



## MINUTES OF DELEGATES' MEETING

January 30, 2008

OWN CO-OP, 115 The Esplanade

### Executive present:

Paul Smith	President	St. Lawrence On-the-Park, MTCC 782
Harry Renaud	VP External	135 George Street
Ronny Yaron	VP Internal	Woodsworth Co-op
Dan O'Leary	Director-at-Large	15 Scadding
Wallace Simpson	Director-at-Large	Crombie Park
Jacquie Williams	Director-at-Large	Old York Tower

### Executive absent with regrets:

Bruno Leps	Treasurer	Market Square
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### Delegates present:

Marg Bailey	OWN
Randy Bath	15 Scadding
Patricia Bear Claw	Cathedral Court Co-op
Keith Bricknell	Metropole
Terry Eitel	Old York Tower
Karl Froehr	Windmill Line Co-op
Oleg Holowaty	25 George Street
Roman Janco	MTCC 1385
Hawaa Kabbashy	New Hibbet Co-op
Madeha Khalid	Canadian Stage Company
Catherine Limbertie	1 Church Street
Marcus Little	The Wellington
Ed Majchrowski	15 Scadding
Emma McBey	OWN
George Milbrandt	Longboat Residents Assoc
Ron Monteith	Woodsworth Co-op
Loralie Olinyk	33 Princess
Annalee Orr	David B. Archer Co-op
Bob Parkin	71 Front Street
Katie Parkin	71 Front Street
Sherri Russell	31 Princess
Alan Seymour	Old York Tower
Robert Sherrin	Abbey Lofts
Farher Syed	MTCC 1170
Catherine West	1 Church Street
Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel	
Connie Yang	OWN

**Associate Members & Guests:**

Mark Fernandez Eneract/Smartliving St. Lawrence  
Catherine LeBlanc-Miller Chair, Toronto Catholic School Board  
Robin Matthews-Kanhai CitizensBank of Canada  
Doug Maybank Longboat Residents Association  
Anita McMaster Gooderham Worts Neighbourhood Association

**Recording Secretary** Arlyss Ponchuk

**ACRONYMS:**

**CPLC:** Community Police Liaison Committee  
**OMB:** Ontario Municipal Board  
**SLCRC:** St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre  
**SLM:** St. Lawrence Market  
**SLMN-BIA:** St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area  
**SLNA:** St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association  
**TPA:** Toronto Port Authority

**1. Sign-in**

**2. Opening Remarks – President Paul Smith**

Paul Smith called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm and chaired the meeting.

A branch of the Citizensbank of Canada is opening in July at the corner of Princess and Front. The Chair acknowledged the presence of bank representative Robin Matthews-Kanhai.

**3. Approval of Agenda & Approval of Minutes from November Meeting**

*Motion: to approve the Agenda as presented.*  
*Moved by: Karl Froehr*  
*Seconded by: Patricia Bear Claw*  
**CARRIED**

Delegates deferred approving the minutes of November 2007 until they are distributed. The Chair announced that Director Jacquie Williams is assuming some of Corporate Secretary Ani Kounavis’s responsibilities.

**4. Presentation by Trustees of Boards of Education**

- Sheila Ward, Trustee, Toronto District School Board
- Catherine Leblanc Miller, Chair, Catholic School Board

Sheila Ward was not present.

The Chair introduced Catherine Leblanc Miller. She explained that she is the local Catholic Trustee for this Ward. School trustees are elected during municipal elections. Trustees annually elect a Chair for their Board from amongst their elected members. Catherine has been trustee six years and is now serving as Chair. She lived at Woodsworth Co-op a number of years ago so has roots here.

Areas with intense land development must set aside land for a school. Catherine described school lands recently set aside in downtown Toronto.

*Can we put up a community-friendly barrier in front of DAS School?*

This would be a joint project for the School Board and the City. It has not been brought to Catherine’s attention before now. The challenge is to determine who is responsible for that particular site as it is a shared facility.

Catherine responded to questions provided in advance:

*What is the School Board’s involvement in real estate development?*

*How can we best work together?*

Communication. Catherine distributed her business card. A sign with community contact information is installed on the exterior of St. Michael’s School.

*What steps are being taken as a result of the recent school safety report?*

The report focused on Toronto Public School Board (TPSB) schools, but Catherine intends to pay attention to its findings. Some recommendations are already in place in Catholic schools, such as video surveillance at school entrances, particularly where staff cannot see who comes in the main door. Also the Ministry has revised Bill 212 which addresses consequences for inappropriate student behavior. For early prevention, the Catholic School Board (CSB) is working in partnership with the police and community organizations.

