

# **SLNA DELEGATES MEETING**

**November 24, 2004**

**OWN Housing 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: Frank Burns, Longboat Res. Assoc. V

Treasurer and interim Corporate Secretary: Nancy Sheppard, 65 Scadding Avenue V

At Large: Joan Campbell, Market Square V

At Large: Paul Smith, **Toronto** Condo Assoc. V

**In Attendance:**

Cherril Baker, David B Archer V

Patricia Bear Claw, Cathedral Court Co-op V

Barbara Bell, Woodsworth Co-op V

Pam Gierman, Windmill Line Co-op V

**Georgette Harris, St James Condo V**

Robin Hart, Crombie Park V

Stig Harvor, La Place St. Laurent V

Aurie Hensman, 160 Frederick St V

Ewa Jarmicka, Harmony Co-op Homes V

Marcus Little, The Wellington V

Ron Monteith, Woodsworth Co-op V

Terry Pennock, New Times Sq 2 V

Dwight Peters, 25 The Esplanade V

Sherri Russell, FAN V

David Sangaraille, La Place St. Laurent V

Karen Serwonka, David B Archer V

Alan Seymour, Longboat V

Michael Waring, New Times Sq 2 V

Rose Wilner, OWN Co-op V

**With Regrets:**

Elisabeth Ecker, 65 Scadding V

Susan McLeod, Market Square V

Dawn Murray, Windmill Line V

Connie Yang, OWN Co-op V

Arllyss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

Michelle Buckley, Pam McConnell's Office G

Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel, G Smitherman's Office G

Jennifer Arp, Bill Graham's Office G

Bob Kemp, 51 Division CPLC G

SSgt Tom Kelly, 51 Division G

Michael Comstock, SLMBIA NV

Edward Nixon, SEDERI G

Erin Harris, **Toronto** Seniors Council G

Dan O'Leary, 15 Scadding G

Dugal Campbell, Market Square G

Peter Jackson, 80 Front St G

Sumil Vakil, G

#### ACRONYMS:

CPLC: Community Police Liaison Committee

HRSDC: Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

PSB: Police Services Board

SLCRC: St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre

TIACAC: **Toronto** Island Airport Community Advisory Committee

TCHC: **Toronto** Community Housing Corporation

TPA: **Toronto** Port Authority

V = Voting delegate, NV = Non-voting delegate, G = Guest

## 1. Welcome & Round Robin

Cam Miller called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. He introduced himself as President and he chaired the meeting. Cam thanked Conny Yang and OWN Co-op for hosting tonight's meeting. Delegates applauded. Introductions were conducted. Nancy Sheppard, interim Corporate Secretary, passed around an attendance sheet. Cam proceeded directly to 51 Division's report, to enable them to leave the meeting early.

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

Cam Miller made the following amendments:

- Ronny Yaron's VP External Report was added as item #12, after Frank Burns' VP Internal Report.

Delegates made the following amendments:

- Dwight Peters asked that an Update on the Rec Centre be included under New Business
- Paul Smith asked that zoning by-laws be discussed

*Motion: to approve the Agenda as amended.*

*Moved by: Dwight Peters*

*Seconded by: Patricia Bear Claw*

**CARRIED**

### **3. Approval of October 27, 2004 Minutes**

*Motion: to approve the October 27, 2004 minutes as presented.*

*Moved by: Paul Smith*

*Seconded by: Cherril Baker*

**CARRIED**

### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Ewa Jarmicka reported that no one has contacted her about the noise proposal since the last meeting. Nancy Sheppard explained that that probably occurred because the minutes were sent late this month.

### **5. Update from Police 51 Division**

Cam Miller welcomed Staff Sergeant Tom Kelly and Detective Sergeant Brian Preston.

Tom Kelly reported that arrests have been made in relation to the Methadone Clinic located at Frederick and Front, and that they will next contact the Pharmacy owners to initiate a more proactive plan. He reported that the police enjoyed providing security at the Santa Claus Parade near St. Lawrence Market. It was the best one he attended in his career, with perfect weather and a great crowd, up to 16 people deep. He said that the community will be advised of findings of the Town Hall Meeting held at St. Lawrence Hall on November 15, and will be given an opportunity to take an active role.

Bob Kemp, Chair of the Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC), reported that the police are still not receiving phone calls from concerned citizens. He urged people to phone (416) 808-2222 for complaints and 911 for emergencies or to email him (bobkemp26@hotmail.com), so that concerns go on record. This will generate more accurate statistics for crime in the neighbourhood, and perhaps enable 51 Division to increase the number of men assigned to the division.

