter, including a new deal for cities, childcare, and new funding for affordable housing. The back page reports on a visit by Minister Fontana to Windmill Line Co-op in April, citing good news about Co-ops.

Cam Miller thanked Jennifer Arp for her report.

At Elizabeth Ecker's request, Jennifer will talk with her separately about governmental monitoring of standardized dosages in vitamin supplements.

10. Crime Concern Presentation — Elizabeth Hawley

Cam Miller welcomed Elizabeth Hawley, Executive Director of Crime Concern (previously Neighbourhood Watch). Elizabeth explained that Crime Concern is the largest crime prevention organization in Toronto, in existence for 23 years. The organization works with all residents in the City of Toronto and with all 16 Police Divisions across the city. Crime Concern's main office is in North York, thanks to a donation from the Toronto school Board.

Elizabeth offered the following advise. Regarding ID, "if you do not need to take it with you, don't carry it." She emphasized leaving behind your Social Insurance Card (passport and birth certificate were added by other attendees). If your wallet is stolen, it can be had

to prove who you are in order to get new ID. Shred all financial documents, including VISA receipts, all documents containing personal information, and credit card applications with your name and address preprinted on them.

Three things are needed for a crime to happen: 1) opportunity 2) criminal 3) victim. Take actions that will make you less likely to be a victim. If you can take one of those sides of the crime triangle away, a crime cannot happen.

Elizabeth also said you should provide less of an opportunity. Crime Concern can do safety audits in your area. Get your community involved in different types of safety programs. If community members know who belongs in a community, they can identify a stranger more quickly. Mandate and education and mobilize communities through initiatives to make neighbourhoods safer. Elizabeth suggested to start with the Neighbourhood Watch program.

When your community does not feel safe, people avoid going out into the streets. There are then fewer eyes on the street, fewer people to see what's happening, and the community becomes less safe.

The safest community in the city has the most police officers, because those citizens call in the most times regarding things that are suspicious. The more calls you send in, the more police will be assigned to your neighbourhood.

Elizabeth had many brochures available (about the organization and its programs) for distribution. She can make more available on request.

Elizabeth summarized some of the organization's programs: KEYS: Keeping Every Youth Safe, Stay Safe Program (for seniors), and the Neighbours Night Out Program. All programs are free. Core funding is through the City of Toronto, and additional funding is from the Federal and Provincial Governments as well as corporate and personal sponsorship. Crime Concern is a nonprofit organization.

Neighbours Night Out program gives people the opportunity to hold a social function in their community, right in their neighbourhood, outside a building, in a lobby, perhaps hosting a potluck, to get to know who lives in their community. It is offered for one day. Last year 199 events were held simultaneously in the city. This year the event is scheduled for Tuesday night, June 21. It is on a weeknight because officers are working, the school year is not yet over, and people, including officers and politicians, are not yet on holidays. London and Brampton will also be participating this year.

A huge 20th anniversary celebration for Crime Concern will take place June 20, 11:00-3:00 at Nathan Philips Square, and will include a barbecue sponsored by Enbridge (\$2.50 for hamburger or hotdog and drink), live band, City Councillors, MPs and MPPs, information tables for 51 and 52 Division, a car seat demonstration, mounted police and canine units.

Dawn Murray invited Crime Concern to have an information table at the SLNA's Festival in September and that the organization hold a youth session at the SLCRC.

Cam Miller thanked Elizabeth Hawley for her presentation.

11. Newsletters – Joan Campbell

Joan reminded Delegates to pick up bulk copies of SLNA newsletters, available this evening, for delivery to residents in their buildings.

12. Proposal for By-law Changes — Nancy Sheppard

Nancy Sheppard reminded Delegates that a motion to change the by-laws was passed at the April SLNA meeting, and that it required a two step process, a second motion at tonight's meeting, to come into effect.

Moved: to accept the by-law changes as proposed.

Moved by: Nancy Sheppard

Seconded by: Cherril Baker

CARRIED

13. Waterfront Initiatives – Frank McLean

Frank McLean asked for 3-4 volunteers to assist in providing community input to stop a number of objectionable initiatives pertaining to the Waterfront. It is important, he said, for all neighbourhoods along the waterfront from the far west to the far east to know what is happening and to act before it is too late. The City recently approved two public consultation processes 1) a charette for ultimate use of the airport lands, and 2) a public consultation for the waterfront. We need to get involved now, Frank said, not three months from now.

