

# SLNA DELEGATES MEETING

February 23, 2005

OWN CO-OP HOUSING, 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, 65 Scadding Avenue V

## In Attendance:

Patricia Bear Claw, Cathedral Court Co-op V

Barbara Bell, Woodsworth Co-op V

Alice Briesmaster, New Times Sq 2 V

Elisabeth Ecker, 65 Scadding V

Robin Hart, Crombie Park V

Stig Harvor, La Place St. Laurent V

Samantha Hewit, Space Condo V

Ewa Jarmicka, Harmony Co-op V

Marcus Little, The Wellington V

Helen Marangos, FAN V

Brian McElwain, The Wellington V

Frank McLean, 25 The Esplanade V

Susan McLeod, Market Square V

George Millbrandt, Longboat Res. Assoc. V

Ron Monteith, Woodsworth Co-op V

Dawn Murray, Windmill Line V

Robert Prowse, Space Condo V

Sherri Russell, FAN V

Béchara Saab, New Times Sq

## With Regrets:

Pam Gierman, Windmill Line V

Aurie Hensman, MTCC #630 V

Terry Pennock, New Times Sq 2 V

Dwight Peters, 25 The Esplanade V

Karen Serwonka, David B Archer V

## ACRONYMS:

CPLC: Community Police Liaison Committee

David Sangaraille, La Place St. Laurent V

Alan Seymour, Longboat V

Wally Simpson, Crombie Park V

Michael Waring, New Times Sq 2 V

Connie Yang, OWN Co-op V

Arlyss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

Michelle Buckley, Pam McConnell's Office G

Jennifer Arp, Bill Graham's Office G

Bob Kemp, 51 Division CPLC G

SSgt Tom Kelly, 51 Division G

Sgt Glen Wilkinson, 51 Division G

Erin Harris, **Toronto** Seniors Council G

HRSDC: Human Resources and Skills Development  
Canada

OMB: Ontario Municipal Board

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

## **1. Welcome & Round Robin**

Cam Miller called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and welcomed everyone. He introduced himself as President and he chaired the meeting. A round table of introductions was conducted. Nancy Sheppard, interim Corporate Secretary, passed around an attendance sheet.

Cam asked Delegates to introduce themselves each time before speaking during the meeting.

## **2. Rose Wilner**

Cam Miller announced that SLNA Delegate Rose Wilner passed away recently. He gave a tribute to her as an informed, committed, involved community member. Most recently she was involved with the Pedestrian Safety initiative. As requested in the notice of her passing, the SLNA will make donations to both the Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens' Organizations and Dying with Dignity. Cam called for thirty seconds of silence in respect for and acknowledgement of Rose Wilner.

## **3. Approval of the Agenda**

Delegates made the following amendments:

- Ron Monteith noted that the next SLNA meeting is scheduled for March 30, not March 23.

- Alice Briesmaster asked to give an update on the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre, under Other Business.
- Ronny Yaron advised that the guest speaker from Portlands Energy Centre was not able to attend this evening. Ronny offered to read the City of **Toronto**'s related motion under that agenda item.

*Motion: to approve the Agenda as amended.*

*Moved by: Joan Campbell*

*Seconded by: Helen Marangos*

**CARRIED**

### **3. Approval of January 26, 2005 Minutes**

Amendments:

- Frank McLean asked that his name be spelled correctly on page 3, item 5, third last paragraph (s/b Frank McLean, not Frank McLeod).
- At Frank McLean's request, Staff Sergeant Tom Kelly of 51 Division added a sentence to the end of the same paragraph: "The crime prevention officer of the station, PC Joe Smith, can be contacted at (416) 808-5187 to come out on a visit to speak with your building manager.
- Frank Burns advised that Paula Stilatto and Roy Varacelli attended the meeting as guests. Nancy Sheppard noted that all guests were not documented for the January meeting.
- Nancy Sheppard advised that James Honeyman from the SLCRC should be listed as in attendance.
- At the request of Sue McLeod, Nancy Sheppard advised that the motion located on page 6, #9,

Development Updates, should have included the following insertion:

"Motion: that the SLNA support the concept of 3 up and 3 down for North Market reconstruction, not to exceed the height of St. Lawrence Hall and that the entry for parking be on either King Street or Church Street.