Cam thanked Tom Kelly and Brian Preston for their update. They then left the meeting.

### **6. Upcoming St. Lawrence Events — Michael Comstock, Alan Seymour, Mara Shaughnessy**

Cam Miller introduced Mara Shaughnessy, the new Community Outreach Co-ordinator for the Canadian Opera Company (COC).

Mara distributed a brochure and announced the COC's upcoming educational programs for children and adults, and tours of the opera centre. Mara asked delegates to post application forms in their buildings.

At the request of Barbara Bell, Mara agreed to email an electronic copy to Nancy Sheppard, which she can forward to all delegates online. Ronny Yaron suggested that Mara email the copy to the **Toronto** Community Housing Corporation, to distribute to their buildings. Nancy offered to put a link to the COC on the SLNA's website.

Dwight Peters asked if the opera could travel out-of-house to seniors' clubs at OWN or the Rec Centre. Mara explained that the Ensemble can be invited to community sites. They are six performers who conduct events locally. They recently completed a libretto workshop at Jesse's Centre for Teenagers.

Paul Smith asked whether the COC building is protected as a heritage issue, or whether it might be replaced with towers. Mara responded that the building is a heritage site and participates in the annual Doors Open event (free public tours of historic buildings).

Cam thanked Mara Shaughnessy for her announcements, and introduced Michael Comstock, Chair of the St. Lawrence Business Improvement Association (BIA).

Michael described the BIA's origins. It is funded by all merchants in the area paying extra taxes which the City returns to the BIA. The concept originated here in downtown **Toronto** and is now used worldwide. This year the City of **Toronto** decided to work with **Toronto** BIAs to market the Cavalcade of Lights city-wide. BIAs in St. Lawrence Neighbourhood, Bloor-Yorkville, Bloor West Village, Downtown Yonge, Greek Town on the Danforth, Little Italy, and the Kingsway are putting up LED lights which require almost no power, and are very cost efficient. The City of **Toronto**'s Special Events office is organizing \$15 bus tours through **Toronto** neighbourhoods displaying the Cavalcade of Lights.

Michael reminded delegates that the BIA commissioned pewter amulets of the King Edward Hotel, St. James Cathedral, the Flatiron Building, St. Lawrence Market, and St. Lawrence Hall, with history scripted on the back of each, to raise consciousness of local history. They are available for purchase at Flatirons, Timbuktu, and the Distillery District.

Conny Yang said that every July 1 she hands out flags at St. Lawrence Market, usually with George Smitherman. She asked if the BIA could organize this. She and Michael will discuss the idea further.

Cam Miller thanked Michael Comstock for his presentation, and introduced Alan Seymour, President of St. Lawrence Works, an affiliation of St. Lawrence neighbourhood organizations.

Alan Seymour announced the Nutcracker Neighbourhood, held November and December. He distributed a brochure with a site map on the back which encourages everyone to "Come and Enjoy Old Town **Toronto**." Edward Nixon explained for one \$40 ticket, you could "be a tourist in your own town": enjoy a tour of the market led by Bruce Bell (normally \$20), plus lunch, tour St. James Cathedral, and receive a

pass to the Cavalcade of Lights. Tickets are available at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts Box office, or online at [www.stlc.com](http://www.stlc.com).

Cam Miller thanked Michael Comstock, Alan Seymour, and Mara Shaughnessy.

## **7. City Update from Pam McConnell's Office (Councillor) — Michelle Buckley**

Cam Miller welcomed Michelle Buckley. Michelle said she hoped by the end of the meeting to receive feedback on the community's wishes regarding the development project at 40 The Esplanade. She acknowledged that it is a very contentious issue and that many people are concerned about it, including Pam McConnell. Pam McConnell's office is working with the Development Committee of the SLNA and the applicant to try to reach a resolution. The application is coming to Council next week.

Michelle announced that the West St. Lawrence charette report is ready. Her office can provide copies to people on request. Delegates can get her contact information from Nancy Sheppard. Because it is a large document with color and graphics, she prefers to distribute it in print rather than electronically. She will let Nancy know when it is available at the City's website, so that Nancy can advise delegates.

Cam Miller thanked Michelle Buckley for her update.

## **8. Federal Update from Bill Graham's Office (MP) – Jennifer Arp**

Cam Miller welcomed Jennifer Arp. Jennifer reported that Bill Graham's office continues in talks with Joe Volpe's office regarding waterfront accountability and governance. Talks are frustratingly slow, and she expects that soon Bill Graham will have to talk with Joe Volpe directly, to get results.

