



MINUTES OF THE DELEGATES' MEETING

October 29, 2008

OWN CO-OP, 115 The Esplanade

Executive Members in Attendance:

President: Suzanne Kavanagh, 65 Scadding
 Secretary: Matthew Raizenne, Longboat Residents Assoc
 VP Internal: Jacquie Williams, Old York Tower
 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 External: Lumumba Wolde-Gabriel, 140 The Esplanade

Voting Delegates in Attendance:

Lene Anderson, 140 The Esplanade
 Patricia Bearclaw, Cathedral Court Coop
 Marie Copkov, 176 The Esplanade
 Elizabeth Ecker, St. Lawrence on the Park
 Terry Eitel, Old York Tower
 Karl Froehr, Windmill Line Coop
 Hawaa Kabbashy, New Hibret Coop Homes
 Marcus Little, The Wellington
 Margaret McQuade, David B. Archer

George Millbrandt, Longboat Residents Association
 Ronald Monteith, Woodsworth Coop
 Marc Piccinato, Windmill Line Coop
 Sherri Russell, 31 Princess St.
 Alan Seymour, Old York Tower
 Becky Street, MTCC 1385
 Lois Thomson, David B. Archer
 Connie Yang, OWN

Associate Members & Guests:

Monica Tang
 Benoit Tardif
 Siobhon McLoughlin
 Maureen Walsh
 Farriel Sharma
 Al Rezoski, City of Toronto
 Angela Stea, City of Toronto
 Darcey Higgins, Clean Air Alliance
 Victor Henriques, George Smitherman MPP Office
 Tom Davidson, Pam McConnell's Office

Regrets:
 Ewa Jarmicka

Darek Fiedukiewicz, Recording Secretary

1. REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

2. OPENING OF MEETING

2.1 Opening Remarks

Suzanne Kavanagh (President) acting as Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

2.2 Approval of Agenda

It was resolved to agenda. All were in favour and the **motion was CARRIED.**

MOTIONED BY: Hawaa Kabbashy
 SECONDED BY: Matthew Raizenne

2.3 Approval of Minutes

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Delegates' meetings held on September 24, 2008 as presented. All were in favour and the **motion was CARRIED.**

MOTIONED BY: Karl Froehr
SECONDED BY: Marcus Little

2.4 Executive Meeting Highlights – All Candidate's Meeting; C.I.P. Meeting, Dixon Hall

Ms Kavanagh reviewed the Delegates' code of conduct.

She then announced that the executive committee met with Al Rezoski and Angela Stea of the City of Toronto and received an overview of the C.I.P. They were asked for a more extensive presentation including the role they can play as members of SLNA.

An all candidates meeting was held on the weekend. Complaints were received that the facility was not wheelchair accessible. MP Bob Rae will be invited to attend a meeting later in the year.

A \$200 donation was issued to Dixon Hall on behalf the SLNA in support of the Scotia Bank Waterfront Marathon.

Ms Kavanagh reported that Pam McConnell had agreed to attend the November meeting for a half hour. She will present for fifteen minutes and then accept questions for the remainder of the time. Ms McConnell will provide an overview of her roles and responsibilities as city councillor and how she can help support the neighbourhood.

2.5 Announcement – 251 King Street East (Marcus Little)

Mr. Little stated that a plan for 251 King Street East has been put forth to tear down the three storey heritage building and replace it with a condominium. He encouraged members to attend the upcoming public meeting to help preserve the heritage value as there appears to be no intention to save the existing structure with the exception of maintaining a few pieces of stone. The meeting will take place Thursday November 6th at 7pm at the St. James Rectory.

The community should insist on setbacks from the street whereas the developer is seeking to build with very high density. They have agreed to accept feedback and they are making changes.

Mr. Little explained that Ms Kavanagh would be requested to speak to the heritage value of the existing building and Ms McConnell will be asked to take a leadership role and actively advance the community's concerns.

Joan Campbell had advised that notice of a meeting was also posted at Market Square regarding another development at 60 Colborne Street. The current plan is to replace the existing parking lot with a thirty-nine storey building that will dwarf all else in the vicinity. Mr. Leps will provide a copy of the notice of meeting scheduled for Wednesday November 5th at St. James Rectory beginning at 7pm.

City staff has advised that the location is wheelchair accessible.

Ms Kavanagh noted that Mr. Little is chair of the Development Committee and is seeking new members. Interested individuals are asked to contact with Mr. Little or Ms Kavanagh for more information.

The By-Laws Committee consisting of Joan Campbell and Marcus Little working on new draft of the document and updates are targeted to be completed before the next Annual General Meeting.

