



MINUTES OF DELEGATES' MEETING

May 26, 2008
OWN CO-OP, 115 The Esplanade

Executive Members in Attendance:

Secretary: Matthew Raizenne, Longboat Residents Assoc.
VP External: Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel, 140 The Esplanade
VP Internal: Jacquie Williams, Old York Tower
Treasurer: Bruno Leps, Market Square
At Large: Dan O'Leary, 15 Scadding
At Large: Wallace Simpson, Crombie Park

At Large: Ronny Yaron, Woodsworth Co-op

Executive Member Regrets:

President: Suzanne Kavanagh, 135 Scadding

Voting Delegates in Attendance:

Mary Bailey, OWN
Cherril Baker, David B. Archer Co-op
Randy Bath, 15 Scadding
Patricia Bear Claw, Cathedral Court Co-op
Joan Campbell, Market Square, 80 Front Street East
David Crawford, 135 George Street South
Karl Froehr, Windmill Line Co-op
Oleg Holowaty, 25 George Street
Glen Kim, Mozo Condo
Catherine Limbertie, 1 Church Street (TCHC)
Arlene Markowe, Woodsworth Co-op
George Milbrandt, Longboat Residents Association

Sheri Russell, 31 Princess (FAN)
Alan Seymour, Old York Tower
Larysa Sikorska, 15 Scadding (TCHC)
Becky Street, MTCC 1385
Rose Walsh, 1 Church Street (TCHC)
Ruth Williams, 1 Church Street (TCHC)
Connie Yang, OWN

Voting Delegates' Regrets

Keith Bricknell, 7 King Street East (The Metropole)
Terry Eitel, Old York Tower

Associate Members & Guests:

Alice Briesmaster, New Times Square Phase 2
Tom Davidson, Constituency Assistant to Councillor Pam McConnell
Mark Fernandez, smartliving St. Lawrence
Glenn Gustafson, Executive Assistant to Councillor Pam McConnell

Stig Harvour, La Place St. Laurent
John Kennalley, MPP George Smitherman's Office
Ed Majchrowski, Health Promotions Officer, TCHC
Rose Walsh, Windmill Line Co-op
Henry Wertman, www.classicjazzparty.com

Arylss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

ACRONYMS:

FAN: Family Action Network
MP: Member of Parliament
MPP: Member of Provincial Parliament
OMB: Ontario Municipal Board
SLCRC: St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre
SLMN-BIA: St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA
SLNA: St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association
TCHC: Toronto Community Housing Corporation

1. Registration and Refreshments

2. Opening Remarks – Matthew Raizenne, Corporate Secretary

Corporate Secretary Matthew Raizenne called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and chaired the meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Amendment: Under Other Business, add Canada Day

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Alan Seymour

Seconded by: Patricia Bear Claw

CARRIED

4. Approval of the Minutes of the April 30, 2008 Delegates' Meeting

Amendment: Add Sheri Russell to Voting Delegates in Attendance

Motion: to approve the April 30, 2008 minutes as amended.

Moved by: Sheri Russell

Seconded by: Wallace Simpson

CARRIED

5. Guns Advertisement in the Community – Alice Briesmaster

Alice Briesmaster asked the SLNA to formally object to a gun display in the window of Pravda Vodka House on Wellington Street near Church Street. On behalf of the SLMN-BIA, George Milbrandt advised that as no law is being broken, the BIA has taken no position in this matter. Delegates discussed whether to support the proposal.

Motion: that the SLNA write to Pravda Vodka House telling them that it is inappropriate for them to have their current window display.

Moved by: David Crawford

Seconded by: Larysa Sikorska

DEFEATED

Director Bruno Leps recommended that Alice Briesmaster email a petition to the SLNA for distribution. The Chair offered that Alice have an information table for a petition at the SLNA Delegates' next meeting. Director Ronny Yaron thanked Alice for bringing forward this matter and encouraged Delegates to raise matters for advocacy.

