



MINUTES OF DELEGATES' MEETING

November 26, 2008
OWN CO-OP, 115 The Esplanade

Executive Members in Attendance:

President: Suzanne Kavanagh, 65 Scadding
Secretary: Matthew Raizenne, Longboat Residents Assoc
VP External: Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel, 140 The Esplanade

At Large: Dan O'Leary, 15 Scadding
At Large: Wallace Simpson, Crombie Park
At Large: Ronny Yaron, Woodsworth Co-op

Executive Member Regrets:

Treasurer: Bruno Leps, Market Square
VP Internal: Jacquie Williams, Old York Tower

Voting Delegates in Attendance:

Cherril Baker, David B. Archer Co-op
Joan Campbell, Market Square, 80 Front Street East
Ian Campbell, Woodsworth Co-op, 133 Wilton Street
Debra Corey, 230 King Street East
Elisabeth Ecker, St. Lawrence on the Park, 65 Scadding
Karl Froehr, Windmill Line Co-op, 125 Scadding Ave.
Oleg Holowaty, 25 George Street
Glen Kim, MTCC1606, Mozo, 333 Adelaide Street East
Nancy Kriparos, 230 King Street East
Marcus Little, The Wellington
Arlene Markow, Woodsworth Co-op, 133 Wilton Street

Maryant McQuade, David B. Archer Co-op
Bob Parkin, 71 Front Street East
Marc Piccinato, Windmill Line Co-op, 125 Scadding
Alan Seymour, Old York Tower
Farriel Sharma, Marketview Housing Co-op
Robert Sherrin, Abbey Lofts, 261 King Street East
Becky Street, MTCC 1385
Farhan Syed, The Metropole, King Street East
Lois Thomson, David B. Archer Co-op,
Connie Yang, OWN

Voting Delegates Regrets:

Catherine Limbertie, 1 Church St
Patricia Bear Claw, Cathedral Court Co-op

Associate Members & Guests

Tom Davidson, Councillor Pam McConnell's Office
City Councillor Pam McConnell
Victor Henriques, MPP George Smitherman's Office
Siobhan McLaughlin, 230 King Street East

Donna Patterson, 230 King Street East
Anna Wichelow, 123 Scadding Ave
Al Smith, St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA
Marlene Cook, MTCC1606, Mozo, 333 Adelaide St East

Arliss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

1. Registration and Refreshments

2. Meeting Starts -- President

President Suzanne Kavanagh called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and chaired the meeting.

a) Opening Remarks

The President introduced the SLNA's Executive.

b) Approval of Agenda

Motion: to approve the Agenda as presented.

Moved by: Karl Froehr

Seconded by: Cherril Baker

CARRIED

c) Approval of Minutes

Motion: to approve the October 2008 minutes as presented.

Moved by: Marcus Little

Seconded by: Alan Seymour

CARRIED

d) Executive Meeting Highlights – Bike Race, Nominating Committee

The President reported that the Executive last met on November 4. Matthew Raizenne reported that City Council is awarding the SLNA a Bike Committee certificate in thanks for the SLNA's support of the bike race that took place recently in downtown Toronto. The certificate will be available to view at the January Delegates' meeting and at the SLNA's office.

The Executive has decided that the March Delegates' meeting will be the AGM only, not also a Delegates' meeting. The evening will include a Volunteer Recognition event and guest speaker.

The Executive has struck a subcommittee (Marcus Little and Joan Campbell) to review the By-laws. The subcommittee will recommend amendments to the Executive in December for presentation to Delegates in January.

Jacque Williams will Chair this year's Nominating Committee. The committee is seeking volunteers.

Motion: that the 2009 SLNA annual membership fees for multi-unit dwellings remain at \$2.25 per unit for maximum of \$275 and that annual membership fees remain at \$30.

Moved by: Joan Campbell

Seconded by: Cherril Baker

CARRIED

3. Pam McConnell Presentation

The Chair introduced Councillor Pam McConnell. Councillor McConnell spoke of local neighbourhood initiatives and her role in connection to neighbourhood associations in general and the SLNA in particular.

e) Developments

Marcus Little, Chair of the Development Committee, gave an update:

60 Colborne street (Colborne/Church/King)

A public consultation meeting was recently held, with an excellent public turnout. The public's response to the proposed development was negative. A report by the City's Planning Department will be before City Council in early January. They will either prepare a revised report or appeal their original design at the Ontario Municipal Board.

251 King Street

A public consultation meeting was recently held. Marcus Little missed the meeting but heard that it went well. A planning report will go to City Council. The public asked that the developers remove a sign at the site. If the sign is still in place on Monday, the City will remove it.

330 King Street

This proposed building design will be under appeal at the Ontario Municipal Board in December.

North Market

A business plan was submitted to the City's Executive Committee. There is monetary provision for the design in the City's capital budget.