Ms Kavanagh reminded those in attendance to reference the "Whose Job Is It?" flyer when they notice items in the community that need attention (i.e. roadwork, etc.).

It was suggested that delegates be identified to the meeting. Ms Kavanagh agreed that this practice would be reinstated for future meetings and name cards will also be prepared.

3. ONTARIO GREEN FUTURE (Darcy Higgins)

Mr. Higgins introduces himself as Program Manager, Ontario Green Future. The small organization is a campaign of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance which represents Ontarians while working with the government to phase out coal in favour of a green energy grid.

Mr. Higgins sought support regarding the campaign's position regarding the Nuclear Responsibility Act. The government is considering an investment in nuclear reactors but independent analysts strongly disagree with projected cost estimates. Mr. Higgins stated that no nuclear reactor has ever been completed on time or budget in the province. He cited the Darlington plant which was expected to cost \$4Bil but actually cost \$14Bil.

The nuclear industry also receives special subsidies such as those for disposal costs. In total, taxpayers will likely need to share a bill greater than \$20Bil. Also, no insurance company will insure against major accidents so taxpayers will need to absorb 100% of this cost.

Mr. Higgins stated that Ontario Green Future seeks to protect rate payers and the environment. He suggested that George Smitherman could be a champion for the group and he has already sought renewable power alternatives. Mr. Higgins encouraged individuals to also support the effort by communicating the message to their neighbourhoods and undertaking other activities such as petitions and canvassing.

Ontario Green Future is financed through a few private individual donors and environmental organizations as well as a few companies that support its vision. The organization is an advocacy group so it does not receive a lot of funding.

Mr. Higgins offered to attend other community forums upon request.

4. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION (Al Rezoski/Angela Stea)

Mr. Rezoski, acting Manager for the downtown section of Toronto, provided an overview of the Community Improvement Plan. He is responsible for overseeing two plans in the 'old town' area including the St. Lawrence CIP and the King/Parliament CIP.

Community Improvement Plans are defined very broadly so they address a wide variety of items. Both Mr. Rezoski and Ms Stea are downtown residents so they also have a personal interest in each plan's success. Further, Mr. Rezoski declared himself a very frontline/hands-on person who focuses to areas requiring attention.

City Council set the original boundaries for the CIPs and the official plan covers items such as street-scaping. The King/Parliament CIP also has a secondary plan that details specifics about individual areas.

The project area for the St. Lawrence CIP was established in October 2000 followed by the adoption of urban design guidelines in July 2005. A commercial façade program was set in 2006. City Council directed staff to develop Jarvis Street south to Queens Quay including several improvements for pedestrians, cyclists, streetscapes, park and open space, PATH connections, etc.

Mr. Rezoski summarized a few of the completed projects under the St. Lawrence CIP as follows:

- Bicycle Lanes - City Council approved a plan for bike lanes and provided direction to review sustainability for additional bike lanes. A study is underway and a report is expected in early 2009 for an east/west connection.
- Signalization of Yonge/The Esplanade – Report is expected by the end of the year.
- Widening of Sidewalks on Yonge between The Esplanade and Front – Report expected in early 2009.
- Cladding the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) Parking Garage – The initiative is in progress at the south end of Church Street.
- Underpass Improvements at Jarvis Street - GO has committed to significant façade and pedestrian improvements at the Jarvis Street railway.
- TTC Stairwells - Weather protection at the King/Yonge entrance is part of the TTC's station renewal program and has been identified as a priority for the community as quick approval is sought.

Similar improvements have been made under the King/Parliament CIP. Completed work to date includes:

- Reconstruction of Percy Park
- Landscaping/Streetscaping in various areas
- Bike lanes installed at Sherbourne and River

Mr. Rezoski encouraged all community members to look critically at and report items in need of attention including benches, transit shelters, street trees, garbage bins, telephones, etc. This includes missing or damaged items as well as new opportunities for improvements.

Q. It was suggested that concrete blocks be considered to separate cyclists from vehicular traffic.

A. Mr. Rezoski acknowledged that such practices were common in Montreal as well as other Cities and agreed that similar opportunities may exist for some areas in Toronto.

Q. Comment was requested regarding a recent presentation on illegal signs/billboards.

A. Mr. Rezoski explained that the CIPs do not specifically address signage but attempts have been made to deal with the problem especially around the rail corridor. He added that some signage is covered by by-law enforcement.

Q. It was suggested that disabled access be added for TTC entrances as this would encourage regular transit usage over the Wheel-Trans program and could lead to significant savings in the long-term.

