

SLNA DELEGATES MEETING
September 29, 2004

NORTH MARKET, St. Lawrence Market Complex

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
Treasurer: Nancy Sheppard, 65 Scadding Avenue V
Secretary: Karen Serwonka, D.B. Archer Co-op V
At Large: Joan Campbell, Market Square V
At Large: Frank McLean, 25 The Esplanade V
At Large: Paul Smith, Toronto Condo Assoc. V

In Attendance:

Cherril Baker, David B Archer V
Patricia Bear Claw, Cathedral Court Co-op V
Barbara Bell, Woodsworth Co-op V
Delano Brown, Marketview Co-op V
Georgette Harris, St James Condo V
Robin Hart, Crombie Park V
Stig Harvor, La Place St. Laurent V
Aurie Hensman, 160 Frederick St V
Virginia Kells, PAL V
Lucie Martel, King George Square V
Emma McBey, OWN Co-op V
Ron Monteith, Woodsworth Co-op V
Dwight Peters, 25 The Esplanade V
Alan Seymour, Longboat Res. Assoc. V
Michael Waring, New Times Sq 2 V
Rose Wilner, OWN Co-op V
Connie Yang, OWN Co-op V

Arlyss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

Pam McConnell

Frank Clarke, Bill Graham's Office G
Jennifer Arp, Bill Graham's Office G

Jeannie Stockford, MTCC 837 (25 George St)

With Regrets:

Alice Briesmaster, New Times Sq 2 V

Susan McLeod, Market Square V
Terry Pennock, New Time Sq 2 V
David Sangaraille, La Place St. Laurent V
Wally Simpson, Crombie Park V

Michelle Buckley, Pam McConnell's Office G

ACRONYM S:

CPLC: Community Police Liaison Committee
HRSD: Human Resources and Skills
Development Canada
PSB: Police Services Board
SLCRC: St. Lawrence Community Recreation
Centre
TIACAC: Toronto Island Airport Community
Advisory
Committee
TCHC: Toronto Community Housing
Corporation
TPA: Toronto Port Authority

1. Welcome & Round Robin

Cam Miller called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. He introduced himself as President and he chaired the meeting. Cam welcomed new Delegates Patricia Bear Claw from Cathedral Court Co-op and Virginia Kells from PAL. A round table of introductions was conducted. An attendance sheet was passed around.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: to approve the Agenda as presented.

Moved by: Alan Seymour

Seconded by: Joan Campbell

CARRIED

3. Approval of July 28, 2004 Minutes

Amendments:

Dwight Peters asked that his absence be reflected as “**with regrets**”

Page 4: “~~Crombie St. James Park~~ Lights: . . . ~~Lorie Lucie~~ Martel stated that the lamp post on the south east side of ~~Crombie St. James~~ Park has a light that is out.”

Page 8, item 15d): “~~A volunteer has developed the CRC’s website:~~

~~www.stlawrencecerc.com. The site~~ **The newly developed CRC website,**

www.stlawrencecerc.com, advertises the many activities offered . . .”

Page 8, agenda item title: “15. Adjournment” should read “**16. Adjournment**”

Motion: to approve the July 28, 2004 minutes as amended.

Moved by: Cherril Baker

Seconded by: Emma McBey

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Update from Police 51 Division

Cam welcomed representatives from 51 Division. Detective Sergeant Brian Preston has been at 51 Division for four months. He oversees several squads within the Division, including plain clothes officers, and major crime. Detective Lombardie, who accompanied him, is responsible for the Division’s new plain clothes office.

Noise and Disturbances: Detective Sergeant Preston asked if Delegates had continuing concerns about noise in the neighbourhood. Barbara Bell stated that Staff Sergeant Kelly had been apprised of a late night noise disturbance at the restaurant Chocolate, located on King Street East.

Aurie Hensman, on behalf of the Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC), reported that many arrests for prostitution and drugs had been made over three weeks during the summer, and that the problem-causers dispersed, but that recently they came back. With plain clothes officers now in the neighbourhood, they are again dispersing.

Ron Monteith asked whether the closure of the coffee shop at the corner of Queen and Sherbourne is temporary or permanent. Detective Sergeant Preston responded that he did not know, but that the troublemakers who frequented the coffee shop have moved up to Dundas and Sherbourne.

Festival Theft: Paul Smith reported that at the SLNA Festival on September 18, a woman participating in the street sale had \$30 and later \$60 stolen, and that police came to the scene when called. Paul asked if a report was available, and, if so, how to obtain a copy. Detective Sergeant Preston advised that a detective assigned to the occurrence would follow-up with the complainant. Paul Smith will pass him the name of the woman, so the detective can contact her sooner.

Police Funding: Aurie Hensman appealed to Delegates to lobby politicians to give the police more funding, as 51 Division has a limited budget to serve a large jurisdiction.

