

SLNA DELEGATES MEETING
June 29, 2005

OWN 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: Robert Prowse, Space Condos V
At Large: Joan Campbell, Market Square V
At Large: Richard Haldane, Crombie Park V
At Large: Connie Yang, OWN Co-op V
Secretary: Samantha Hewit, Space Condos V

In Attendance:

Cherril Baker, David B Archer V
Randy Bath, 15 Scadding Ave, V
Patricia Bear-Claw, Cathedral Court Co-op V
Barbara Bell, Woodsworth Co-op V
Alice Briesmaster, New Times Sq 2 V
Bonnie Dew, OWN Co-op V
Pam Gierman, Windmill Line Co-op V
Dennis Glasgow, The Wellington V
Georgette Harris, Saint James Condos V
Robin Hart, Crombie Park V
Aurie Hensman, 160 Frederick St V
Eva Jarmicka, Harmony Co-op V
Marcus Little, The Wellington V

Beatrice Magdar, OWN Co-op V

Susan McLeod, Market Square V
George Millbrandt, Longboat Residents Assoc V
Dawn Murray, Windmill Line Co-op V
Loralie Olinyk, Harmony Co-op V

Anna Lee Orr, David B. Archer Co-op V

Sherri Russell, F.A.N. V
Karen Serwonka, David B. Archer Co-op V
Nancy Sheppard, St Lawrence on the Park V
Michael Waring, New Times Square 2

Arlyss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

Jennifer Arp, Bill Graham's Office
Sean Bassin, George Smitherman's Office
Michelle Buckley, Councillor McConnell's Office
Sgt Tom Kelly, 51 Division G
Peter Jackson, 30 Front Street G

With Regrets:

James Honeyman, St Lawrence C.R.C. G
Elisabeth Ecker, St Lawrence on the Park V
Stig Harvor, La Place St Laurent V

ACRONYNMS

BIA: Business Improvement Area
CMHC: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation
CPLC: Community Police Liaison
Committee
HRSDC: Human Resources and Skills
Development
Canada
OMB: Ontario Municipal Board
PSB: Police Services Board
SLCRA: St. Lawrence Condo Ratepayers
Association
SLCRC: St. Lawrence Community
Recreation Centre
TIACAC: Toronto Island Airport Community
Advisory Committee
TCHC: Toronto Community Housing Corporation
TWRC: Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Committee

Stephanie Hickmott, King George Square G
Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel, 140 The Esplanade G
Erin Harris, St Lawrence Resident, G
Dianne Forsyth, St Lawrence on the Park G

V = Voting Delegate, N = Non-Voting Delegate, G = Guest

1. Welcome & Round Robin

Delegates filled in the attendance sheet on arrival. Cam Miller called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. He introduced himself as President and he chaired the meeting. A round table of introductions was conducted.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Cam Miller made the following amendments:

- split “10a) Development Update on 40 The Esplanade” into two parts: insert “Update on 40 The Esplanade, Part 1” after “Approval of the Agenda,” and add “Update on 40 The Esplanade, Part 2,” after “Community Safety Network—Alice Briesmaster”
- add “Canada Day—Connie Yang” after “Update from 51 Division”
- Shawn Bassin, not Wendy Ground, is present to represent George Smitherman’s office
- at the end of the “Provincial Update from George Smitherman’s Office”, discuss preparations for George Smitherman’s visit.
- After “VP-Internal” add “New Business: a) Designation of SLN as a Neighbourhood—Marcus Little; and b) Thanks to the SLNA—George Milbrandt”

Motion: to approve the Agenda as amended.

Moved by: Robert Prowse

Seconded by: Cherril Baker

CARRIED

3. President’s Report: Update on 40 The Esplanade, Part 1 — Cam Miller

Cam Miller introduced Karl Jaffary, QC who represented the SLNA at the recent OMB hearing regarding 40 The Esplanade. Delegates applauded Karl Jaffary for his efforts on our behalf. Cam introduced Michael Cruickshank, restorer and developer of heritage properties and Treasurer of the St. Lawrence Market Area BIA. Delegates applauded Michael Cruickshank for his work in opposing the development at 40 The Esplanade.

At the suggestion of Joan Campbell, Delegates applauded Cam Miller for his work on behalf of the SLNA. George Milbrandt and Frank Burns were put forward for applause as well.