Moved by: Frank Touby

Seconded by: Paul Smith

*Friendly Amendment proposed by Susan McLeod to separate the two main proposals into two separate motions; not accepted by Frank Touby.*

ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED"

*Motion: to approve the January 26, 2005 minutes as amended.*

*Moved by: Alan Seymour*

*Seconded by: Brian McCauley*

**CARRIED**

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

None.

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

Cam Miller welcomed Staff Sergeant Tom Kelly. Tom introduced Sergeant Glen Wilkinson as being in charge of one of the two platoons on the streets. Tom will bring the officer in charge of the other platoon, Sergeant McDermott, to the next SLNA meeting for introductions. Tom advised that if he is unable to attend an SLNA meeting, one of these two officers will attend.

Tom addressed the recent shooting of two young people in this area. The police are undertaking a very prolonged and in-depth investigation, and are receiving good information from people in the neighbourhood. He pointed out that people in this neighbourhood have been forthcoming with information, for which he expressed appreciation. Because the investigation is ongoing and no charges have yet been laid, Tom could not give much information or respond to specific questions. In response to concerns raised by a Delegate, Tom recommended that people not let the incident overwhelm them but go on with their daily lives and routines as the odds of it happening again in this neighbourhood are remote.

Tom advised that the spree of auto break-ins that he reported at the January SLNA meeting have come to an end with the arrest of a man identified on surveillance equipment. He added that eleven people have been arrested for robberies at Yonge and Wellesley. As a result, that spree of robberies has also reduced.

Tom described our neighbourhood as an “island of calm”, with the exception of the recent auto break-ins. But, he added, the police only know what the community tells them. Tom asked again that citizens report any incident to the police as their first phone call. If the police see a trend happening early, they can perhaps stop it sooner. To report an emergency, phone 911. To report a crime (such as a break-in), phone (416) 808-2222. This general police line will either take your call or forward you to the appropriate person. Nancy Sheppard reminded Delegates that she has a handout of contact numbers for the police, which she can distribute on request. This information is also located on the SLNA website.

In response to Barbara Bell’s query about the percentage of violent crimes in the neighbourhood, Tom noted that assaults, robberies, sexual assaults and murders were down in 2004. Seven crime categories were developed for use by the police throughout North America to determine “how safe is your community.” So far in 2005 crime trends are at or below 2004 levels, with the exception of auto break-ins.

Paul Smith asked for the status of the Methadone Clinic located at the corner of Frederick and Front. Tom responded that police continue to maintain a presence there. Michelle Buckley advised that the business might be moving to another location.

Frank McLean asked whether a relationship exists between police and private security forces. Tom responded that the police have a good working relationship with local security people, but do not generate any special business with them. He explained that private security contact the same phone numbers for police as any citizen would

Cam thanked Tom Kelly for his report. Tom Kelly and Glen Wilkinson left the meeting. Cam thanked OWN Co-op (represented by Connie Yang and Erin Harris) for hosting this evening's meeting. He noted that food for this evening was provided by St. Lawrence Market, and coffee by the SLNA.

## **7. Presentation — Portlands Energy Centre**

Ronny Yaron reported that the speakers she invited could not attend. She summarized the issue. A new power plant is proposed for the Portlands, near the former Hearn Generating Station, near Commissioners Road. The Riverdale Health Centre opposes it. The **Toronto** Environment Alliance has approved it contingent on closure of an energy station near Oakville, which is slated for closure in 2005. City Council has approved it, but only with conditions. Michelle Buckley added that Councillor Pam McConnell has written a letter in opposition. Delegates expressed interest in hearing a presentation at a future SLNA meeting.

