

SLNA DELEGATES MEETING

June 28, 2006

OWN CO-OP, 115 The Esplanade

Executive Members in Attendance:

President and Chair: Paul Smith, St. Lawrence on the Park V

V.P. External: Frank Burns, Longboat Residents Association

Secretary: Joan Campbell, Market Square V

At Large: Wally Simpson, Crombie Park V

At Large: Connie Yang, OWN Co-op V

At Large: Ronny Yaron, Woodsworth Co-op

With Regrets:

V.P. Internal: Diane Hollingsworth, Windmill Line
Co-op V

Treasurer: Bruno Leps, Market Square V

Ben Marans, smartliving St. Lawrence

Jenn Syntetos, MP Bill Graham's office

In Attendance: Voting Delegates

Leo Agosto, Market View Housing Co-Op

Len Anderson, 140 The Esplanade TCHC

Randy Bath, 15 Scadding TCHC

Patricia Bear Claw, Cathedral Court Co-op

Barbara Bell, Woodsworth Co-op

Joan Boyd, P.A.L.

Keith Bricknell, The Metropole MTCC #1170

Dorothy Creaser, Old York Tower

Terry Eitel, Old York Tower

Karl Froehr, Windmill Line Co-op

Norman Hart, P.A.L.

Stig Harvor, La Place Saint-Laurent

Aurie Hensman, 160 Frederick St.

Ani Kounavis, 25 The Esplanade

Ewa Jarmicka, Harmony Co-op

Ron Monteith, Woodsworth Co-op

Derek Norridge, 25 The Esplanade

Farhan Syed, The Metropole MTCC #1170

Alan Seymour, Longboat Residents Assoc.

Catherine West, 1 Church Street TCHC

Lois White, 140 The Esplanade TCHC

In Attendance: Non-Voting Delegates

Tom Davidson, Councillor McConnell's Office

Bob Kemp, Chair, CPLC 51 Division

Guests (cont.)

John Boyd, Woodsworth Co-op

Roger Clement, Woodsworth Co-op

Barbara Czarnecki, Windmill Line Co-op

Heather Dalzell, OWN Co-op

Billy Ennis, OWN Co-op

Dianne Forsyth, St. Lawrence on the Park

Ted Genova, Woodsworth Co-op, BIA

Oleg Holowaty, Olde York Place II (25 George St)

Nancy Hood, Woodsworth Co-op

Arthur Klimowicz, OWN Co-op

Barbara Logan, Woodsworth Co-op

Shawn Macdonald, Woodsworth Co-op

Joyce Meade, OWN Co-op

Chris and Carlos Molnar, 85 The Esplanade

Phyllis Orr, OWN Co-op

Donna Patterson, OWN Co-op

Jan Pugsley, Longboat Residents Association

Marilyn Reid, Woodsworth Co-op

Tim Rourke, 15 Scadding

Bill Rupert, MTCC #735

Sherri Russell, Family Action Network

Margaret Scott, Woodsworth Co-op

Norma Seymour, Longboat Residents Association

Percy Smith, Old York Tower

Linda Steeves, Woodsworth Co-op

Elizabeth Stewart, Woodsworth Co-op

Madelaine Varja, Woodsworth Co-op

Recording Secretary: Arlyss Ponchuk

Sgt. Dan McDermott, 51 Division Superintendent
Blake Webb. MPP George Smitherman's Office

Guests:

Ken Andrews, OWN Co-op
Lyla and Tony Barclay, Market Square
Katrina Bokking, Woodsworth Co-op
Howard Bortenstein, Candidate for City Council

ACRONYMS:

BIA: Business Improvement Area
CPLC: Community Police Liaison Committee
SLCRC: St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre
SLNA: St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association
SLSL: smartliving St. Lawrence
TCHC: Toronto Community Housing Corporation

1. Registration & Refreshments

2. President's welcome and remarks—responsibilities of delegates

President Paul Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and chaired the meeting. He welcomed Delegates and guests. He deferred

commenting on responsibilities of Delegates to the next meeting due to the night's busy agenda. An attendance sheet was passed around.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Aurie Hensman objected to the length of the agenda. The Chair acknowledged this, and noted that more information should be distributed by handout and email rather than reported at meetings. The Executive is looking for ways to enliven the meetings, in part by having a theme for each meeting.