Karl Jaffary and Michael Cruickshank each spoke briefly to the reasons for failure to prevent the development at 40 The Esplanade. They encouraged people to take action quickly on other similar developments which are currently in the planning stage. Karl Jaffary noted that in the absence of current planning guidelines for the neighbourhood, an interim control by-law should have been put into effect, but that the City instead encouraged the development. Michael Cruickshank noted that it is not often that so many community groups are brought together so cohesively on a single cause. The OMB’s decision will be made public in a couple of months.

Karl Jaffary, QC and Michael Cruickshank left the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Cam Miller noted that the package for tonight’s meeting includes 4-5 pages of material on 40 The Esplanade, which would inform discussion during Part 2 of discussion on this topic, later in the evening.

4. Approval of May 25, 2005 Minutes

Amendments:

Shawn Bassin asked that his name be spelled correctly in the attendance list

Ewa Jarmicka asked that her name be spelled correctly in the attendance list under “Regrets”

Shawn Bassin pointed out on page 5, #8, first paragraph: “Bill 118 passed, aiming for full accessibility in Ontario for people with disabilities over the next ~~25 years~~ 20 years”

Dawn Murray pointed out on page 9, #15, last sentence: “Anyone interested in volunteering can contact her at ~~dmurray@risac.ca~~ dmurray@ryesac.ca.”

Motion: to approve the May 25, 2005 minutes as amended.

Moved by: Patricia Bear Claw

Seconded by: Bonnie Dew

CARRIED

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

6. Update from Police 51 Division

Cam welcomed Staff Sergeant Tom Kelly. Tom reported that crime is down in the Division this year so far, in keeping with right across the city.

Fewer patrols will be on the street during the summer as there are 5-6 weeks of large community events requiring police resources, including PRIDE on June 27-28, Celebrate Toronto July 9-10, the Molson Indy, and Caribana. This will slow down police response time sometimes. “Be patient. If you need someone fast, call more than once. Stay on top of things and don’t take no for an answer.”

The Toronto Police Force’s new Chief, Bill Blair, supports community-based policing, and plans to find 200 officers within the service who can get back into a front line role in communities, including bicycle patrols. Geographically, the SLN is smaller than the suburbs, so that patrols can be done easily on bike or on foot. Tom hopes to see officers who graduate from classes within the next couple of months assigned to the downtown core, increasing the number of police officers in this community. He will have further news on that by late August.

Barbara Bell reported that three break-ins through patio doors and balconies occurred recently at Woodsworth Co-op, on Wilton Street, Albert Franck Place, and George Street. Tom clarified his statistics, stating that *reported* crime is down. Police solve problems they know about. Police are finding that people don’t even report break-ins now. “When you report you give police a much better understanding of what is happening in the neighbourhood.” One “minor” crime might actually be part of a crime wave, so let the police know. “You aren’t creating work for us; you’re letting us know where the problems are.”

In response to a question by Pam Gierman, Tom assured her that the police will respond to calls any time, day or night. If a person calls 808-2222, a car patrol will generate a report and then a plain clothes officer will further investigate.

Dawn Murray reported that, due to the current heat wave, “riff raff” are hanging around in the basketball court in front of Windmill Line Co-op. She added that a drug dealer is back. She has personally witnessed “a very scary argument” over money. Tom assured her that even if no crime is witnessed, she should phone in a report, and a patrol car can come around. Dawn said she did so and a car arrived within ten minutes. Tom stated that he would have the bicycle patrol pass by the parkette over the next while.

Aurie Hensman asked whether the white hummer involved in the murder at Sherbourne and The Esplanade was confiscated, as a white hummer has been parked outside the Methadone Clinic at Front and Frederick three of the last five days. Tom will ask officer Darren Hallman’s crew to look into it.

Alice Briesmaster asked Tom if he knew why big cars and what looked like a swat team converged at a building on Berkeley Street on Saturday, June 4. Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel pointed out that they were arresting a drug dealer who had a gun. Tom added that sometimes plainclothes officers make an arrest and community people jump in, thinking they are breaking up a fight. If you see something that looks like a street brawl, he said, call 911 rather than get personally involved.

Cam thanked Staff Sergeant Tom Kelly. Delegates applauded.

7. Canada Day — Connie Yang

Connie Yang handed out a flyer for the first annual Old Town Celebration of Canada Day which will take place Friday, July 1, 11:00 a.m., in front of the Hot House Café. The Principal of St. Michael’s School will be present, handing out a programme that will include students singing O Canada and several other songs. Connie distributed a second sheet, a green paper with background information. Connie has organized similar Canada Day celebrations on previous years with the co-operation of groups including the SLNA and George Smitherman’s office. Connie asked Delegates to post the flyers in their buildings. Delegates applauded Connie for her work.