6. Community Right to Know – Toronto Environmental Alliance

Ronny Yaron introduced Lena Cino of the Toronto Environmental Alliance. Lena Cino distributed a "Toxics in Toronto" brochure and a "Take Action!" flyer. She asked the SLNA to endorse the Toronto Environmental Alliance's efforts to lobby for a Community Right-to-Know By-law that would give the public the right to know what toxic chemicals are used, stored and released in Toronto. Only about 3% of polluters are required to report under current federal standards. The proposed by-law would capture medium and small sized businesses. Toronto Public Health has drafted a by-law, is now preparing a by-law implementation plan, and will report to the Board of Health in July. If the Board of Health approves the draft by-law, it will be forwarded to City Council for a vote.

Lena Cino asked the SLNA to add its name to a list of supportive neighbourhoods in a position statement. To see the draft by-law, follow the link to the Toronto Public Health website from www.secrecyistoxic.ca.

David Crawford expressed reservations at approving the draft by-law unseen.

Motion: to add the SLNA to the list of signatories in support of the Community Right to Know By-law.

Moved by: Cherril Baker

Seconded by: Joan Campbell

Amendment: that we support in principle the Toronto Environmental Alliance's efforts to lobby for the Community Right to Know By-law.

Moved by: Bruno Leps

Amendment withdrawn

Final Motion: to add the SLNA to the list of signatories in support of the Community Right to Know By-law.

DEFEATED 11 in favour, 12 against, 1 abstention

Delegates noted that the position paper cites neighbourhoods' support for "a by-law" and not for "the by-law." Not enough copies of the position statement had been circulated for all Delegates to read the statement and make this distinction. Cherril Baker and Joan Campbell

7. Report from Bob Rae's Office

No representative was present.

8. Report from George Smitherman's Office

John Kennalley of MPP George Smitherman's office reported. MP Bob Rae and MPP George Smitherman now share the same constituency office at 514 Parliament Street. They held an open house last Saturday.

John Kennalley will give an update on the First Parliament site, particularly with regards to the portion of land that is

stated that their intended phrasing in the above motion had been in support of "a by-law" as per the position statement.

Motion: to add the SLNA to the list of signatories in support of a Community Right to Know By-law.

Moved by: Patricia Bear Claw

Seconded by: Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel

CARRIED

Lena Cino asked Delegates and members of the community to send messages to the Mayor in support of a by-law.

The Chair thanked Lena Cino for her presentation. Director Ronny Yaron asked her to keep the SLNA updated.

9. Report on New Garbage Collection – Tom Davidson (Pam McConnell's Office)

Glenn Gustafson, Councillor McConnell's Executive Assistant, reported. He offered to invite a representative from Solid Waste Management to give further details on the new garbage collection system at the SLNA Delegates' meeting on June 25.

a) Gun Control

Glenn Gustafson spoke first about an initiative by the City to urge the Federal government to ban all handguns. A report prepared by City Staff proposes that the City change the zoning by-law to prohibit gun uses in the city (eg. gun manufacturing plants, gun assembly plants, gun warehousing, or shooting ranges). The report also recommends closing the firing range on the seventh floor of Union Station. The report is going to the Executive Committee next Tuesday for its consideration.

The report is available through www.toronto.ca. David Crawford offered to put a link to the exact site on the SLNA's website.

still privately owned, at the SLNA Delegates' meeting on June 25. John offered to provide a business card from a person who can provide further information.

John Kennalley responded to further questions. The Chair thanked him for his report.

Karl Froehr stated that zoning by-laws will not prevent guns from coming into the city from neighbouring jurisdictions. Glenn Gustafson responded that the City is trying to do what is within its own power to ban handguns, to motivate the Provincial and Federal governments to take greater actions that are within their power.

Glenn Gustafson stated that City Councillors are being inundated by objections from people who contest the report. He encouraged people to write to City Councillors in favour of the City's initiative, to support that Toronto is not a place for handguns.

Glenn Gustafson confirmed that if the zoning by-law is approved, then athletes who are training for the Olympics in handgun-related sports will not be able to train in Toronto and represent Toronto at the Olympics.

b) New Garbage Collection System

A year ago City Council adopted a radical redrafting of its solid waste policy with a goal of 70% diversion rate by 2010. Currently the diversion rate is about 55%.