Market Wharf (lower Jarvis)

Emma McBey asked for an update. Marcus Little reported that the City has approved the development, and that it will go forward if the developers sell enough units.

f) Procedural Matters

The President reminded Delegates of the SLNA's Code of Conduct. It is available to view on the SLNA's website. She advised that the SLNA's voice is being heard in the greater community and that everyone in the SLNA has a role to play. She reminded Delegates to report items in the neighbourhood that need fixing to the appropriate departments listed on the "Whose Job Is It?" sheet distributed by the City of Toronto.

Developments:

60 Colborne Street: The developers got the message that the neighbourhood is not interested in a tower on the site, so will prepare a new proposal.

251 King Street: The unwanted sign will be removed by Monday by the developers or the City.

North Market: The redevelopment design has been approved and funds allocated for next year, with a requirement that the garage entrance be on Jarvis, not through Market Lane Park.

Capital Budget Projects

- downtown Yonge Street south to Richmond Street will have \$500,000 for upgrades to street lighting

- \$125,000 is allocated to streetscaping on Wellington Street at the TTC turnabout

- Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People will receive about \$500,000 and the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts will receive about \$100,000 in funding

- George Brown College will build a new site at the foot of Sherbourne Street across from Sherbourne Park. Sherbourne Park and Sugar Beach will be completed and open by 2010.

- there will be some heritage improvements in terms of maintenance on building exteriors next to the sculpture garden

- some funding is allocated toward improvements at the South Market

- The South and North Markets and St. Lawrence Hall are being considered under a single precinct plan and governance model

- Union Station and GO trains are receiving about \$42 million this year toward renovations. A second platform will be constructed. The City sold rights to one of the towers to GO as a partnership; work will begin in the next 3 years. The P*A*T*H to York Street is being funded at \$4 million this year and \$20 million in 2010; hopefully GO will pay half. The City has received some agreement from GO, the Parking Authority, and others to look at the feasibility of extending the P*A*T*H east of Yonge Street along the railway corridor.

- St. Lawrence Public Library will receive \$27,000 for a feasibility study re: expansion in 2011-2013.

- the Heritage Lighting Interpretation Program is underway. The master plan is complete, the first stakeholders' meeting has taken place, and a public meeting will occur in April or May, for work to be completed by consultants by the end of July. Commonwealth Historic Resource Management will

conduct the historic interpretation (ie. inventory resources and recommend best practices for walkways and presentations). Buildings to be lit include private, public, historic, and iconic. A demonstration project will be undertaken for advance viewing. The Union Station Working Group has expressed interest in having the consultants expand heritage lighting to the Union Station site.

- George Brown College will open a Health Sciences campus and residences at their new location on lower Sherbourne Street. That area will by 2012 become a busy community with the new college campus, new recreational services, new parks, and 24/7 commercial operations at the new Corus building.

- to accommodate a new promenade initiative, bike lanes will be introduced to Yonge Street, and right turns will be reduced to accommodate the bike lanes. The underpass of Jarvis Street will also be renovated with lighting and streetscaping, through funding and work from GO and the City's Clean and Beautiful City office. The promenade plan for Jarvis Street will be before Community Council in January. *Councillor McConnell asked the SLNA to write a letter in support or provide deputation.*

- the development at 60 Richmond Street will be ready for occupancy in six months. It is the first housing co-operative built in the city in a long time. The first residents will be hotel workers mostly relocated from Regent Park.

- *Councillor Pam McConnell offered to go on a walkabout of the new buildings in the neighbourhood with SLNA representatives, to see how and whether development plans have resulted in expected buildings. She offered that her office arrange the tour.*

- the City plans to implement an organic green bin program in multi-residential buildings in early 2009. *Property Managers will receive a request in February/March for their buildings to participate in a community green bin initiative.*

Councillor McConnell distributed a fact sheet about young protégés that are accompanying City Councillors to increase women's participation in municipal government. One assigned to Councillor McConnell is a woman who lives at David B. Archer, and whose mother is Co-ordinator at OWN.

Councillor McConnell described her role with neighbourhood associations. She and her assistants attend neighborhood association meetings. Tom Davidson generally attends SLNA meetings. Councillor McConnell is responsible for the area from St. Jamestown to the Islands,

and from Bay Street to Regent Park. She represents diverse communities. She meets regularly with the SLNA President and often meets with the SLNA's Development Committee, particularly when there is a problematic building development. Councillor McConnell stated:

We want to hear the community's hopes and dreams for what they want for the community. When we work strongly together we get things done. This organization [the SLNA] has worked hard with my office. Individually a lot of you are on our email list for regular information. More people are welcome to join.