8. Community Safety Network — Alice Briesmaster

Alice reminded Delegates of last month’s presentation by Crime Concern. She now proposed to start a Community Safety Group, drawing on Crime Concern’s expertise and volunteers from the SLN. She passed around a sign-up sheet. She proposed that a brainstorming session be held in July and that a crime safety expert help set up a more co-ordinated program at a meeting in August. The Crime Concern program is government funded and free to neighbourhoods. Alice described some possible initiatives, concluding with mention of the website for the police, www.torontopolice.on.ca.

In response to Cherril Baker, Alice welcomed all volunteers, not only SLNA Delegates. In response to Barbara Bell, Alice offered to make available a flyer that the Secretary can email to all Delegates, so that residences can publish the appeal for volunteers in their newsletters.

Ronny Yaron added that she attended a City conference on community safety a few weeks ago and she made available for distribution copies of their Community Safety Plan.

9. President's Report, continued — Cam Miller

a) Update on 40 The Esplanade, Part 2

Cam Miller referred Delegates to two documents in the meeting package—his speaking notes for the hearing and an email which summarize the SLNA Executive's stance on 40 The Esplanade. He gave credit to Dwight Peters for having generated initial notes at the charette on 40 The Esplanade, which proved useful in preparation for the OMB hearing. Cam thanked everyone, the public, who showed up at the hearing, saying “we felt strengthened and empowered by their presence.” The hearing was not even held in the community, he pointed out. It was held on Bay Street. Nonetheless there was an impressive turnout.

We are trying to save this area, Cam said,—its diversity, heritage character, and low rise density. This is a distinct district. A little more invasion by developers and it will be gone and will not come back. This is the only significant historic district in this city and even if the City is not going to fight for it we are. We are fighting on behalf of the City. Delegates applauded.

Cam assured Delegates that the course of action taken by the Executive was done so in good faith and with good intentions, even though in retrospect some of the decisions proved not the most effective. “We continue to make decisions we believe are in our best interests at the time.”

Cam explained that the hearing pitted citizens against both the City and the developers. The developers wanted two towers 35 and 17 stories high and parking above ground. The City fought to reduce the towers by two stories each and to locate the parking below ground. Either version will hurt this neighbourhood.

b) Update on 70 The Esplanade

Cam Miller reported that on July 6 a community consultation will take place on the proposed development at 70 The Esplanade. The SLNA thought the developer planned a 4 storey podium and a 16 storey tower. The developer now plans a 10 storey podium and a 22 storey tower.

Motion: that the SLNA unambiguously opposes the current proposal for the development of 70

The Esplanade.

Moved by: Cherril Baker

Seconded by: Patricia Bear Claw

Amendment by George Milbrandt: the SLNA will not approve any development that does not meet the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Focused Area Urban Design Guidelines.

Amendment seconded by: Aurie Hensman

AMENDMENT CARRIED

FINAL MOTION: that the SLNA unambiguously opposes the current proposal for the development of 70 The Esplanade, and the SLNA will not approve any development that does not meet the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Focused Area Urban Design Guidelines

CARRIED

Michelle Buckley noted that the Guidelines are likely to be passed by Council by August. Delegates affirmed that this motion can be revisited for rephrasing if the guidelines do not pass.

Ewa Jarmicka recommended that all Councillors be made to understand that their legacy includes not just development of single buildings but long lasting ramifications to entire neighbourhoods.

At Ronny Yaron's request, Paul Smith will email the flyer announcing the July 6 meeting to the Secretary for her to forward to all Delegates, as some have not received the notification. Joan Campbell pointed out that Paul has generously put his cell phone number at the bottom for anyone with questions.

Paul Smith explained that one tactic the SLNA can use to stall development at 70 The Esplanade is a block context plan. The City can demand that all the owners of a block get together and plan the overall appearance of the block, and that no further development will take place until the plan is in place.

Cam Miller pointed out that only recently have City staff considered including communities in planning processes. In the earliest stages, the City talks only with the developer. Joan Campbell reminded Delegates that communications with the community broke down regarding the Goodwill site, where only Presidents of condominium boards received notification of a recent public consultation meeting. Peter Jackson concluded that if we don't try to push for a block context plan for 70 The Esplanade we will be cherry picked one building after another.

Motion: that the SLNA ask Councillor Pam McConnell to initiate a Block Context Plan for the block bordered by Church, Front, Scott, and The Esplanade.

Moved by: Paul Smith

Seconded by: Joan Campbell

CARRIED

Michelle will report this initiative to Pam. Dennis Glasgow will put forward the idea of the block context plan at the July 6 public consultation meeting for 70 The Esplanade.