Under the new program bulky items such as couches which currently go to landfill sites will be redirected to a “reused” facility where different components (metal, fabric, wood) will be removed and either reused or recycled. In response to Patricia Bear Claw, Glenn Gustafson stated that he did not know the ultimate destination of the reused or recycled parts. This program will begin in 12 months. Bulk items will still be left on the curb for pick-up.

Under the new program a volume-based structure for solid waste will come into effect. The cost of garbage collection of solid waste will be removed from property taxes and applied as a user fee, with people who have less garbage paying a lesser fee. This program has begun in Scarborough and is gradually being introduced westward. Fees for garbage will be charged to single-family households as of October 1, 2008 and fees for multi-residential buildings (buildings with more than eight units) will come into effect July 1, 2008.

The SLNA has many multi-residential complexes, some with both townhouses and apartment buildings. An appropriate program structure for garbage, recycling, and organic waste in such complexes will be determined on a site-by-site basis.

Blue bin recycling is being phased out. En-suite containers for multi-residential buildings will be distributed at the end of this year. The City conducted a pilot project in a number

of multi-residential buildings and found that opinion was split as to whether residents preferred using rigid containers (1’x1’ and stackable) or fabric bags to carry recyclables to a central recycling area in their building. Glenn Gustafson offered to verify the two collection weeks in June for blue/gray bin pick-up.

Stig Harvour suggested that for residents who are less mobile, buildings might have a recycle depot on each floor, and that building staff could relocate items from the floors to the central recycling location in the building.

The City does not yet have the capacity to deal with organic waste from multi-residential buildings, so expects the green bin program to roll out over an 18-month period starting next spring, rather than by the end of this year. The City’s top priority for a green bin program is townhouses as they are the easiest to accommodate. In response to Dan O’Leary, Glenn Gustafson offered to find out where the organic waste is being delivered.

The new rate structure for garbage pick-up will take place in July, but for multi-residential buildings the rate is adjusted lower to reflect that organic waste cannot yet be separated for green bin use. Once the green bin program is implemented in multi-residential buildings, the rate will be readjusted to par. If a building does a good job of diversion, the fees will amount to about \$18 net per unit.

Glenn Gustafson invited members of the community to contact his office at (416) 338-5158 with any problems. The Chair thanked him for his presentation.

10. Announcement on Neighbours’ Night Out – Randy Bath

Randy Bath announced that 211 Tenant Council is sponsoring Neighbours’ Night Out on June 17 in the courtyard of 176 The Esplanade, 3:00-7:00 p.m. The event is a “take back the neighbourhood” strategy. “Criminals can’t operate in an atmosphere where the community knows one

another.” Attendees include Councillor Pam McConnell and representatives from Toronto Police Services, smartliving St. Lawrence, and perhaps Toronto Fire Services. This is the first year that the event is open to the entire community. Randy will give flyers to the SLNA for distribution.

11. Open Forum – Delegates Issues on Neighbourhood Topics

The Chair asked for feedback from Delegates on what they want to see more or less of at Delegates’ meetings.

The Chair invited applause for Dan O’Leary’s work in introducing gardens and flowers to the SLN. He also invited applause for the contribution of Dan O’Leary and the SLMN-BIA’s George Milbrandt and Bob Kemp who have installed hanging flower baskets and are now watering them and area trees on a regular basis.

The Chair reported that the SLNA has been working with GO Transit and Councillor McConnell’s office to green the slope of the railroad tracks between Jarvis Street and Parliament Street. Work will begin this fall and early next spring on constructing a retaining wall and cleaning up the railroad land that faces co-ops and townhouses.

Delegates offered the following suggestions:
- the agenda has too many guest speakers, with no time limit. Government reports can be read online.