Jewelry Store Theft: Frank McLean reported that a jewelry store on the ground floor of St. Lawrence Market was robbed twice recently. He asked if it were possible for private security guards to contact police cars in the area. Detective Sergeant Preston pointed out that security guards follow the same process as civilians: they phone the police, who send an officer in response.

Cam thanked the 51 Division representatives for their report.

6. Report on West St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Development Planning Charette — Gregg Lintern (Manager, Downtown Section, Community Planning, City of Toronto) & Al Rezoski (Urban Planner)

Cam Miller introduced Gregg Lintern and Al Rezoski. Al Rezoski reported.

One hundred and seven sites are under development in the downtown area, from University Avenue to the Don, from Bloor Street down to the lake. The charette team focused on the area south of Wellington, primarily along The Esplanade, as it has a separate character from other sites downtown.

The charette was held September 22 and 23. A charette is an urban design exercise in which people look intensively at development sites, to quickly brainstorm an overall vision of a neighbourhood as well as details for individual sites. A written study is then prepared, based on what transpired at the charette, as a tool to guide planners with developmental applications in the area. There may be some visuals with the report, but no decisions are reached within it.

Al distributed handouts (also available through his office). As he spoke he pointed out the sites on an overhead projection map of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. Some sites are potential development sites, some are subject to development applications, and some are

already under construction. Al then gave an overview of sites to the immediate north and east of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood.

Old Town Toronto Boundaries: Alan Seymour pointed out that the West St. Lawrence neighbourhood has separate characteristics from the area now designated Old Town Toronto. Would developers take into consideration these neighbourhood boundaries, which differ from the planners' division of territory? Al responded that the West St. Lawrence neighbourhood also has many heritage buildings, but that the urban design teams for the charette thought The Esplanade had a particular character. Alan clarified: Looking at Old Town Toronto as being an area itself, will different teams create different characters for different sections that cross Old Town? Al responded that, no, discussion is primarily about streetscaping.

Urban Forest: James Childs asked whether the urban planners gave any consideration to saving or expanding on the urban forest in Old Town Toronto. Al responded that a symposium on urban forests was held recently. Presentations at the symposium made readily apparent that Toronto is losing its tree canopy and that there is a lot of room for improvement. Al said that he inventoried the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. Many street trees are dead or dying. The urban planners' intention is to establish new park in this neighbourhood, and also to address rooftop landscaping.

Community Consultation Meeting Oct. 7: A meeting in June generated a planning framework for the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. A public consultation meeting then followed. A charette was held last week. And now another community consultation meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7 (see agenda item 13b for details). The meeting will address the planning application for 40 The Esplanade, at the northeast corner of Scott Street and The Esplanade. The public are welcome to provide input on a proposal to replace a commercial parking lot with a mixed use development consisting of two residential condominium towers (approximately 500 units) atop street level retail and commercial space, interspersed with parking levels.

Building Height: Aurie Hensman and Cherril Baker asked if there is still a moratorium on the height of the buildings in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood, given the history of the site. "We don't want to look like west end Toronto." Al Rezoski responded that buildings in the majority of this area are still limited to 23 meters in height (approximately 8 storeys). Buildings up to 12 storeys have been approved in the past, but most current development applications are for buildings of greater density and height (from 25-50 storeys). Individual projects can appeal the zoning by-law, which is one reason why the charette was held. The charette looked into issues such as shadowing, and protecting parks.

For more information, people are welcome to contact Al Rezoski at arezosk@toronto.ca or (416) 392-0481, or Gregg Lintern at glintern@toronto.ca or (416) 392-1791.

Cam Miller thanked Al Rezoski and Gregg Lintern. He described St. Lawrence neighbourhood development as a long-term project, he thanked SLNA representatives for

their contributions so far, and he asked Delegates to continue to work toward a coherent, positive plan for the area, rather than only react to developments that are not wanted.

7. President's Report — Cam Miller

a) Update on Island Airport/Port Authority

Cam included with the Delegates' package for tonight's meeting an abbreviated version of a September 1, 2004 letter sent by Community AIR to The Hon. John Godfrey, detailing a proposed solution to the Island Airport issue, and an excerpt from the Community Air website, "making the case that the Toronto Port Authority (TPA) should be dissolved, the airport closed, and the lands on which the airport sits transferred back to the city."

Cam reported that the TPA's annual general meeting was held today. He did not attend, but heard that at the end of the meeting the head of the TPA said that the Island Airport is not viable, and that the TPA is thinking of turning the Island Airport over to the Minister of Transport. The new Minister of Transport is Jean LaPierre, who is based in Montreal. He is "setting up a shop" in Ontario.

b) Sustainable St. Lawrence

Cam reported that this is an evolving initiative, not yet launched. He included a two page report in the Delegates' package. The initiative aims to improve the health of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood and foster a conservation culture.