Paul Smith asked when the Federal government will release the funding for the homeless housing units. Jennifer did not know the specific timeline and will report back.

Cam Miller thanked Jennifer Arp for her update.

## **9. Provincial Update from George Smitherman's Office (MPP) — Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel**

Wolde-Gabriel

Cam Miller welcomed Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel.

Cherril Baker expressed concern that Lumumba did not answer questions raised at the last SLNA meeting pertaining to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). Nancy Sheppard explained that there was probably a communication oversight; Lumumba expected the questions to be sent to him separately in writing but received nothing, so did not prepare a response. Lumumba explained that he is more certain to provide accurate answers to questions if he can receive the questions in writing and compose his responses, rather than speak extemporaneously. Edward Nixon stated that the SLNA is accustomed to a certain level of

service from George Smitherman's office and asked that Lumumba be more prepared to respond to questions in person. Lumumba responded that he wanted to ensure that his responses are accurate.

Ron Monteith pointed out that George Smitherman represents a riding which contains a lot of hospitals. He held up a document pertaining to the Business Office Transformation Project. Sixteen hospitals will be merging their administrative functions into a separate corporation with perhaps an American organization brought in to run it. Ron's own livelihood is at stake. Ron handed the document to Lumumba to pass on to George Smitherman for a response. Lumumba indicated that George Smitherman is aware of this issue.

Sunil Vakil asked what aspects of policing were George Smitherman's responsibility in this riding. Delegates informed him that that is a Municipal and not a Provincial issue.

Aurie Hensman stated that a newspaper article this last weekend reported that between 1996 and 2000, 156 people died of overdoses of methadone. In 2000-2004 that number has doubled and a half. Aurie described this as "out of control", a serious problem of which George Smitherman should be aware. Methadone is more potent than heroin; it makes no sense to open methadone clinics. What, she asked, is George Smitherman doing about it? Lumumba promised to get back to her with a response.

Stig Haravour asked whether it was possible to receive a response concerning the OMB before the next SLNA meeting, which is scheduled for January 26. Lumumba stated that for people who don't have email, he can bring responses to the next meeting, or can fax a response. He promised to respond in each instance as soon as is feasible.

Nancy suggested that if a delegate has a question for George Smitherman, they can send it to her and she will forward it, or they can send it to Lumumba and copy it to her, so that when Lumumba responds, she can forward the response to all delegates.

Alan Seymour pointed out that any question asked during an SLNA meeting is documented in the minutes, and circulated to delegates. Nancy added that George Smitherman receives a copy of the SLNA's minutes, and repeated that Lumumba had unfortunately erroneously expected separately documented queries.

Cam Miller thanked Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel.

## **10. President's Report — Cam Miller**

Cam announced First Night **Toronto**, a 3-day fun filled festival, Dec 29-31 in the Distillery District. Nancy Sheppard will email details to delegates.

## **11. VP External — Frank Burns**

Frank Burns reported on development negotiations for 40 The Esplanade, to gauge the mood and direction of SLNA delegates present at this meeting. He described negotiations that have altered the original plan:

- The two towers were originally designed to be 33 and 25 stories; the height of the 25 story tower has been lowered to 16 stories.
- The west tower abutted the lot line; it has been moved back 5 feet. Resulting shadows cast on Berkeley Park induced the architect to reduce the height of the tower from 108 feet to 102 feet.
- An appended Section 37 shopping list includes \$700,000 allocated to the park near OWN, \$50,000 for street improvements, \$50,000 for culture and tourism, and a public art contribution at 1% of construction costs (about \$600,000). Other benefits include increased bicycle parking, weather protection for pedestrians on Scott Street, and the right for a community team to work on the site plan (streetscaping, green space, etc.). Section 37 benefits total about \$1.3 million.
- The east elevation was designed as a 7-storey blank wall. The architect has reduced this to 5 stories, has wrapped the podium around the east wall, and added fake windows, fancy brickwork and ivy. Frank suggested that the public art contribution under Section 37 be used to fund painting a mural on the wall.

