

SLNA DELEGATES MEETING
March 30, 2005

OWN Housing Co-operative – 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
At Large: Joan Campbell, Market Square V
At Large: Paul Smith, 65 Scadding Avenue V

In Attendance:

Leo Agosto, Marketview Co-op V
Cherril Baker, David B Archer Co-op V
Patricia Bear Claw, Cathedral Court Co-op V
Barbara Bell, Woodsworth Co-op V
Keith Bricknell, MTCC #1170 V
Alice Briesmaster, New Times Sq 2 V
Bonnie Dew, OWN Co-op V
Pam Gierman, Windmill Line V
Aurie Hensman, MTCC #630 V
Samantha Hewit, Space Condo V
Ewa Jarmicka, Harmony Co-op V
Brian McElwain, The Wellington V
Frank McLean, 25 The Esplanade V
Dawn Murray, Windmill Line V
Anna Lee Orr, David B Archer Co-op V
Robert Prowse, Space Condo V

Sherri Russell, FAN V

Wally Simpson, Crombie Park V

Frank Touby, Harmony A Co-op V
Kirk Vavra, Space Condo V
Michael Waring, New Times Sq 2 V
Judith Wilmot, The Bentley V

Connie Yang, OWN Co-op V

Arlyss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

Michelle Buckley, Pam McConnell's Office G

With Regrets:

Judith Anderson, Marketview Co-op V
Elisabeth Ecker, 65 Scadding V
Stig Harvor, La Place St. Laurent V
Marcus Little, The Wellington V
Beatrice Magdar, OWN Co-op V
Susan McLeod, Market Square V
Béchara Saab, New Times Sq
Karen Serwonka, David B Archer V
Nancy Sheppard, 65 Scadding Avenue V

ACRONYMS:

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
TPA: Toronto Port Authority

Shawn Bassin, George Smitherman's Office G TWRC: Toronto Waterfront Revitalization
Frank Clarke, Bill Graham's Office G Corporation
Sgt Glen Wilkinson, 51 Division G

Jeff Gardner, The Wellington G
Dan O'Leary, 15 Scadding G
Randy Bath, 15 Scadding G
Tim Rourke, 15 Scadding G
Erin Harris, Toronto Seniors Council G

1. Welcome & Round Robin

Cam Miller called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. He introduced himself as President and he chaired the meeting. He noted that Nancy Sheppard, Corporate Secretary, was unable to attend this evening due to a death in the family. Cam and Delegates thanked Connie Yang for preparing new namecards. A roundtable of introductions was conducted. Attendance was taken at the door on Delegates' arrival. Joan Campbell handed around an attendance sheet as a back-up measure.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Cam Miller made the following amendments:

- Update from George Smitherman's Office will be presented by Shawn Bassin, not Wendy Ground
- Insert agenda item after Update from George Smitherman's Office, Update from Bill Graham's Office – Frank Clarke, and renumber subsequent agenda items sequentially.
- Under agenda item President, add Motion to Seek Approval for Funding for SLCRC
- Under New Business, add Attitudes Toward Filming in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood – Brian McElwain

Delegates made the following amendments:

- Joan Campbell added under VP-Internal, Approval of Contract

Motion: to approve the Agenda as amended.

Moved by: Patricia Bearclaw

Seconded by: Frank McLean

CARRIED

Ronny Yaron asked that anyone without email who would like a phone call reminder of upcoming SLNA meetings should let her know.

3. Approval of February 23, 2005 Minutes

Amendments:

Include as attending, Leo Agosto, Marketview Housing Co-op.

Motion: to approve the February 23, 2005 minutes as amended.

Moved by: Leo Agosto

Seconded by: Brian McElwain

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Update from Police 51 Division

This agenda item was deferred until the police arrived, after the updates from the three levels of government. Cam welcomed Sergeant Glenn Wilkinson who spoke in lieu of Staff Sergeant Tom Kelly.

Glenn advised that the police now have suspects in the shooting on George Street. Glenn added that the recent homicide on Gerard Street was “totally drug related, not random.” Three suspects went into an apartment building looking for drugs, couldn’t find any, and assassinated the man. Police later found the drugs and money. Glenn emphasized that this was not a home invasion.