At Paul Smith's recommendation, Delegates discussed ways to generate publicity on the proposed development at 70 The Esplanade before the public consultation meeting.

10. City Update from Pam McConnell's Office (Councillor) — Michelle Buckley
Cam Miller welcomed Michelle Buckley. Michelle assured Delegates that Pam fought hard to win the reductions in the developer's plan for 40 The Esplanade, but was faced with constraints and had little support from Council. "There is no need to convince the Councillor that you are concerned," she said. "That comes through loud and clear."

She assured Delegates that Pam's office tries to contact as many people as possible regarding notifications of community consultation meetings, but that her office does not have individuals' addresses due to privacy laws. She described the SLNA as a powerful means to broadcast important news via Delegates to residents.

The new Director of Planning has introduced the concept that contentious developments must have public meetings before a preliminary report is prepared. "Planner and Councillors are beginning to understand that that absolutely needs to happen."

Susan McLeod reminded Michelle that the planners for 70 The Esplanade attended a recent SLNA meeting and their plan was warmly received. Michelle explained that at a public meeting held in April at St. Lawrence Hall, the public response was not favourable at all, that the public response was "over my dead body." The structure is a huge slab building that takes up most of Church Street.

Joan Campbell pointed out that the SLNA has now learned from past experience, and has skills to confront future such developers. Michelle added that now this community can say clearly what it wants and does not want.

In other news, Michelle reported that new fines of \$300 are in place for tour buses that park where they are prohibited.

Regarding the garbage levy, Michelle reported that Pam voted against it in Council but was outvoted. Now, if a building generates more than a maximum tonnage allowance of garbage, it will be charged a surcharge. Michelle offered that City staff can talk to boards about how to phase in the new law, and that she can set up an appointment on request. Michael Waring pointed out that he has seen City garbage men clean out public newsprint recycle/bottles recycle/garbage cans and throw the recyclables and garbage into the back of the one truck. "If you're going to start charging us [residents], it won't be fair." Michelle noted the complaint, responding that this is not the first time she has heard of this happening.

At Connie Yang's request, Michelle will look into replacing a small public garbage can at The Esplanade near OWN with a larger garbage can, as it is always overflowing.

In response to Nancy Sheppard, Michelle explained that City Parks & Recreation are revitalizing the area along Sherbourne between The Esplanade and Scadding Avenue by replacing rotting railway ties and redoing the gardens. George Milbrandt added that according to Darrell Vossens of Parks & Rec it will be redone in faux stone or rough concrete, not wood, something that does not allow for skateboarding, and there will be a one-tier planter.

At the request of Barbara Bell, Michelle will look into replanting the lawn at David Crombie Park in front of Woodsworth Co-op between George and Frederick Streets. Annalee Orr pointed out that the drinking fountain near the wading pool at that site is broken too.

Dawn Murray expressed dissatisfaction that the City expected residents to fundraise rather than the City contribute funds to plant a tree in memory of the death of a youth in the neighbourhood. Cam Miller intervened to say that the cost of the tree planting will be covered by sponsors of the Children's Garden project spearheaded by Dan O'Leary, and that either a tree, plaque, or bench will be set in place at the SLNA Festival this fall in commemoration of the young man.

Georgette Harris asked about the status of \$200,000 donated for formal gardens in St. James Park. Michelle responded that implementation has been delayed until this summer. Robert Prowse will discuss separately with Michelle upgrades to the bandshell in St. James Park.

Michelle closed by reporting that she and Dennis Glasgow met with film and TV production people to discuss how production companies and the community can interact more cooperatively when filming takes place in the SLN.

Cam Miller thanked Michelle Buckley for her report.

11. Provincial Update from George Smitherman's Office (MPP) — Shawn Bassin
Cam Miller welcomed Shawn Bassin. Shawn reported in follow-up to a query by Wally Simpson at the last meeting that an Accessibility Council is being established for Accessibility Bill 118, and that they are seeking a Chair, Vice-Chair and community members for the Council. He will email information to the Secretary to forward to Delegates. Delegates can look up www.equalopportunity.ca for more information.

Shawn reported that effective May 31, 2006, everywhere in Ontario will be smoke free, and that soon tobacco products will be stocked out of sight in stores.