Motion: to approve the Agenda as presented.
Moved by: Keith Bricknell
Seconded by: Joan Campbell
CARRIED

4. Approval of May 2006 Minutes and business arising (Rules of Order — Diane Hollingsworth)

Diane Hollingsworth was not in attendance to present the Rules of Order.

Sherbourne Street to King Street, from King to Yonge, and Yonge to Front The picnic will include lion dancing MP Bill Graham and MPP George Smitherman will attend"

Amendments to the minutes of May 2006:

-Diane Hollingsworth and Aurie Hensman gave regrets

-Page 8, #15, first paragraph, last sentence: Rephrase to read: "Canada Heritage has promised a monetary contribution,"

-Page 8, #15, second paragraph: Rephrase to read: "The parade . . . will proceed from

Motion: to approve the May 2006 minutes as amended.
Moved by: Joan Campbell
Seconded by: Barbara Bell
CARRIED

5. Report from Pam McConnell's office — Pam McConnell

This report followed the report from 51 Division. The Chair welcomed Councillor Pam McConnell. She explained that the local government, the police, social services and the community are building a network to develop a

strategy for working together. She is meeting next week with members of the SLNA executive and Superintendent Jeff McGuire and Staff Sergeant Frank Bergen to discuss neighbourhood crime statistics and possible steps. The next day

she will meet with the TCHC, police, SLCRC, library, schools, and the President of the SLNA to put together a strategy for preventative and community policing, for presentation at a public meeting. The goal is to make community pro-action as strong as police pro-action in a combined team effort to resolve community issues pertaining to safety & security. The SLN is to be part of a pilot project for community engagement, a very promising preventative strategy under the leadership of Lucy Stern.

Regarding the shooting incident at the basketball court in front of Windmill Line Co-op, Pam reported that the basketball net might be removed nights as a deterrent to late night “practice.” Regarding drug problems at the SLCRC, Pam is in discussions next week with the Centre’s new Director. Regarding lighting in

St. James Park, a meeting today was held to evaluate the lighting.

Pam has asked that Section 37 moneys from building developments and community moneys from SAS totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars be allocated through a joint discussion by the SLNA executive, the SLCRC and police.

Delegates applauded. The Chair thanked Pam McConnell for her report.

Paul Smith advised that there is a site on the internet regarding Community Safety Best Practices, which reports on communities around the world who have had similar problems and have found solutions to share. A person has been delegated to prepare a report for an upcoming Delegates meeting. Delegates applauded.

6. Report from George Smitherman’s office — Blake Webb

The Chair welcomed Blake Webb, who was present on behalf of George Smitherman.

Blake Webb responded to a question from last month’s meeting, on how Bill 102 will benefit the community. He will email a copy of the information to the Secretary from the website of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, for distribution to Delegates:
www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/legislation/drugs/ovr_drugsact.html.

Blake will answer the following questions by Delegates for the next meeting:

- Tim O’Rourke: What is better about the Tenant Bill that the provincial government recently passed?

- Donna Patterson: Clarify issues with dispensing fees that help larger pharmacies but not smaller pharmacies?

- Farhan Syed: Can generic drugs be made less costly under the new legislation?

Blake responded to a question from last month, regarding what the MPP feels about lenient sentences, by stating that minimum and maximum sentences are handled through the federal government, and are not under provincial jurisdiction.

The Chair thanked Blake Webb for his report.

7. Report from Bill Graham’s office — Jenn Syntetos

The Chair reported that Jenn Syntetos sent her regrets that she was unable to attend.

8. Update from smartliving St. Lawrence — Ben Marans

The Chair reported that Ben Marans sent regrets that he was unable to attend. Ben had submitted a written report. The Chair noted from it that Ben had achieved 2,500 volunteer hours in the SLN

in the last year. Delegates applauded. Paul credited Ben for achieving much in the

smartliving St. Lawrence project.