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

Cam Miller welcomed Michelle Buckley. Michelle reported as follows:

Snow Removal: Michelle advised people to call 416-392-7768 (SNOW) if they see that snow is not being removed in public areas, or phone her directly at (416) 338-5157.

The Methadone Clinic has outgrown the capacity of their office. Pam's office has tried to mitigate some of the on-street activity. The Clinic is looking for a larger place to move to, a space that will be accommodated by that neighbourhood. Pam's office is trying to expedite the process. Michelle could not give assurances, as requested by Ron Monteith, that the Clinic would move outside of this neighbourhood.

40 The Esplanade (Scott Street & The Esplanade): Most people feel this development is out of context with the neighbourhood (two towers, 16 and 32 storeys). The developers' proposal was presented to Council on February 16 and was approved contingent on a lot of amendments. Input from about seventy hours of prior community consultation was taken into consideration. On behalf of Pam, Michelle thanked the SLNA. The speed at which Delegates were able to organize and the sophistication with which they were able to manage things coming their way was wonderful. She gave particular thanks to the Development Committee, chaired by Frank Burns. Pam's amendments passed because of dozens of letters from St. Lawrence neighbourhood residents. Now the developers will be appealing items at the OMB. A pre-hearing is set for March 7. Michelle recommended that people pack the room to show that this is an important issue for the community.

Parliament & Mill: Barbara Bell questioned the development of a 30-storey glass tower condominium at Parliament and Mill. She read in a newspaper that according to Pam McConnell this development has the support of the community. Michelle noted that the community in question is the Distillery District, not the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. The Distillery District chose narrow height, rather than boxy sprawl, to

accommodate the density of the building. It is not yet “a done deal.” Residents of that neighbourhood will have a chance to depute.

Goodwill Site: A Delegate objected to building a 30 -storey building on the Goodwill site, so close to the St. James Cathedral Park. Michelle advised that right now they are not allowed to build at the height they propose. A community meeting at the end of March or early April will be everyone’s first chance of many to come out and discuss the proposal. Wally Simpson asked whether the height of The Spire condominium will set a precedent for the developers of the Goodwill site. Michelle responded that King George Square, not The Spire, sets the precedent as a building appropriate to the site.

70 The Esplanade: Ronny Yaron asked for the status of development at 70 The Esplanade. Michelle responded that a public meeting will be held before the preliminary report, mid-March. She will let the SLNA know the date.

Michelle concluded that anyone who wants to get involved in talks related to local site development can get notices of meetings through the SLNA or can phone her at (416) 338-5157. Cam Miller thanked Michelle Buckley for her report.

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

Cam Miller welcomed Jennifer Arp. Jennifer reported that today was Federal Budget Day. She brought highlights which would be announced on the news this evening and published in newspapers the next day. She summarized some of the financial benefits to **Toronto**, and advised Delegates that the whole document will be available on the government’s website.

Stig Harvor asked for the status of social housing. Funding was cut by the Liberals a few years ago and was never reinstated. Jennifer had no specific details. Stig clarified that some money was allocated while Mike Harris was in power, requiring provinces to match federal funds. Harris decided that it was up to municipalities to match the funds. Municipalities had no money, so the federal allocation has never been used. Jennifer said she is not aware of anything related to this in the budget, but that she would find out.

George Millbrandt asked whether the budget addressed the waterfront partnership. Jennifer could provide no specific details, just highlights of the budget. She asked people to email her their specific questions or call her, so that she can look up the details directly in the full document.

A Delegate asked whether there been any action on the **Toronto** Port Authority (TPA). Jennifer said that she is not aware of any specific action. There are issues with all layers of government in this matter. The federal government will not move except in conjunction with the other levels of government. Alan Seymour asked Jennifer to clarify whether the Minister could send the SLNA a status report on the Port Authority. Jennifer said that the Minister could respond in a letter, but it would be forwarded to LaPierre’s office for the TPA’s official response as well. Delegates accepted this condition. Frank McLean advised that an editorial in a newspaper suggested that regulations to do away with the TPA have been drafted and signed up to the point of the Prime Minister but that that final step has not been taken. He asked Jennifer to find out if that is true. Jennifer responded that as far as she knows that is not true. Frank asked for official documented feedback to ensure accountability.