Glenn described Order Management at 51 Division as comprised of a sergeant with seven police officers who work undercover on drug problems in the Division. Glenn announced that as of Monday Order Management has been disbanded by a “high-up” senior officer in the Toronto Police Service. The seven officers are now attached to a crew unit and will be working in uniform in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood under Tom Kelly’s command. Therefore, residents should no longer call Sergeant Darren Hallman about neighbourhood drug problems. Instead, call Tom Kelly, who will forward your concerns to Central Drug Command. In response to a question by Cam Miller, Glenn confirmed that residents can still call (416) 808-2222 for untoward events that merit reporting to police but are not emergencies.

Cam thanked Sergeant Glenn Wilkinson for his report.

6. City Update from Pam McConnell’s Office (Councillor) — Michelle Buckley

Cam Miller welcomed Michelle Buckley. She reported that Pam McConnell would arrive later on. Michelle announced that Pam is the new Chair of a Working Group on Gender and Equity and that she was at a meeting of that group now.

Saturday, April 23 is the annual Community Clean-up Day. Michelle asked that residents come out that day and participate. The City will provide garbage bags and gloves, etc. Thursday, April 28 is Pam’s annual Environment Day. Residents can pick up compost for gardening, and drop off large items and appliances such as old computers, as well as batteries, paint cans, etc. for toxic taxi pick-up. A centre will be set up at Lower Sherbourne Street and The Esplanade. Pam McConnell will be present. For more information, contact Michelle at Pam McConnell’s office.

Cam Miller thanked Michelle Buckley for her report.

7. Provincial Update from George Smitherman's Office (MPP) — Shawn Bassin
Cam Miller welcomed Shawn Bassin. Shawn reported that he just started at George Smitherman's office a week ago and that either he or Wendy Ground would attend future SLNA meetings.

Shawn summarized funds given this year to education, housing, transit, and healthcare in the Toronto area. He then responded to questions. Cam asked that Shawn provide for future meetings a written report that could be distributed in advance to Delegates. Shawn agreed to do so.

Frank Burns asked Shawn to acquire from the Minister a deadline by which the matter of the OMB would be resolved. He added that the Minister's website has dates of deadlines for other initiatives but not for the OMB. Frank asked that Shawn address this matter with expedience. Frank McLean added that at the last Delegates meeting Wendy Ground had confirmed that the SLNA could be formally included in the consultation process, but that she would check on how that was done. Shawn responded that he would follow-up and let Cam Miller know his findings.

Joan Campbell asked Shawn to look into the status of reform measure to the Heritage Act as well, as that has also been delayed. Shawn responded that the Minister is committed to changing the Heritage Act and that revisions are going into the third reading. Sherri Russell expressed concern that the proceedings were so far advanced without opportunity for community input. She asked for access to the document being passed, to find out what changes are being introduced. Shawn responded that the document is available to read on the website of the Minister of Culture, or that he could pass a copy to her.

Aurie Hensman stated that the Province is the only level of government that has not assisted in the matter of the Methadone Clinic at Front and Frederick Streets. The police have also taken some actions. The Province's nonparticipation is particularly negligent, she continued, because George Smitherman is the Minister of Health. Shawn offered to check into it. Aurie added that the Methadone Clinic recently reversed the ir decision to move out, and that Wendy Ground has not gotten back to her. Shawn Bassin and Michelle Buckley (Pam McConnell's office) agreed to discuss the matter further. Michelle added that she and Wendy had discussed the Methadone Clinic and that they were waiting to hear confirmation that the Clinic plans to stay at its current location.

Paul Smith stated that the SLCRA met with a representative of the Ministry of Culture & Consumer Affairs regarding the Condominium Act. The Act is not clear and is causing condominiums excessive legal costs. The meeting was not successful insofar as the representative responded that they are monitoring and might eventually clarify the Act. The person conveyed that the matter was not a problem for them. Paul concluded that their responsiveness is in general glacially slow, and he asked Shawn how to accelerate it. Shawn offered to discuss the matter further with the representative.

Shawn summarized the items for which he will provide responses. Cam Miller thanked Shawn Bassin for his report.

Cam confirmed that the Executive have sent out letters to George Smitherman and Bill Graham, inviting them to attend an SLNA meeting some time this year.

8. Federal Update from Bill Graham's Office (MP) – Frank Clarke

Cam Miller welcomed Frank Clarke. Frank reported that he is filling in for Jennifer Arp tonight. He thanked Cam for the letter of invitation to Bill Graham to attend an SLNA meeting in the next few months. He will encourage Bill Graham to attend, and will follow-up with Cam directly.