A. Mr. Rezoski noted that the TTC strategy includes elevator access for all subway stations but this remains a long-term (30-year) plan. Ms Kavanagh reported that the SLNA executive had already sent a letter to the Mayor's office and copied the TTC regarding sixty-seven uncovered entrances and with an insistence that the King subway be addressed in particular.

Q. The removal/planting of trees has been problematic because residents have had difficulty gaining the attention of the Forestry Department. It was hoped that a pilot project would be undertaken with an organization called Leaf-on-the-Esplanade.

A. Mr. Rezoski stated that the current year included a very wet growing season and caused issues. The previous year was also very dry. As a result, it impacted the trees' ability to effectively adapt to their new locations and dead trees have been found. Mr. Rezoski noted that there appear to be instances where some areas have 'jumped-the-queue' so he encouraged residents to continue reporting issues, being vocal, and work through Tom Davidson and Pam McConnell's office.

Q. Are there plans for The Esplanade area to the east of Jarvis over to Parliament?

A. Mr. Rezoski stated that pedestrian and cycling initiatives were not specifically planned for the area but he suggested that individuals interested in various items contact the parks, forestry, and recreation departments as well as the TTC. The SLNA may also consider inviting representatives to a future meeting.

Q. How do residents know the right forum(s) to leverage in order to have their issues addressed? Is there a listing that can be referenced?

A. Mr. Rezoski stated that the planning department acts as facilitators in coordinating development activity applications so they would be a good first point of contact. Two weeks notice is normally given for community consultation meetings during which all are welcome. Residents may also telephone the CIP team.

Ms Kavanagh suggested that events can be communicated to David Crawford so they may be posted on the SLNA website. She also stated that she carries her digital camera and attaches photographs when she finds an item in need of attention.

5. SMARTLIVING UPDATE (Dan O'Leary)

Mr. O'Leary stated that the SmartLiving group was seeking resources and a new partner to allow it to take on larger projects. George Smitherman has committed to assisting.

A garden group has been formed to address grass-clippings and trees.

The running group is also being formed and all are encouraged to participate in healthy-living events such as the Scotia Bank Waterfront Marathon.

Mr. O'Leary stated that work is underway on an energy audit in order to create a baseline for the neighbourhood. A report and proposal based on the baseline study will be prepared and put forth to George Smitherman.

6. OTHER BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Rezoski announced that a LED Light Exchange was scheduled for Saturday November 22nd between 10am and 1pm in front of the fountain at Market Lane.

Marie Copkov (176 The Esplanade) request that a letter be sent regarding security checks. The matter will be added to the Executive's next agenda.

The SLRC's Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday December 3rd and volunteers are needed to stand for election.

The SLRC will also be holding a Christmas Seniors' Luncheon on December 17th at a cost of \$15-20 per person.

Ronny Yaron stated that there is no sponsor for the bulletin so a dedicated section is not available to the SLNA. Nevertheless, residents can submit items directly to the bulletin.

A suggestion was put forth to add a standing item on future meeting agendas to allow for tabling of matters of concern to a particular co-op or neighbourhood. This will afford each group the opportunity to learn about various issues affecting others and how they are being addressed.

Tom Davidson (Pam McConnell's Office) responded to a concern over wind carrying waste in David Crombie park. He stated that the parks department was committed to obtaining a new bin for that section of the off-leash area.

A concern was raised regarding the relationship between the communities' and the police department. An area mother recently reported youth attacking younger individuals. Her son was attacked by four others who told him they had a gun. The episode took place in daylight and his i-pod was stolen and money was demanded. Police arrived within ten minutes but they proceeded to pressure the victim to identify the perpetrators and agree to press charges. The mother advised them that he was in shock and could not give an immediate answer. Shortly after, the culprits were seen near a store but police advised that nothing could be done if the mother would not agree to press charges.

Ms Kavanagh stated that Keith Bricknell was the police CPLC liaison. He will be asked to provide contact information as well as details on how to perform follow-up on such incidents. It was noted that other co-ops have also invited police from 51 Division to attend their meetings to discuss various matters and police have been helping. One successful strategy includes moving all garbage bins underground.

7. ADJOURNMENT

It was resolved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. All were in favour and the **motion was CARRIED.**

MOTIONED BY: Cherril Baker

The SLNA acknowledges the St. Lawrence Market for sponsoring this evening's refreshments, and OWN for hosting tonight's meeting.

The next Delegates meeting will be held on November 26 at 7:00 pm and the next Executive meeting will take place on November 4 at 4:00 pm.

Corporate Secretary

President



LIST OF MOTIONS

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SECONDED BY: Matthew Raizenne

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