Béchara Saab asked if the federal budget included any allocation for greenhouse emissions. Jennifer referred him to the Kyoto accord and to funds allocated to Cities for greening, \$5 billion nationwide over 5 years. Stig Harvor pointed out that Paul Martin, as Minister of Finance, once said that projections could not be made accurately beyond two years. These five-year projections are not divided equally over the years. They start with a small amount in the first year and increase each year. If an election takes place in three years, the government cannot be held accountable for the bulk of their monetary commitment, which takes place in the final two years. Jennifer declined to comment.

A Delegate asked whether the military, which owns the land on Moss Park, has any development plans for that site. Jennifer responded that Moss Park will remain as is for the time being.

Elisabeth Ecker asked why the federal budget includes a huge amount for UBC. Jennifer responded that she brought only highlights for the GTA, but that UBC probably has a large program. Elizabeth asked her to find out the specific program.

Alan Seymour asked whether Bill Graham's office can send a newsletter each month the way Pam McConnell's office does. Jennifer responded that newsletter mailings from Ottawa from Bill Graham's office are sent to all households in this neighbourhood.

Cam Miller thanked Jennifer Arp for her report.

## **10. Provincial Update from George Smitherman's Office (MPP) — Wendy Ground**

Wendy Ground was not present this evening. Ron Monteith expressed concern that we seldom, if ever, see our elected representatives at SLNA meetings, with the exception of Pam McConnell, who has come in the past. Since this is one of the largest ridings in **Toronto** Centre, Ron asked that this constituency's elected officials find time to attend an SLNA meeting at least once a year. They are MP and MPP first and Ministers second.

***Motion: to extend invitations in writing to MP Bill Graham and to MPP George Smitherman that they attend a meeting of the SLNA at least once a year.***

***Moved by: Ron Monteith***

***Seconded by: Patricia Bear Claw***

***CARRIED***

Jennifer Arp, in agreement with Dawn Murray and Barbara Bell, strongly recommended a task-driven meeting. Prepare agenda items based on matters that affect the population in this neighbourhood, and have the Minister speak to those issues. A Delegate recommended the Waterfront and Port Authority as one such issue.

Michelle Buckley advised that City Councillor Pam McConnell will be at the SLNA's AGM next month.

## 11. President's Report — Cam Miller

### a) *Robert's Rules of Order*

Cam Miller reported that, as the result of a question of procedure at the last meeting, he reviewed *Robert's Rules of Order* to clarify the process to follow if a delegate wishes to amend a motion already on the floor. He and Nancy Sheppard summarized. Cam indicated that, in future, he will not allow "friendly amendments". A motion needs a seconder. Once seconded, it is owned by the meeting, not by the person who tabled the motion. If a delegate wishes to amend a motion, they must make a motion themselves to that effect. The amending motion needs a seconder, and the amendment is voted on first.

Michael Waring pointed out that *Robert's Rules* has a website where people can ask questions. Michael asked the Executive, as he could not find the answer within *Robert's Rules*: When is a motion required, in order to direct the SLNA Executive to take action? Nancy Sheppard responded that the SLNA's by-laws do not prescribe situations where motions are required, with the exception of making expenditures.

Cam indicated that the Executive intended months ago to amend the SLNA's by-laws in order to clarify this issue. Other pressures have left no time to commit to this project, but it is on the Executives' "to do" list.