- Delegates who need to speak to their neighbours should either “whisper or wait”
- information packages for new members should be reintroduced as a standard procedure; a group should be set up to work on them. The package should include a history of the SLNA, the SLNA’s committees, and key points regarding what the SLNA promotes and participates in. The SLNA now has an excellent website with a background information. The package should explain the different levels of membership.
- Delegates should share their buildings’ “best practices”
- police should be invited regularly to Delegates’ meetings, perhaps quarterly, to report and to respond to questions
- young people should be encouraged to join
- Delegates should invite a friend or neighbour to meetings so that more people attend and share ideas for the benefit of everyone

- the SLNA’s email system currently is one-way, from the organization to Delegates. The SLNA should consider a two-way communications email group posting or open forum, with passwords for Delegates.
- lines of communication between the SLNA and the Boards of multi-residential buildings should be increased
- documents distributed at Delegates’ meetings should also be posted on the SLNA’s website
- the SLNA’s mandate should be revisited: “What is the SLNA all about?” The neighbourhood was originally designed as a low- to mid-rise community.
- a representative from smartliving St. Lawrence should report regularly
- new building developments should be a standing item on the agenda, with more time allowed. Note: Updates are on the website.

12. Report from the Development Committee – Marcus Little

Marcus Little, Chair of the Development Committee, reported. The SLNA currently has a heritage conservation district designated from George Street west to Yonge Street, and from King Street south to the railway tracks. Recommendations for additional heritage conservation districts are to be submitted to the City by Monday, May 26. Delegates expressed approval for Marcus’ recommendation that the SLNA support another heritage conservation district comprising Crombie/St. Lawrence, and defer a possible heritage conservation district from George Street to Parliament Street.

Lower Jarvis

Community Council has approved that the City support the developer at the OMB as long as the proposed development is no higher than 33 storeys with an 8-storey podium, and 6 storeys of above-grade parking with 60 commercial parking spaces. The SLNA is asking for freedom of information with regards to contaminated soil at the site. Tom Davidson added that the developers must provide a third-party assessment justifying not going below-grade for the parking, and explaining the environmental impact.

330 King Street East (corner of King and Parliament)

A 16-storey building is planned for the location. A public meeting was held May 22. Representatives from Corktown also attended as that intersection is shared by Corktown and the SLN. The Planners will prepare a report.

60 Colborne Street

13. Other Business

Plans have been submitted to the City’s Planning Department for a 39-storey building. A public meeting will be scheduled. The plan was to go before Council last month but did not. City Planners are displeased with the proposed development and are encouraging the developer to “think differently.”

Sony Centre, L Tower, 5-7 The Esplanade

The planning report for the L Tower was issued and sent to Community Council on May 6. Councillor McConnell has included a recommendation in the site working plan that a working group continue to address L tower issues raised by the community. Citizens on The Esplanade presented to Councillor McConnell a petition with more than 250 signatures.

A pre-planning public meeting was held about two weeks ago regarding 5-7 The Esplanade but no plans have yet been issued. Two levels of underground parking have been approved for the site.

North Market

The SLNA’s Development Committee met with the City to talk about parking access. Marcus Little received from Alan Seymour verification that the SLNA previously approved 3 levels of below-ground parking and 3 levels of above-ground usage as long as the above-ground usage did not rise higher than St. Lawrence Hall. Alan added that no agreement has yet been reached on how to access the underground parking.

a) Canada Day

Connie Yang reminded Delegates that Canada Day is coming soon. She invited everyone to attend. Classicjazzparty.com will provide music.

b) Seniors Centre

The Seniors' Centre will hold its first program, Cuisine Delight, at The Kitchen on June 26. If The Kitchen is not available due to current renovations, the event will take place either at OWN or Old York Tower. Seniors of all ages

are invited, and all people who want to be seniors for a day are invited.

c) Landscaping

Dan O'Leary reported that the BIA's Bob Kemp has an electric scooter and watering cart, and is watering flowers and trees throughout the SLN with the support of Dan, the SLCRC, and smartliving St. Lawrence. Dan will bring a flyer to the next meeting for distribution.

14. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:03 pm.

The SLNA acknowledges the St. Lawrence Market Complex for sponsoring this evening's refreshments, and OWN for hosting tonight's meeting.

The next Delegates meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25 at 7:00 pm.

Corporate Secretary

President