9. Policing in St. Lawrence — 51 Division presentation and discussion

The Chair welcomed representatives from Police 51 Division. Staff Sergeant Frank Bergen introduced: Superintendent Jeff McGuire, Detective Sergeant Neil Corrigan, and Constable Heather Nichols.

Frank Bergen gave a PowerPoint presentation. The new mission statement for policing in Toronto is: dedication to delivering services in partnership with communities to make Toronto the best, safest community. There are four guiding principles: crime prevention, order management (bringing in experts as necessary once an event has happened), Assistance to victims, and law enforcement. Key to this is the public's willingness to partner with the police, to report incidents and evidence promptly, to help when able, and to propose possible solutions for community issues.

51 Division has been divided into 6 "quadrants". Ours is St. Lawrence/Corktown/Distillery. Six people are in charge of this community: Sergeant Dan McDermott badge#1576, Constable Steve Lorriman #5118, Constable Glen Abate #6800, Constable Karen Chapman #5108, Constable Andrew Shaw #4061 and Constable Heather Nichols #5244.

Frank Bergen's presentation continued with statistics on reported shootings, sounds of gunshots, and persons with guns from January through June 2006. He thanked the public for phoning in activities, but noted that the statistics do not all represent true incidents because on at least one occasion a person deliberately phoned in a false report of a shooting at 2 Market Street. Police response time for priority calls (gun calls, robberies, and assaults) is now 3-7 minutes if there is violence, as little as 30 seconds if an officer is in the neighbourhood. For non-priority calls, response time is 11-17 minutes.

Superintendent Jeff McGuire reported that he returned recently from a three-month program at the FBI Academy. 260 senior police leaders from 26 countries attended. Canada is apparently at the leading edge of enforcement methods. He noted that 51 Division now has 185 officers, a 35% increase. A new Inspector, Gord Snedden, has been promoted to 51 Division from 52 Division, to replace Rick Stubbins who was assigned to a special project.

Constable Heather Nichols reported on vagrancy, homelessness and panhandling. She explained that the police are enforcing the Safe Streets Act. The police are drawing on social agencies to assist people on the streets. Frank Bergen clarified that historically, "you call, we respond," but that police now promote a partnership model of police working together with the community, combined with a problem/solution based approach. "Not everyone deserves to be arrested. There are other remedies."

A local shopkeeper expressed concern about street people in his store. The police offered to do follow-up and also recommended that he ask the local politicians to intervene with appropriate laws.

Members of Windmill Line Co-op reported that their Co-op held a Town Hall meeting on Monday night on the topic of safety & security. They described Constable Joe Smith who represented 51 Division at the meeting as unqualified, and asked that in the future the police send a more senior person. They expressed dissatisfaction at the police's slow or rude responses to phone-in reports, and seeming lack of awareness of an incident regarding shots fired at a basketball net in the parkette in front of the Co-op. Frank Bergen explained that police

response times have now improved. He added that any inappropriate behavior by police should be reported to supervisors at 51 Division. He explained that police all have access to computer systems that keep them updated as to all activities in the community. Regarding Joe Smith, the senior police regard him as an excellent officer, although perhaps not yet a good public speaker.

Barbara Bell expressed concern on behalf of many Woodsworth Co-op residents present at tonight's meeting, that there are many unsolved shootings around the Co-op. Frank Bergen responded that the police know that there are people with information on the June 6 incident who are choosing not to come forward. The police solve most cases slowly, by gathering evidence bit by bit, and the best evidence comes from witnesses, not from lab evidence as implied by TV shows like CSI. He again emphasized the importance of the community working in partnership with the police, reporting what they know and also reporting to police as soon as they see anything unusual in their community, before it escalates into a criminal act.

The police took under advisement a Delegate's recommendation that the police advise the public of what to expect when they call the police so that they don't interpret the police's businesslike and brisk response as rude.