### b) Community Air

Cam Miller reported as SLNA representative to the Community Air group. Community Air plans to bring to the SLNA the following resolution (which will be distributed in hard copy and electronically, perhaps in advance of the next SLNA meeting):

Therefore be it resolved that:

Consistent with **Toronto**'s clean, green waterfront initiative, **Toronto** City Council be requested to pass a resolution calling on the federal government to terminate the federal Port Authority's airport operations on the waterfront island park and to restore the

**Toronto** Island Airport land to its zoned use as public open space.

Community Air met with Bill Graham two months ago and held a follow-up meeting with John Godfrey. They suggested that Community Air speak with Susan Cadis, Chair of the Liberal caucus for the GTA. Cam will report further at upcoming SLNA meetings. He asked for volunteers to join him as additional

SLNA representatives in the Community Air initiatives. Frank McLean volunteered.

Frank McLean announced that Waterfront Action is seeking to form a broader coalition around waterfront matters, to deal with issues that have to date "fallen between the cracks."

Cam concluded with a sample of the unaccountable behavior of the Port Authority which, a couple of months ago, hired a consultant with taxpayers' money to lobby the Federal government, of which it is an agency.

### c) AGM



Cam Miller reported that the next SLNA meeting, March 30, will be a regular Delegates meeting immediately followed by the AGM. He called for talented people to run for executive positions. Nancy Sheppard pointed out that six positions are coming open. Joan Campbell noted that open positions are listed in the SLNA newsletter, just published. Nancy added that Cam Miller's and Ronny Yaron's positions are continuing. The other six positions are either to complete the terms of persons who needed to resign, or open positions. Interested persons can contact Nancy by email or the office by phone.

## 12. Development Updates – Frank Burns

Frank Burns reported on development sites and design guidelines in the neighbourhood.

### a) Sites

Hummingbird Centre (corner of Yonge and The Esplanade): Its height was originally to be 100 meters. A new architect added 10 more meters. Currently the building is designed as 41 storeys. A public meeting is scheduled for March 7 at the Hummingbird Centre. Michelle will send an electronic notice to Nancy

Sheppard for her to forward to Delegates

40 The Esplanade: Pam McConnell's amendments to London Condominium's development proposal were passed at Council. Thanks to all delegates who responded to our request to contact the City Councillors on this matter. We are over hurdle one, and are now at the next hurdle: a probable appeal by the developer at the Ontario Municipal Board.

70 The Esplanade consists of the building at 70 The Esplanade (an old furniture factory with a pub on the main floor), up the west side of Church Street to Front Street and over to the first set of cast-iron-fronted buildings. Developers propose 16 storeys (not the expected 12) and plan to build virtually straight up from the lot line, rather than with an angled plane going back from Church Street or with a step-back from their podium. Community action is required to persuade them to change their design. A community consultation meeting is planned.

Gross Machinery Site: No activity yet.

Market Street: Luxury condominiums (14 units) are planned for this street (site of the Old Fish Market).

Goodwill Site: The developers want to put a 32-storey building on a site that allows a maximum height one third of that. Planners have applied for rezoning and an official plan amendment. Michelle Buckley advised that a meeting will take place in advance of the planning meeting, in order to attempt to influence the planners before they proceed too far with their design.

Richmond Site: At the request of a Delegate who lives at 255 Richmond East (Space Condominiums), Michelle Buckley offered to find out who owns the site on Richmond Street which Goodwill uses to service their trucks (east of George on Richmond, next to 255 Richmond East), to determine whether an 18-storey building is planned for that site.

### b) Urban Design Guidelines

Frank Burns explained that the Development Committee wants urban design guidelines approved through City Council as soon as possible so that the Committee can refer to them with authority when confronting developers about designs inappropriate to this neighbourhood. The Committee is also pushing to institute a Heritage Conservation District for the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood, which is, after all, the oldest part of **Toronto**. The municipal government offers Community Improvement funding which is not being adequately utilized. We need to encourage the Councillor to get funding for community improvement in our neighbourhood.

Many local sites are now under development. "We are always a dollar short and a day late" in influencing the final designs so that they reflect the character of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. The Committee wants to prevent developers from creating a "Harbourfront" in our neighbourhood. If the urban design plans go through Council successfully, "maybe we'll have half a prayer of winning arguments."

