



St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting

Held on Wednesday, October 30th from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Hosted on the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome, Land Acknowledgement
- Spadina-Fort York Update - MPP Chris Glover
- NORC Speakers Series #3 - Market Square - Eddy Morassutti and Sheila Vandenberg
- Toronto Environmental Alliance - Emily Aldred
- Toronto Street Soccer - Joseph O'Rourke
- Community Updates

SLNA Chair, Stewart Linton, welcomed community members and Delegates to the October 30th SLNA Community Meeting. Stewart kicked off the meeting with a land acknowledgement.

Spadina-Fort York Update - MPP Chris Glover

MPP Glover spoke to SLNA delegates and community members about a number of key issues, including the economic statement recently released by the Provincial government; the housing crisis and the importance of co-op housing; and the status of the Ontario Place lands.

Discussion focused on housing and the housing crisis. A question was asked around adding more co-operative housing in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood, and the rest of the city. MPP Glover indicated that he is meeting with church groups regarding their real estate portfolios, the Co-op Housing Federation is looking at a number of projects, and that the City of Toronto is building a 900 unit co-operative housing project at Kennedy and Eglinton. MPP Glover also noted that state of good repair work on TCHC buildings falls under City jurisdiction, but acknowledged that this work is essential and that the City has a plan to address the maintenance backlog currently experienced. MPP Glover went further to acknowledge that, under Mayor Chow, the City has broken ground 2,000 units of affordable housing.

Links:

- [MPP Chris Glover - Website + Contact](#)

NORC Speakers Series - Market Square - Eddy Morassutti and Sheila Vandenberg

Eddy and Sheila from Market Square shared their experience in building an inclusive intergenerationally connected community through various activities and services, including a social club, floor parties, and a comprehensive survey to understand residents' needs. The goal was to enhance services and create new ones to foster a more connected community.

The first phase of this project focused on facilitating social connections between the residents of Market Square. The second phase is looking at setting up health and well-being programming and resources for residents.

The conversation ended with a discussion on the success of these initiatives and plans to move activities into the evening to attract a broader group of participants. The discussion also touched on their relationship with the University Health Network (UHN) and their decision not to be designated as a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC). Delegates and attendees expressed interest in continuing to share best practices and lessons learned on developing programming, as well as identifying opportunities for buildings to partner on events.

Links:

- [Market Square Presentation](#)
- [NORC Innovation Centre Website](#)
- [NORC Innovation Centre Email](#)
- [NORC Ambassadors Do-It-Yourself Guide](#)

Toronto Environmental Alliance - Emily Aldred

The Toronto Environmental Alliance, or TEA, has been in Toronto for more than 35 years, with a goal to build a greener city for all. TEA advocates for a green, healthy and equitable City at Toronto City Council meetings, and by working with community groups, businesses, and researchers across the city to encourage participation of local people and local issues.

Emily spoke about waste reduction, specifically Reusable Toronto, a program convened to bring together researchers, waste champions, reuse service providers, and other leaders to talk about how we can shift our city away from disposables and single use plastics and other single use items towards reusables.

Emily acknowledged the work of the SLNA Waste Reduction Group and St. Lawrence Reduces on encouraging local restaurants to switch to reusable foodware; TEA's research found that the St. Lawrence Neighborhood had the highest rated interest in shifting to Reusables.

Discussion focused on other areas of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood to target, including the prepared food vendors at the St. Lawrence Market, and the vendors at the farmers' market still using plastic bags.

Links:

- Email: emily@torontoenvironment.org
- [Toronto Environmental Alliance Presentation](#)
- [Toronto Environmental Alliance Website](#)
- [Toronto Environmental Alliance: Zero Waste + Reusables](#)
- [Toronto Environmental Alliance - Contact](#)
- [SLNA Waste Reduction Group](#)
- [St. Lawrence Reduces](#)

Toronto Street Soccer - Joseph O'Rourke

Toronto Street Soccer is a volunteer-run program that provides accessible street soccer opportunities and key supports for people experiencing homelessness in Toronto. Toronto Street Soccer plays at Parliament Square Park every Sunday. Most of the players come from Dixon Hall's 351 Lakeshore Respite Centre. 23 games have been played since May and Joe is hopeful to send a team to the Homeless World Cup in 2025.

Joseph expressed the need for indoor space to continue their activities during the winter and encouraged volunteers and community support.

Links:

- [Homeless World Cup](#)

Community Updates

Macy Parakh - Ward 13, Toronto Centre Update

Macy Parakh from Councillor Moise's office (Macy.parakh@toronto.ca) provided updates on the closure of Market Street, the ongoing discussions about its permanent closure, and the upcoming winter market. Macy also announced the annual safe and inclusive neighborhood survey and the Toronto Centre Holiday Banquet on Wednesday, December 11th, at which the 2025 winners of the Toronto Centre Community Builder Awards will be announced. Macy also confirmed a grand opening of the North Market is targeted for early 2025.

- [Toronto Centre Holiday Banquet](#): Wednesday, December 11th from 6-9pm @ St. Lawrence Hall, 157 King Street East ([RSVP](#))
- [Ward 13, Toronto Centre Community Builder Awards](#)

Nancy Fung - REmarket

Nancy from the waste reduction group shared an update on the 11th REmarket, highlighting the growth in event volunteers, visitors, and donations. The next REmarket will be held on January 29th and 30th, 2025.

Toby Tenenbaum - Canada Day Volunteers Wanted!

Toby requested volunteers for Canada Day planning and organizing. Toby noted that the key deadline for applications for the Heritage Canada grant is November 21st.

Next SLNA Community Meeting - November 27, 2024