*What are the prospects for culture-centric schools in SLN?*

The CSB has never been asked to provide culture-centric schools similar to Afro-centric schools, and has not been involved in the recent debate. Catholic schools do provide international language programs in some schools, if community members call for it in significant numbers. Such programs are integrated into the school's day programs and are considered a requirement, not an option. "We recognize that all children can benefit from learning a different language."

Catherine responded to questions from Delegates:

Karl Froehr pointed out that a fence has been installed around Crombie Park in front of Windmill Line Co-op, without community consultation. He asked whether a process exists for such work. He asked who to contact to ask that the gates be altered to improve accessibility for the physically disabled. Catherine responded that as a property owner the CSB has no responsibility to consult with the community in this matter, but that being a good neighbour is important. Members of the community with concerns could talk with the school principal or school trustee. Dan O'Leary advised that the parks in the neighbourhood are under the authority of Parks & Recreation, and that permits were granted to the schools when they were built to use the land at certain times of day. Catherine acknowledged that schoolyards are expected to be accessible. Dan noted that the site is still accessible on the Scadding side but not on The Esplanade side. Paul Smith advised that the Executive Committee will look into the matter.

Hawaa Kabbashy, with reference to Afro-centric schools, expressed disappointment in elected people who have not worked with the community to assist cultural groups who tend to drop out of the school system, and who have not supported such students to excel. Catherine noted that a number of cultures including the Portuguese community could argue that the school system is failing them and that they deserve their own school. This is a challenge for the CSB, which strives to work with the community. The Ministry of Education is looking to redevelop the curriculum

so that students will hear the perspectives of other cultures and continents while learning Canadian subjects.

Ron Monteith congratulated the Catholic School Board for taking swift action to cancel credit cards for school trustees. Catherine explained that the Board undertook a yearend reconciliation of trustee expenses. A city newspaper acquired information and published sweeping allegations of misuse of funds by a couple of trustees. "There was no accusation on the Board staff that the trustees did anything inappropriate." The Trustees in question were asked to provide business receipts if their items were business expenses. As a result of the audit report, the School Board has decided as of January 31 to annually post online trustee expenses for the previous year. This report is available as of 4:00 pm today.

John Kennaley of MPP George Smitherman's office, advised that the Ministry has set up a "13-language" website to help new Canadians get information in their own language.

Delegates mentioned schools in Toronto that have overall excelled or failed in test results. Catherine noted that smaller schools have skewed results due to their smaller sample. Keith Bricknell described from his own experience as a director of education in Manitoba how Manitoba prevented skewed findings in test results. Catherine noted that a school that excels might have a rigorous specialized curriculum that draws academic achievers to the school.

Ronny Yaron asked if the Catholic School Board has a policy for providing free school space for community use. Catherine explained that a Permit Department at the CSB can provide detailed information. Community members can also speak to the school principal. Paul Smith asked whether the cost for use of the space can be waived. Catherine responded, generally not, but that the CSB is generally much more affordable than the TPSB. Service staff must be on site and must be paid for after-hour use of the school.

Dan O'Leary asked whether the CSB takes the health of students into consideration as part of the educational process. Catherine explained that the CSB is looking to reduce or eliminate trans fats in foods served in cafeterias, and that daily physical activity requirements are set out by the Ministry of Education for all grade levels. Dan compared obesity to, for example, a language disability, and asked whether programs could exist for them. Catherine pointed out that schools have no authority outside of school hours, and that home and healthcare professionals have a role to serve in promoting children's health. Paul Smith proposed that MPP George Smitherman be asked to respond at an upcoming meeting, to whether the school system should be held more responsible than it is for children's health. He offered to meet with Mark Fernandez of smartliving St.

Lawrence to prepare a program to send to George Smitherman and the two school boards.

A person asked, what is the policy of the CSB about vending machines, particularly pop machines. Catherine responded that no pop machines are allowed in schools and that vending machines must have fruit juice and bottled water.

## 5. Reports

### a) Development Committee – Marcus Little

In early January the committee met with Concert Properties, who are building Five Corners at Church/Front/Esplanade. Concert Properties also plan to put a rental property on Berkley Street south of Queen. The committee has not yet seen the plan for it.

The committee gave the Executive today a single-page document of its guidelines and expectations, for consideration by Delegates at a future meeting.

### b) Heritage District Update – Suzanne Kavanagh

Suzanne Kavanagh, Chair of the Heritage Designation Study Committee, was not present. Marcus Little, who is on the committee, reported. This committee has been trying to accomplish its objectives since 2005. Recently Councillor Pam McConnell acquiring funding of up to \$100,000 to fund a study in the SLN. She made the funding available last week. Planning can now begin. Once the plan is drafted, Suzanne Kavanagh will present it to the SLNA.