King George Square, Phase II: Delegates discussed a proposal by developers to build King George Square, Phase II on the north half of the block where King George Square is located (the block is bounded by King, Jarvis, George, and Adelaide). Delegates noted that there is no room for development without destroying heritage buildings currently on the site.

Car Dealership at Front and Eastern: At Stig Harvor's request, Michelle Buckley explained that the Car Dealership approved for Front and Eastern is not within the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood. A swap was negotiated. The dealership was granted a parcel of land in West Donlands to encourage them to move off the historic old Parliament site. The West Donlands Committee has worked to see that its design fits better into the neighbourhood.

### **13. Communications — Joan Campbell**

Joan Campbell reminded Delegates to pick up the latest newsletter for delivery to residences. The newsletter includes updates on local site development plans and information on next month's AGM, including Executive positions open for election.

Joan advised that Dwight Peters is maintaining the SLNA's website: [www.slna.ca](http://www.slna.ca). He asks for some help with the technical aspects of the website. Anyone interested can contact the SLNA office. Joan urged Delegates to view the site and offer suggestions for improvements. A questionnaire will go out to Delegates who have email, asking for their opinions.

Joan asked for volunteers to help produce future newsletters.

### **14. VP-Internal – Ronny Yaron**

Ronny brought Clean Air Consumer Guides for Delegates to distribute to their buildings.

Ronny stated that the Festival is now planned for September, and will include other events to make it into a bigger celebration for the SLNA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. One evening's event would be a high-end event, a fundraiser for people who can afford to pay. The other evening's event would be a family event, perhaps in the Market, with music and food, at a lower price. The day-long festival would be held on Saturday.

Ronny welcomed new Delegates: Robert Prowse and Samantha Hewit of Space condominiums on Richmond (a new member to the SLNA), Leo Agosto of Marketview Co-op, and Béchara Saab of New Times Square.

### **15. New Business**

#### **a) Update on the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre (SLCRC)**

Alice Briesmaster reminded Delegates that Paula Jacobi has replaced Ann Doggett on staff. Fall/Winter programs include: DJ lessons for 10-14 year olds, and hip-hop lessons for 12-14 year olds. Alice suggested that the students might demonstrate their skills at the Festival.

The SLCRC is open again on Sundays, 12:00-5:00, for swimming, volleyball, basketball, and fitness class.

The Centre is considering renovating the locker rooms, and making the lobby more attractive, welcoming and useful, with more seating.

A member of the SLCRC's Council has joined the Safety Walk Program to help keep that program from closing. (One of the people shot recently on George Street was a Safety Walk escort.) Alice pointed out that some communities have Vertical Watch and Neighbourhood Watch. She asked that Delegates discuss at the next SLNA meeting the prospect of developing a communication link amongst buildings so that reported incidents can be shared. Nancy Sheppard advised Alice that this issue could be added to the agenda, more likely in April. Barbara Bell pointed out that the Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) is a good contact, and that the Chair, Bob Kemp, can be reached at [bobkemp26@hotmail.com](mailto:bobkemp26@hotmail.com). The CPLC meets once a month, and Bob meets with police weekly. Helen Marangos is SLNA's representative on the

Committee. Ronny Yaron offered to find out whether the automated message from the Police Department is working again, which advises registered people of local incidents.

**b) Representative from George Smitherman's Office**

Connie Yang asked that the letter of invitation to George Smitherman to attend an SLNA meeting at least once annually include the fact that for three months his office has provided the SLNA with no report.

Alternatively, she suggested, call his office. "We make time. They can make time."

Cam Miller added that George Smitherman states to the media that his constituency comes first, but there is no evidence of that here at the SLNA.

The Executive will follow-up.

**16. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:21 pm.

The next Delegates meeting will be held Wednesday, March 30, 2005, at 7:00 pm, followed by the AGM.

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Nancy Sheppard, Corporate Secretary

Cam Miller, Chair

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