On the topic of affordable housing, Frank reported that Federal Housing Minister Joe Fontana recently held a press conference and announced that the Federal Government will now get into rent supplements to help people stay in their units or relocate to other units. Building more units is the more expensive and slower option. Rent supplements will help those people who are in an emergency situation, who are right on the edge of eviction. This initiative requires the co-operation of the Province. The Federal government is in negotiations with the Province and is hopeful that it will become a reality. In response to a concern expressed by Frank Burns, Frank Clarke emphasized that these proposed rent supplements are only one tool of many that must be used to create affordable housing, as this is a very complex issue.

Frank McLean suggested that Bill Graham's office look into the comprehensive approach to affordable housing taken by the Broadway Reach Program in London, Ontario.

Guest Tim Rourke asked whether rent supplements would take funding away from building affordable housing. Shawn assured him that they would not.

Frank Clarke reported that the Minister has been working hard to resolve a problem in the Section 95 funding formula for co-ops, as administered by CMHC. St. Lawrence neighbourhood co-ops affected include Windmill Line and OWN. The funding formula is referred to by all involved as "the glitch." Bill Graham has been lobbying Housing Minister Joe Fontana for months. The Minister will be meeting with representatives from local co-ops to discuss this issue and work toward a resolution. When a significant update occurs, Bill Graham's office will give a report to the SLNA.

Paul Smith asked for an update on the Toronto Port Authority. Frank responded that Bill Graham sees the TWRC as the body that should lead the way in consultation with community groups like the SLNA on waterfront development and that the TWRC has so far been effective in this regard. Cam Miller pointed out that the TWRC's mandate does not include the waterfront.

Robert Prowse asked Frank to give a clear answer on Bill Graham's view of the TPA, as the community "want them out of here." Frank responded that early in 2004 Bill Graham wrote to the Minister of Transport that this was a concern, and said that he would appreciate anything they could do to ensure that community concerns are heard and that community wishes are respected with regard to waterfront development. Frank added, the problem with trying to eliminate the TPA is that it is one of numerous ports around the country, all of which are paid for by taxpayers who would need to be consulted nationally as they would incur the costs involved. Frank Touby pointed out that the current excessive cost of maintaining the TPA would cancel out the cost of eliminating it. Frank McLean then stated that the TPA was illegitimately formed, is an anti-public group, and should be dealt with on that basis.

Cam Miller thanked Frank Clarke for his report.

8. President's Report — Cam Miller

a) Sustainable St. Lawrence Project Approval

A 3-page document titled "Sustainable St. Lawrence" was distributed in advance to Delegates. Sustainable St. Lawrence is a joint effort led by the SLNA and EnerAct with direct assistance from the SLCRA and the SLCRC, along with input from other organizations, including the St. Lawrence BIA and the City of Toronto. An Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant has been applied for. The goal of the proposed program is to foster in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood a vibrant community, a healthy environment, and a strong and adequately prosperous economy, which will mutually generate a livable, healthy, equitable and sustainable neighbourhood. Sustainability is based on the idea that community, environment, and economy are integral to each other. "Sustainable St. Lawrence" will generate various programs, grassroots activities, education, and policies. The program arose out of the following concerns: 30 plus smog days in Toronto annually, increasing energy costs, increased local traffic and safety issues, increased need for improved waste reduction and recycling, concern for maintaining a mixed urban community, and concern to retain a conservation culture in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood.

b) Motion to Seek Approval for Funding for SLCRC

Motion: to approve a donation of \$1,902.80 to the SLCRC in sponsorship of registration (\$1,000) and uniforms (\$902.80) for two basketball teams.

Moved by: Cherril Baker

Seconded by: Brian McElwain

CARRIED

In response to a query by Barbara Bell, Richard Haldane clarified that the two teams are boys' teams, ages 10-14 and 14-16. Barbara recommended that the SLCRC (and in turn the SLNA) support more team sports for girls. Richard responded that a team sport for girls is starting this April, and that the Rec Centre has plans for more.

9. VP-Internal – Ronny Yaron

a) New Delegates

Ronny announced that two new condominiums became members of the SLNA last week, and that three residences of Toronto City Housing have also joined the SLNA.

b) Gala/Festival Update

Ronny reported that this year is the 25th anniversary of the SLNA festival/picnic. Plans have begun to organize the event. A Silver Gala will be held in conjunction with the Festival, on the weekend of September 16 and 17. The Gala will be held the evening of 16th, a street festival on Saturday, and a neighbourhood social in the Market on the evening of the 17th. Gala/Festival organizers have already contracted a person to hire as co-ordinator for the event, both for fundraising and organizing events. She will work with her own crew and with SLNA volunteers. Gala/Festival organizers were allocated a budget. Ronny distributed a balance sheet with projected revenue of \$55,450 and projected expenses of \$35,450, for a net balance of \$20,000. Ronny assured Delegates that fundraising will sponsor both seniors and youth.