11. President's Report — Cam Miller

a) Sustainable St. Lawrence Project

Cam described the Sustainable St. Lawrence Project as a collaborative project between the SLNA and EnerAct. Ben Marenz was recently hired as Co-ordinator. Members of the SLNA Executive will meet with Ben Marenz, and he will come to a future SLNA Delegates meeting.

b) OMB Hearing re: 40 The Esplanade

Cam reported that the SLNA recently retained a lawyer and heritage consultant, and submitted witness statements, and will be appearing at the OMB hearing itself, which starts on June 13. On June 13, as part of that day's organizational agenda, a public meeting will be scheduled, probably in the second week following. Cam strongly encouraged that a large room be booked in the neighbourhood and that Delegates each bring ten other people to pack the room, to make a real impression upon the Developer and City Councillor and Planners that we are more than a little unhappy about enormous

condos being built throughout the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. Money for the lawyer is being raised by BIA and Citizens for Old Town Toronto, and there is no cost to the SLNA. The community coalition includes the BIA, Citizens for Old Town Toronto, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Condominium Ratepayers Association (SLCRA) and the SLNA. The SLCRA cannot be a party as such at the OMB because it is not an incorporated body, although individuals from the SLCRA will speak out at the hearing.

Marcus Little asked Cam to send an email announcing the public meeting that Delegates can use to “bombard interested parties.” Cam will ask Samantha Hewit, Corporate Secretary, to develop an SLNA email tree and distribute posters by email. Frank McLean noted that a tree set up now could be used for future initiatives. Cam added that the email announcement could ask recipients to come up with five phone numbers for the tree.

Paul Smith recommended that Delegates speak to the people in their building directly. Make phone calls. Posters are not particularly effective. For this initiative, it is necessary to get a lot of people out.

On hearing Delegates’ complaints about the short notice for the public meeting compared to the long deadlines the OMB sets itself, Shawn Bassin recommended that the SLNA produce a written submission for the OMB reform that that is a perfect example of the nonfunctionality of the OMB. Cam stated that he can provide contact information for such a written submission to anyone interested in writing it.

12. VP External – Robert Prowse

a) George Smitherman’s Visit

Robert reported that George Smitherman’s appearance has been postponed by a month to July. He asked that people submit specific questions in advance to rprowse@rogers.com to ensure that all topics are covered. Robert aims to ensure that it will be a structured meeting, but noted that allowance will be made for spontaneous questions “from the floor” as (as some Delegates noted) some people speak more clearly “on their feet.” Robert noted that the Minister will receive some of the questions beforehand. Shawn Bassin pointed out that George Smitherman will address matters of interest to the group as a whole, but will ask people with personal issues to speak with him separately at another time.

b) Heritage Neighbourhood

Robert reported that he is assembling information on what is involved in becoming a heritage neighbourhood. The City will teach the community what needs to be done, will get the BIA and SLNA involved, describe the pluses and negatives, explain what funds are needed, and clarify how to set parameters.

13. VP Internal — Ronny Yaron

a) 25th Anniversary Celebrations

Ronny reported that a logo has been designed by Anna Lee Or. The Planning Committee is in the process of soliciting sponsorship from over 200 businesses and organizations. Any additional contacts from Delegates are welcome.

Dawn Murray, of the Planning Committee distributed a sign-up sheet, requesting volunteers for the Festival or Gala. A bright green poster soliciting volunteers was distributed to Delegates, to be posted and further distributed in their residences. Dawn noted that co-ordinators are needed for a number of the activities: a healthy living fair, youth leadership awards, sports activities, yard sale, and more. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact her at dmurray@risac.ca.

b) SLNA's Volunteer Recognition Award

Ronny reported that the deadline is July 15 for the SLNA's Volunteer Recognition Award. She asked Delegates to nominate people in the neighbourhood who have contributed significantly and who have not received this award in the last two years. There is a list of criteria. People and organizations not eligible this year as they have won awards recently include Muriel Hopper and John Hopper, Dwight Peters, Lorna Ekblad, Tony Cousins from King Edward Hotel, Andrew Laffey from Hothouse Café, Biaggio Restaurant, Community Bulletin Group, Kiwanis Club, SLM complex, SAS, Nancy Mallett, Helen Marangas, and Edward Nixon.

Ronny distributed copies of the nomination form. It will be emailed to Delegates as well.

16. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

The next Delegates meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 29, 2005, at 7:00 pm.

Samantha Hewit, Corporate Secretary

Cam Miller, Chair