Last week was the beginning of consultations for Strong Ontario/Strong Toronto Community. This is historic because it is the first time that the government is involving

the public in the early stages of such an initiative. Minister Garrickson was encouraged by the turnout—over 300 people attended at the St. Lawrence Market, and over 1,000 people sent in written input. Residents can still write or email their comments. Shawn can provide the contact information on request. In response to Karen Serwonka, Shawn stated that the proceedings, once documented, will be available at www.toronto.on.ca and that he can forward a copy to the SLNA's President or Secretary.

Cam Miller reported that Paul Smith has offered to take over from Robert Prowse as organizer for George Smitherman's visit in August. Paul Smith is now the person to whom issues for George Smitherman should be sent to ensure that our meeting with the MPP is as productive as possible.

Paul Smith reported that he is reviewing George Smitherman's 27 ministries to determine which have a direct bearing on our neighbourhood's main issues. He recommended that OMB reformation be a key issue raised. He will have the Secretary circulate to Delegates his final list of questions to the MPP prior to forwarding the questions to George Smitherman. This will enable the MPP to generate well-thought out responses. There will also be a chance when he gets here to ask questions from the floor.

Delegates chose to hold the meeting at the OWN and to set the room up in a lecture style. Connie Yang noted that the capacity of the room is 100 people.

Cam Miller thanked Shawn Bassin for his report.

12. Federal Update from Bill Graham's Office (MP) – Jennifer Arp

Cam Miller welcomed Jennifer Arp. Jennifer reported that the budget has finally passed. Bill C38 passed yesterday, so the House is officially on break for the summer.

Delegates noted that Bill Graham is encouraged to attend an SLNA meeting this year.

Cam Miller thanked Jennifer Arp for her report.

13. VP Internal — Ronny Yaron

a) Gala/Festival Update

Ronny Yaron reported that planning is well underway for the street festival, but that there is a shortfall on certain projects. She asked for a volunteer to co-ordinate the youth photography contest, which is on the theme of greening our neighbourhood and celebrating our heritage. Ronny distributed a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Ronny has suggested to *The Community Bulletin* that they include an insert which would read as an anniversary issue with stories about the struggle to develop this community.

Dawn Murray distributed flyers for Delegates to post in their residences, asking for volunteers.

Cam Miller promised that he will now commit time to raise money for the festival.

b) Green Awards

Ronny Yaron reported that as a first annual event the City gave out 25 Green Awards to individuals and organizations for environmentalism. She distributed copies of the bi-annual magazine *Greenliving* to Delegates. The magazine plans to publish an article on the Sustainable St. Lawrence Project in an upcoming issue.

c) Volunteer Recognition Awards

Ronny Yaron asked that people make nominations for the SLNA's Volunteer Recognition Awards; otherwise the committee of judges will need to make nominations. That committee is composed of the 7-8 people who received awards in the last couple of years. Ronny will make the nomination form available on email. People can drop printed nomination forms off at the SLNA's office at the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre or bring them to the next SLNA meeting (even though the deadline is July 15).

13. New Business

a) Designation of SLN as a Neighbourhood — Marcus Little

Marcus Little explained that in the official plan for the City, we are in an area called East Downtown. Because we are downtown we are not recognized as a neighbourhood. Neighbourhoods have rights with respect to developers.

Motion: that the SLNA ask the City Councillor to initiate changing the Official Plan so that the SLN is designated as a neighbourhood.

Moved by: Marcus Little

Seconded by: Joan Campbell

CARRIED

b) Thanks to the SLNA — George Milbrandt

George Milbrandt presented to the SLNA a thank-you card from the children of Market Lane Public School who received a donation from the SLNA of \$1,500 for their nutrition program. Delegates applauded.

c) St. Lawrence Community Recreation Center — Alice Briesmaster

Alice Briesmaster reported that SAS Canada, a high tech company building on King Street, is negotiating to rejuvenate Crombie Park and Parliament Park, but the tradeoff is that "they want to put labels on things." They are proposing a three-year partnership with the SLCRC.

Alice noted that the SLCRC has a new website, www.slrc.ca, designed by Paul Parker.

d) Sustainable St. Lawrence Project — Cam Miller

Cam Miller reported that the Sustainable St. Lawrence Project has been renamed Smart Living St. Lawrence. In addition to receiving \$113,000 in funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Project has recently received \$80,000 in funding from the Toronto Atmospheric Fund. The Ontario Trillium Foundation will fund an additional \$112,000 if the Project fulfills its first year's mandate. "The EnerAct guys are serious and very effective and we are delighted with the collaboration so far."

14. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:32 pm.

The next Delegates meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2005, at 7:00 pm.

The July meeting features special guest George Smitherman, MPP!

Samantha Hewit, Corporate Secretary

Cam Miller, Chair