Ronny asked for a motion to approve the Gala/Festival budget. At Cherril Baker's request, Cam Miller confirmed that the Gala/Festival organizers can spend up to \$500 without approval of Delegates. Cherril pointed out that the group contracted a co-ordinator for \$2,500 without advance approval. Ronny clarified that the contract was only arranged pending delegate approval. The co-ordinator had only been paid \$400 for the first month of her work on Executive approval. Cherril stated that the contract is a promise of payment, made without Delegates' approval. She and Richard Haldane expressed concern that the contract was approved in advance of the budget being approved, and that approval of the budget implicitly represented approval of the contract already in place. They asked that the Gala/Festival organizers follow due process.

Motion: to approve the budget as presented for the Gala Festival in September 2005.

Moved by: Joan Campbell

Seconded by: Dawn Murray

Amendment: to separate the motion into two motions: 1) approval of the contract to hire the Gala/Festival Co-ordinator and 2) approval of the budget for the Gala/Festival budget.

Moved by: Richard Haldane

Seconded by: Wally Simpson

Keith Bricknell: Point of Order: The Chair has the right to rule the amendment out of order as it fundamentally changes the motion.

Frank Burns called the question on the amendment.

AMENDMENT DEEMED "OUT OF ORDER" BY CHAIR

MOTION CARRIED, 2 against

Ronny announced that the next meeting of the Gala/Festival organizers will take place on Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 pm in the North Market. She passed around a volunteer sign-up form.

10. New Business

a) Community Clean-up Day – Alice Briesmaster

Alice Briesmaster introduced herself as the SLNA's representative to the SLCRC's Advisory Council. She announced that for Community Clean-up Day the Advisory Council has registered to collect garbage all along The Esplanade, from Parliament Street to Jarvis Street. The SLCRC requests volunteers to assist. The event will take place Saturday, April 23, from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Headquarters will be at the Rec Centre. Garbage bags will be provided by the City, enough for 30 people, although the Advisory Council hopes more people will turn out. Bring gloves and boots. Posters are not ready yet, but will be put up throughout the neighbourhood. Alice will send a copy of the poster to the SLNA's email address, to be forwarded to Delegates.

b) Attitudes Toward Filming in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood – Brian McElwain

Brian McElwain of The Wellington condominium introduced his neighbour Jeff Gardner. Jeff stated that the City issued a permit for filming outside his bedroom window, for trucks to arrive 5:00 am yesterday, March 29, to work for 48 hours straight, packing up at 11:00 pm, March 31. Jeff said he is aware that other buildings in the neighbourhood have experienced issues with filming practices. He asked whether the SLNA would like to create a collective voice for our community in this matter, as individual buildings don't always get the attention or respect due to them. He offered to co-ordinate the initiative.

Barbara Bell stated that she works in the film industry. She asked, "Were you papered?" ie., was a notice posted in the building, that would enable you to express any complaints in advance to your property manager, to be forwarded to the film production people. Jeff responded that response to such complaints is random and slow. Barbara offered to give him another contact to call.

Michelle Buckley, representing the City, apologized for the situation, and pointed out that generally there has been some improvement, but that the onus shouldn't be on residences to police the industry. She offered to discuss the matter further with Jeff. Michelle added that a new film board was struck at the City of Toronto as a booster group for filming. She pointed out that most filming in Toronto takes place in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood and two nearby neighbourhoods. This is an opportunity for redevelopment of policies passed by Council in the late 1990's. What recourse do residents in communities have? Why do we have a film office that works both as encourager and regulator?

Motion: to support a collective effort to mitigate the adverse effects of filming on businesses and residences in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood.

Moved by: Jeff Gardner

Seconded by: Paul Smith

Keith Bricknell called the question.

CARRIED, 14 for and 11 against

Judith Wilmot asked that this initiative include how to leverage the positive impact of the film industry, not just to react to the negative impact. Paul Smith asked that the initiative also include the concept that responsible filming is essential to the economy.

Jeff Gardner will bring a proposal to the Delegates' meeting in April.

11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm. This meeting was immediately followed by the AGM.

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

Corporate Secretary

Chair