Four parties will be affected by the results: the proponents, the St. Lawrence neighbourhood (represented by the SLNA), the City, and adjacent property owners. There are consequences for all four parties if this deal is defeated or accepted at City Council:

- If City Council does not accept the deal, the proponent will go to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and most likely win. If the proponent wins, the buildings will likely return to their original design and Section 37 benefits might be removed. The adjacent property owners might take the matter to the OMB, and most likely lose. If the property owner next door to the site feels they will lose business by the towering development, they might close their business and redevelop the site as another tower, initiating a domino effect along The Esplanade, ruining the character of the Old Town.
- If City Council accepts the deal, the neighbourhood the second tower will be lowered to 16 stories and Section 37 benefits will stand. The property owner next to the site no longer objects as strongly now that the building has been redesigned with a more attractive east face. But still other adjacent property owners will see a loss to their property rentals and other business regardless of the negotiated changes.

Delegates discussed the implications, and Frank further explained some matters.

Joan Campbell clarified that the current question is not, Should the SLNA take this issue to OMB and bear the cost? The question is, Should we ask Pam McConnell to do her best to say no to this development?, in which case the City can take the issue to the OMB and fund the cost. Alternatively, Should we ask Pam McConnell to support the negotiated deal?

Cherril Baker proposed that the SLNA direct Pam McConnell to support the proposal negotiated so far with the developer, as described above (height down from 33/25 to 33/16 with a 5-storey wraparound podium, plus Section 37 benefits). Delegates responded as 14 for, 8 against, abstentions not counted; constituents (ie. guests present who reside in the neighbourhood) responded as 5 for, 3 against, abstentions not counted. Michelle Buckley stated that the community is clearly split on this issue, and that that is the message she will have to take back to Pam McConnell.

Frank Burns concluded that the site review plan still has to go to City Council. Pam McConnell will still have influence to stop the process at the site review plan stage.

## **12. VP Internal Report – Ronny Yaron**

### **a) Listening to **Toronto****

Ronny Yaron reported that the City has a new initiative called Listening to **Toronto**. The Mayor and City Councillors want feedback from citizens regarding what we want for our city. They have scheduled an open meeting for this Sunday, November 28, at the Metro **Toronto** Convention Centre.

### **b) New Membership Recruitment**

Ronny Yaron reported that the City is holding public consultations for a proposed single zoning by-law. By 2007, the City plans to amalgamate the 41 zoning by-laws of each municipality into a single efficient by-law. The City asks that every neighbourhood get involved, assign a contact person to answer their questions, comment on the wording, and deal with definitions. Ronny will give anyone interested more information. Paul Smith advised that he has put forward the St. Lawrence Condominium Ratepayers Association (SLCRC) in that capacity, and that the SLCRC will seek consensus with the neighbourhood on the many issues that will be forthcoming.

## **13. New Business**

### **a) St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre (SLCRC) Update—Dwight Peters**

Dwight Peters reported that the Rec Centre held its Annual General Meeting in October and has a new Advisory Council. The Advisory Council needs one more Member at Large, preferably a person who will address children's activities. Alice Briesmaster continues as SLNA rep.

Dwight announced that the Older Adult Consultations held in the fall have been completed, and already some positive outcomes have been determined. Many older adults want to learn to play bridge; this is a no cost item that can start right away. The Rec Centre is using feedback from participants in the community to negotiate more staff time for events in the community. The Older Adults Program now has use of the adult lounge 5 days a week 9:30 to 3:30 (previously only one afternoon per week). Ronny Yaron asked for a compilation of data from the survey. Dwight responded that as soon as the report is finalized the Rec Centre will promote it, and will bring a copy to the SLNA.

Dwight thanked the SLNA for all its help, saying that youth programs continue to grow.

Dwight reported on personnel changes. Ann Doggett has been transferred to Jimmy Simpson; the new supervisor, Paula Jacobi, just started last week. The Rec Centre has grown in the last five years, and is reviewing its staffing needs.

***Motion: to send a letter of appreciation to Ann Doggett***

***Moved by: Ronny Yaron***

***Seconded by: Cherril Baker***

**CARRIED**

Ronny asked that the new supervisor receive a letter of welcome, and be invited to attend the next SLNA meeting. Delegates concurred.

b) Pedestrian Safety Committee

Cam Miller reported on behalf of Wally Simpson that many SLNA delegates marched with placards for the Pedestrian Safety walkabout. They received appreciative comments from pedestrians. Police were on hand to ensure that the event was orderly. There was a modest turnout—8 or 10 people in the morning and again in the afternoon. Cam thanked Dorothy Creaser who is spearheading this effort.

**14. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:59 pm.

**15. HOLIDAY RECEPTION**

The next delegates meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2005, at 7:00 pm.

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Nancy Sheppard, Interim Corporate Secretary      Cam Miller, Chair

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