Councillor McConnell invited people to attend a special meeting on the signs by-law on December 8 at City Hall. She then responded to questions:

Matthew Raizenne asked what measures the City is taking in light of the current global recession. Regarding the capital budget, Councillor McConnell responded that the gas tax is providing a huge benefit to the City's capital budget, which is expected to be operating at no debt by 2013. The federal government is about to distribute \$8 billion in funds allocated for infrastructure; municipalities are seen as a mechanism to keep people working. Land transfer taxes are also funding the City's capital budget. Regarding the operating budget, Councillor McConnell reported that arbitration is underway (the first in years) to ensure sufficient salaries for police without reducing services. Police services consume about 25% of the City's budget. Fire, police, and ambulances take about a third of the budget. The City is funding environmentally friendly initiatives and buildings, which cost more in capital but less in operating. *Councillor McConnell offered to invite a representative from Budget to explain at the January Delegates' meeting "all the pieces that go into our budget."*

Marcus Little asked whether the 2009 budget will include an allocation to repair several neighbourhood streets that have many potholes. Councillor McConnell advised that lower Parliament and lower Sherbourne Streets will be resurfaced within two years. Lower Sherbourne is scheduled for this year, but is delayed while an environmental study is conducted for a new sewer system to supply the future waterfront. For specific potholes, "if you know where they are, let us know."

Karl Froehr asked the source of \$500,000 for the Mayor to publish a regular bulletin "for information we can read in newspapers and yellow pages," when funds might go toward initiatives such as Cathy Crowe's work in helping the homeless. Councillor McConnell acknowledged the social work of Cathy Crowe, who lives in this neighbourhood. She explained that the City consolidated various flyers into one publication with one budget. Many people have called with thanks for the new publication; only one person has

complained. The information published is specific and factual, and enables the Mayor to fulfill his responsibility to keep citizens informed. Informed people can then develop opinions in favour of or against initiatives and join discussion. "An engaged and knowledgeable community is essential for Toronto." And given the number of people who receive the publication, the cost is very low.

Mark Fernandez asked whether any progress has been made on installing solar panels at the St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre (SLCRC). Councillor McConnell explained that the Environmental office is funding about ten projects across the city to demonstrate different types of environmentally friendly installations. They proposed to install solar panels in a community centre as one project. Councillor McConnell applied on behalf of SLCRC. SLCRC was not chosen. The centre chosen is not yet built, and the developer objected to the modification. Councillor McConnell has asked the Environmental office to reconsider the SLCRC's application. That was 2-3 weeks ago, and she is awaiting a response.

Joan Campbell asked for an update on the Heritage Conservation District Study. Councillor McConnell responded that she and Suzanne Kavanagh are working to secure funds for the study, that some Section 37 moneys targeted were not available, and that Section 45 moneys might be an alternative. Architect Michael McLellan is working on the project while funding is sought.

Joan Campbell asked about integrating transit service. Councillor McConnell pointed out that a great deal of activity is underway west of Yonge in the area of Union Station regarding various transit systems, and that the activism of people east of Yonge in this community has driven much of that work. "It is an important transportation hub and tourism site." Much work could be completed by the time that tourism events are underway to commemorate the War of 1812. Many stakeholders have a commitment to see the work done.

Elisabeth Ecker asked that signage be placed on Yonge Street to direct tourists to the restaurant area east of Yonge, as there are few restaurants on Yonge. Councillor McConnell noted that the St. Lawrence Market Business Improvement Area's (SLMN-BIA's) west boundary is Yonge and King Streets and that the Downtown Yonge BIA's boundary does not extend as far south as King Street, so that there is a stretch of Yonge Street that is not part of a BIA. Councillors Kyle Rae and Pam McConnell have recently written letters to the business owners to encourage them to form a BIA. Once Yonge Street is transformed into a promenade, people will feel encouraged to walk and the area will be reinvigorated as they step into business establishments along the way. Currently there are 400 light bulbs out along Yonge Street from Gerrard Street

southward. The streetscape presentation is chaotic. The streetscape in the SLMN-BIA, on the contrary, is dynamic, interesting, and appealing to tourists and visitors, with destination sights such as St. Lawrence Market and the Distillery District. The Police Services Board held its annual conference in Toronto. Councillor McConnell directed attendees to walk this neighbourhood and heard back nothing but compliments. “They were amazed you could walk and be safe” in a major city’s downtown area.

Elisabeth Ecker asked if the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) could be made to go away. Councillor McConnell noted that it can be better to negotiate so that developers do not appeal to the OMB as the OMB’s decisions are often bad for the neighbourhood.

4. Break

None.