Hawaa Kabbashy asked for an update on the proposed Market Wharf development at 18 Lower Jarvis Street. Marcus advised that the developers are appealing to the OMB. The Development Committee has met with the SLMN-BIA to discuss what they are interested in from the development. The SLNA has not yet followed up by presenting its own dislikes of the project. The City wants the tower lowered, in part on the grounds that it would cast a shadow on Berczy Park. The SLNA does not favour above-grade parking, but six storeys of above ground parking are part of the building plan. The SLNA objects to public parking within the development as an underutilized public parking complex exists only a block west of the site. In response to Ronny Yaron, Marcus stated that letters from SLN buildings affected by the proposed development would be useful should the matter go before the OMB but that such correspondence might be unnecessary at this point if a settlement is negotiated between the City and the developer.

Hawaa Kabbashy asked whether it was a rumour or true that the City sells prime land for needed money, as the SLN is a prime location. Tom Davidson responded that the City does

Paul Smith asked whether it is an urban myth that St. Michael's School will be relocating. Catherine responded that there is very early discussion about possibly consolidating St. Michael's School with St. Paul's School at Queen and Parliament, but that nothing would take place for at least five years.

The Chair thanked Catherine Leblanc Miller for her presentation.

own properties throughout the city and does from time to time put them up for sale, but that under the City's Housing First policy, every time a city property is up for sale, the site is circulated to all departments as an opportunity to prioritize putting the land aside for affordable housing. Tom was not aware of any land in the SLN being sold for any other purpose than housing.

### c) Community Building – Ronny Yaron

Ronny Yaron distributed "Evaluation of Delegates' Meeting" forms for completion by the end of the meeting.

Ronny distributed Nomination forms for Delegates for next month's SLNA elections. The Annual General Meeting will take place on March 28. Delegates will be sent by email a complete list of positions on the Executive open for election.

At the request of Terry Eitel, the Chair reconfirmed that Jacquie Williams is assisting with duties of the Corporate Secretary as Ani Kounavis now has increased commitments elsewhere. Terry offered to handle the minutes and agenda for March. She advised that she has not received minutes by email for some time. Ronny Yaron pointed out that the draft minutes for the last meeting, held in November, were sent to Ani Kounavis but not forwarded to Delegates.

Catherine West asked for some words of encouragement for people to stand for election. VP-External Harry Renaud stated, "I encourage anyone who wants to learn what is going on in your community to join in. It is most interesting, very stimulating and a lot of fun, and I'm sorry to be leaving [as he is moving from the neighbourhood]." President and Chair Paul Smith added, "Volunteering is fun. If you are working, why would you volunteer? One reason: Because you will enjoy it. Get your buddies to join you, as it is a social activity. Meet a lot of wonderful people."

Ronny Yaron announced that for the second year the SLNA has not held its annual Community Festival. The Executive has decided to replace the festival with Canada Day as the SLNA's annual event, and to expand Canada Day.

Paul Smith reported that last week City Council approved the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) for the area from George to Yonge and Queen to the tracks. Councillor McConnell has proposed that the City identify champions for the various parts of the plan. The SLNA will be asked to mirror the champions. More information will be available when the 20-page final report is published. For more information, see [www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca) and follow the link to the SLN CIP. Appendix B is the plan.

#### **d) Community Gardening – Dan O’Leary**

Dan O’Leary announced that because tomorrow is Styrofoam-Free Day on planet earth, tonight we have glasses and cups that are fully biodegradable.

The first meeting to organize the rooftop tours has taken place. By March the group will know which buildings will be part of the tour. Some sponsors have been identified.

Councillor Pam McConnell will soon announce the date for Environment Day. The Gardening Committee will invite children and parents from local schools to bring a science project to the park at Sherbourne/The Esplanade. Other events promoting Earth Day and the environment will take place. Children will be encouraged to write essays on the environment for the 2008 Canada Day essay contest.

Catherine Limberti asked what to do with the contents of her new green bin of compost. Paul Smith advised that the City will launch its new program in July. The City will provide free bins to residents, but buildings will need to arrange to move waste from units to a reuse site. See: [www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile/3799.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile/3799.pdf).

#### **e) Governance Relations and Issues – Tom Davidson, John Kennaley**

Tom Davidson reported. Last night a community consultation meeting was held regarding the off-leash dog park at David Crombie Park on The Esplanade at Sherbourne Street, where the baseball diamond is located. That meeting was part of a larger policy process to make additional spaces available for off-leash areas while ensuring enough space for people to use the parks at the same time. The City has now defined criteria for which types of parks might be able to support an off-leash area. Parks with a play structure or sports field cannot have off-leash areas within a certain distance. Parks that are too small or have too little green space cannot have off-leash areas.