Parks Ambassador Troy Ford reported that a Streets to Homes program was approved by City Council in 2005, and since then accommodations continue to be found for homeless people, with several more due to move into apartments as of July 1. Troy is in constant contact with his outreach team to ensure that they maintain contact with the homeless. Delegates applauded. Troy added that the SLCRC has a new Supervisor of Recreation, David Hains, relocating from the John Innis Community Centre, who will not tolerate any inappropriate

behavior at the SLCRC. His phone number is (416) 392-0043.

The Chair noted that a presentation on the root causes of homeless is being prepared for a future Delegates meeting.

A Delegate expressed concern that Regent Park's redevelopment is causing crime to flow into our area. The police responded that this is not showing in their statistics.

The relevant phone numbers for police are: (416) 808-2222 for the general line, the radio room, to report minor crimes such as theft or robbery and incidents that are over; 911 for priority calls, emergencies, assaults and violence in progress; (416) 808-5100 for the front desk. If you know what Division you are in, you can determine the phone number, as (416) 808-(DIVISION#)-00. (416) 222-TIPs to submit anonymous tips, (416) 808-5152 to reach Staff Sergeant Frank Bergen directly.

For phone numbers (416) 808-2222 or 911 ask for an event number so that if you want to call back regarding the incident or to express dissatisfaction with service they can track the event.

Constable Heather Nichols offered to work on a summary sheet of what people in the community can do in specific circumstances regarding the homeless, vagrants, and other street people.

Staff Sergeant Frank pointed out that the CPLC meets monthly and is another resource for the community.

A Delegate expressed concern that people on streets with binders asking for funds are not from legitimate charities or organizations. Frank Bergen recommended that people trust their instincts and contact the police if they believe

behaviour is unusual. He re-emphasized that community members should be part of a community team: be a witness, offer help, report unusual and criminal activities to the police.

Delegates discussed with the police the issue of panhandlers. A Delegate proposed finding a way to stop tourists from giving panhandlers money. Parks Ambassador Troy Ford offered to bring a case of cards to the next Delegates meeting, which refer people to social services via a toll free number. People can be encouraged to give

panhandlers the card rather than money. We will be telling panhandlers that we are not giving them money anymore but services. Legitimate panhandlers will receive aid and panhandlers in it for the business will be discouraged. Delegates applauded.

The Chair thanked the representatives from 51 Division for their report. Delegates applauded. The Chair then asked Councillor Pam McConnell to report (see agenda item #5).

10. Development Committee report — Frank Burns

Frank Burns reported that the development at Front/Church/Esplanade, now called Five Corners, passed through City Council. It is down from over 30 storeys to 10-11 storeys. Today Frank attended a Committee of Adjustments meeting for 294 Richmond Street to speak against that development, which is not in keeping with Old Town Toronto, but received no support

from the City's Planning Department, Preservation Services or the Councillor.

Paul Smith added that the Goodwill site is going ahead as one of the first green condo buildings. He added that the Committee of Adjustments turned down the proposal for a Shopper's Drug Mart on Jarvis just south of the Esplanade. Delegates applauded.

11. Plans for Canada Day Celebration – Connie Yang

Connie Yang invited everyone to participate in the SLNA's Canada Day Celebrations on July 1, which will start with a flag-waving parade from The Esplanade at Sherbourne and go to King and Yonge, followed by a picnic in Berczy Park with live entertainment. MP Bill Graham and MPP

George Smitherman will be in attendance and Councillor Pam McConnell will be Grand Marshall. Tabby Johnson will lead in singing O Canada. Connie thanked Bob Kemp and the BIA for their assistance.

12. Process for election of SLNA representatives to other organizations – Paul Smith Deferred.

13. Other Business

None.

14. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Moved by: Wally Simpson

CARRIED

The SLNA thanks OWN for hosting tonight's meeting.

The SLNA acknowledges the St. Lawrence Market Complex for sponsoring this evening's refreshments.

The next Delegates meeting will be held on
Wednesday, July 26, 2006, at 7:00 pm.

President

Corporate Secretary