5. Citizens’ Bank Presentation

The Chair introduced Mark Fernandez. He announced that Ontario’s first branch of Citizens Bank of Canada is opening in Toronto on Front Street at Princess, across the street from Sobey’s. The street level branch is opening on January 6, and a grand opening celebration will take place February 12. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Citizens Bank of Canada is owned by Van City Credit Union. It is not publicly traded, so no group of investors in other countries tells the bank how to operate. Citizens Bank has a socially and ethically sound mandate. It supports neighbourhood initiatives and seeks involvement in the community. Citizens Bank is a nonvoting member of the SLNA and works closely with the local BIA. In this neighbourhood the bank has funded the Walk and Roll map, the children’s garden on Princess Street, and the BIA’s tree-watering wagon. Internationally the bank donates 10 cents to Oxfam for every purchase made on its Oxfam Visas.

There is no cost to open an account and no monthly charge on accounts. The bank offers a 3% interest rate with no minimum balance. There is no charge for using an ATM card, even overseas. If you sign up before 2009 with a deposit of \$100 or more the bank will contribute \$30 to your

6. Other Business – Open Discussion

a) Annual Dues

Matthew Raizenne pointed out an illegal billboard behind Longboat Residents Association. Councillor McConnell clarified that the building does not belong to the City of Toronto but to the Waterfront Corporation and that the sign is “legal nonconforming” which is difficult to enforce. The building is being demolished in March and in the interim the billboard owners are reducing the sign’s pixel board lighting by 30%. As a result of amalgamation Toronto lost a viable sign by-law, and the City is now working on improving the current by-law, which would make such signs illegal.

The Chair thanked Councillor Pam McConnell. Delegates applauded. The Councillor left the meeting.

new account. For new 12-month term deposits, the bank will contribute \$50.

The bank offers financial planning sessions for residential buildings, and conducts lunch-and-learns.

Mark Fernandez responded to questions. Citizens Bank is predominantly online like ING but promotes viable and sustainable communities, not profit. Banking is available 24/7 online or over the phone. Each member is fully insured by the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation for up to \$100,000. The bank is fully chartered. The bank provides tax free savings accounts, RSPs and foreign exchange. Members can make deposits through HSBC, City Financial, National Bank of Canada, Laurentian Bank of Canada and any credit union except Desjardin. The Front Street location will have an ATM machine. Business accounts will hopefully be available in 2009. People who sign up for an account now will receive a free stainless steel water bottle as a measure of environmental friendliness.

The President advised that Mark Fernandez previously worked for EnerAct and smartliving St. Lawrence and that he is currently on a committee of the SLNA. Delegates applauded the presentation.

The Chair reported that invoicing for annual dues will be mailed shortly. She asked Delegates to make any corrections to the sign-in sheet which is a printout of the contact list.

b) AGM

The Chair asked for volunteers for the Nominations Committee. She invited Delegates to recommend a guest speaker for the AGM.

c) January Delegates Meeting

The Chair reported that Councillor McConnell will recommend a speaker from the City to discuss at the January Delegates' meeting the City's budget, particularly regarding school boards, how the budget works, and how funding decisions are made.

d) St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area (SLMN-BIA)

Al Smith, Executive Director of the SLMN-BIA wished everyone happy holidays. He reported that the BIA is looking into replacing burned out street lights around Berczy Park and is working with Hydro to install Victorian street lights in the neighbourhood. *He offered to report on more BIA initiatives at the January Delegates' meeting.*

e) Street Lights

In response to Matt Raizenne, Tom Davidson explained that black Victorian style street lights were recently installed around Woodworth Co-op as part of a comprehensive lighting program by Toronto hydro in consultation with the residents in that area due to lighting issues identified there. Tom offered at Matt's request to propose installation of

similar lights along lower Sherbourne. Tom asked the SLNA and area residents to send written requests, as that will trigger a lighting investigation in the area.

f) Building Developments

Suzanne Kavanagh reaffirmed the SLNA's dissatisfaction with building designs for 60 Colborne Street and 251 King Street. She recommended vigilance as notifications of public consultation meetings often occur only a couple of weeks before the meetings. She noted that Councillor Pam McConnell is good at keeping the SLNA informed. She offered that the SLNA will post such notices on the SLNA's website. She concluded that due to the economic downturn building development will likely slow down, enabling the community to concentrate on implementing a heritage conservation study and heritage district designation.

Ronny Yaron noted that due to the Five Corners development at Front/Church/Esplanade, businesses are being evacuated along Front Street, and their sites will be used for short-term leases until construction begins. The neighbourhood will lose unique businesses and might gain in the interim franchises or other businesses inappropriate to this neighbourhood. Marcus Little reported that the Five Corners development is going ahead, with the north part of the property to be constructed first. He projected that due to the economic crisis even approved developments might not be constructed if enough sales are not made to qualify for a bank loan for construction.

7. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

The SLNA acknowledges OWN for hosting tonight's meeting.

The next Delegates' meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00 pm. ***There is no meeting in December.***

Corporate Secretary

President