It will be up to a community of dog owners to form an association and create a formal application to the City’s Parks Department for an off-leash area for their park. The Parks Department will undertake community consultation to decide whether to approve the application. The first stage of the planning study was to deem whether existing off-leash

areas should continue. Most were approved, including the park at Sherbourne/The Esplanade. At the community consultation meeting last night, people felt in general that this park was a good place for an off-leash area, but they proposed that its boundaries be more clearly delineated, that signage be improved, and that off-leash hours be reviewed. A follow-up meeting will take place.

Catherine West suggested that the City consult with the Canadian Kennel Club, who have expertise regarding creating containment areas.

In response to Catherine Limberti, Tom stated that the meeting included discussion of dog owners using areas without permission. People recommended extra enforcement and signage. Tom concluded that the City must find additional space for dog walkers that is appropriate while simultaneously ensuring that spaces not allowed for dog owners are properly monitored.

In response to Catherine West, Tom confirmed that privately owned buildings determine their own use of space.

In response to Terry Eitel, Tom confirmed that this meeting was the first community consultation since the Dogs in Parks strategy came forward.

In response to Catherine West Tom explained that the park at St. James Cathedral is off-limits to dogs, but that the local community of dog owners could make an application to Parks for consideration.

Tom added that an informal meeting of Parks staff, SLCRC staff, and community residents took place, which clarified whether dogs were allowed in Parliament Square Park, as the park’s signage was confusing.

In response to Connie Yang, Tom confirmed that not many people have responded to the City’s new by-law requiring that dogs and cats be licensed. A person recommended that the City not merely advertise the by-law, but also explain how pet owners benefit from it, as an incentive.

Sherri Russell pointed out that there is less enforcement now for dogs in parks. Tom advised that currently the City has only nine inspectors but that more will be hired soon.

Ronny Yaron advised that a future Delegates’ meeting will feature the dogs in parks issue. Tom recommended that it be held soon, to bring ideas forward before the follow-up meeting regarding David Crombie Park is held.

The Chair thanked Tom Davidson for his report.

John Kennaley reported. MPP George Smitherman's office is moving to 514 Parliament Street late in March or early in April. John is acquiring a copy of the agreement for the First Parliament Site for the SLNA. This will enable the SLNA to assist in taking action to remove the Porsche dealership from the site as the dealership's contract with Ontario Realty expired January 1, 2008. John is also researching environmental programs in the province.

The Chair thanked John Kennaley for his report.

**f) All-Candidates' Debate Update** – Paul Smith

An All-Candidates Debate for the Federal by-election in Toronto Centre will take place at the St. Lawrence Performing Arts Centre, March 11, 7:00 p.m., for the elections on March 17.

**g) smartliving St. Lawrence** – Mark Fernandez

Phase 2 of smartliving is underway. Mark is holding environmental energy conservation workshops for residents of co-ops and condos in the SLN. Smartliving's mandate is to do workshops for 20 more buildings for Phase 1, then revisit buildings. The deadline for booking workshops under Phase 1 is March 1 for completion of workshops by March 31. Mark will email a flyer to be forwarded to Delegates.

Smartliving is partnering with SLM to undertake a direct mail campaign to co-advertise SLM and smartliving.

**6. Delegates' Issues** (questions and comments)

None.

**7. Other Business**

None.

**8. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

The SLNA acknowledges OWN for hosting tonight's meeting.

The next Delegates meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 27 at 7:00 pm.

Smartliving has partnered with C'est What restaurant at 67 Front Street East (corner of Front and Church) to hold a speakers' series. The first event is "Renewable Energy" on February 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mark will email a flyer on the speaker series to be forwarded to Delegates.

The websites of Eneract and smartliving are being updated.

**h) Community Police Liaison Committee** –Keith Bricknell

Keith provided a written report on the "CPLC-51's Activities &/or Meetings in January 2008." The CPLC has developed guidelines to ensure three outcomes:

- 1) the police will receive timely information about specific incidents (police complaint form attached to Keith's report),
- 2) the police will receive information about general issues from the SLNA as reported at CPLC meetings by Keith, and
- 3) the police invite residential buildings to submit their three greatest law-enforcement concerns to the SLNA for the SLNA's Executive to identify areas of major concern for Keith to report at the CPLC meeting on February 21.

Keith announced that an employment opportunity currently exists for people who would like to work as crossing guards.

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Corporate Secretary

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President