Representatives from Eneract and the SLNA are meeting with City Councillor Pam McConnell on October 6 to discuss the initiative. Fundraising will become necessary at some point.

c) Gala Planning Recruitment

Cam reported that Aurie Hensman is in the early days of speaking to previous gala organizers and becoming familiarized with the tasks ahead. Cam asked for volunteers to assist Aurie.

d) Corporate Secretary Recruitment

Cam reported that Karen Serwonka, Corporate Secretary for several months now, has tendered her resignation. Cam expressed regrets at her departure, and Delegates gave Karen a warm round of applause for all her work for the SLNA. Cam asked Delegates to consider possible candidates for the position.

e) Pedestrian Safety – Cam Miller & Delano Brown

Cam introduced Delano Brown. Del, a resident in the neighbourhood, is visually impaired. He finds navigating the St. Lawrence neighbourhood dangerous in some areas. His most recent situation happened on August 23. He was en route to Shopper's Drug Mart when he was almost hit by a truck on King Street (west of Jarvis), which was exiting an alleyway. The truck snapped the bottom of his cane as he walked westward on

the south side of the street. Even a sighted person would have probably been in danger. The truck could not be heard, as traffic is so loud in that area. The southwest corner of Front Street and George Street has been another danger zone for Del. Most times the person responsible is not very diplomatic. Del asked for some help addressing this issue.

Cam directed Del to Pam McConnell's committee on Pedestrian Safety, headed by Dorothy Creaser. He assured Del that the committee discusses pedestrian safety matters directly with Councillor Pam McConnell.

8. VP Internal Report – Ronny Yaron

a) Festival 2004 Preliminary Report

Ronny reported that the day of the Festival had beautiful weather, which made everyone feel good, but that the turnout could have been better. Restaurants participated for the first time, thanks to Conny Yang and Robin Hart, but there weren't enough customers. The organizers had hoped to bring in more visitors from outside the neighbourhood.

Regarding publicity, Ronny recommended more signage. *The Toronto Sun* published 3 free ads. The Rainbow Cinema displayed an ad onscreen before each movie. Two tv stations, including CTV, came out to film the doggie event. *The Toronto Sun* wrote an article for the next day's paper.

Ronny emphasized that more volunteers, responsible people, were needed to take charge of the different areas. Some areas weren't completely covered, so that kids occasionally acted up.

The Festival did even better than expected in terms of fundraising, and probably turned a profit. Nancy Sheppard, Treasurer, will provide complete accounting at the next SLNA Delegates' Meeting.

Delegates applauded the worth of having a festival every year.

Ronny stated that a post-Festival discussion was held by organizers last night. Most preferred the Festival to be held in the fall, rather than in June. Ronny recommended beginning planning the event sooner next year, in February, to give sponsors more time to plan their donations.

Barbara Bell preferred that the Festival be held in June so that kids coming out of school could take the opportunity to meet other children and get geared up for the rest of the summer. Ronny asked people to think about the matter further, but to reach a decision soon.

Aurie Hensman pointed out that the same people keep volunteering, and that the same sponsors contribute. She recommended more variety and diversity.

Ronny thanked everyone who helped out in any way. It was a fun exercise, she said. She learned a lot.

Cam thanked Ronny for a wonderful job and Delegates applauded her.

b) New Membership Recruitment
Deferred.

9. Communications Committee Report — Joan Campbell

a) October Newsletter
Joan asked Delegates to pick up their copies of the SLNA newsletter this evening for distribution to their residences. She thanked Frank Burns for organizing copying and distribution.

Joan announced that a meeting of the Communications Committee is scheduled for next week to discuss the newsletter, the website, and the display board (which needs a bit of work). She appealed to anyone with expertise in any of these areas to join the Communications Committee, as an opportunity to be really creative.

b) SLNA Brochure
Deferred.

10. City Update from Pam McConnell's Office (Councillor) — Michelle Buckley
Cam Miller welcomed Councillor Pam McConnell. Pam reported that Michelle Buckley is taking the week off.

St. Clair Streetcar: Pam reported that Council passed the St. Clair streetcar right of way. She described it as a boon to the area in terms of public transportation, to be done in conjunction with widening sidewalks, all of which improves pedestrianization.

Red Light Cameras: Regarding pedestrian safety, the Provincial legislation/regulations have been achieved regarding red light cameras, and the St. Lawrence neighbourhood is on the list as a potential pilot project. The Pedestrian Safety Committee is going well, and is working on other matters pertaining to pedestrian safety.

The Frederick Street lights have finally been installed. Pam attended a meeting with representatives of two condominiums. It was clear on standing outside that the area was too dark. The affected area is south of King Street, across the street from the Greyhound Bus depot, and kitty corner to Young People's Theatre (YPT). There is a level of light that is allowable for arterial roads that is not the norm for smaller roads, which makes sense in general, but does not make sense in places with a great deal of nighttime pedestrian traffic like this corner. The brightness of King Street is clearly offset against the darkness of Frederick Street. It is to some degree an optical illusion; it is only a bit more dark, but it feels a lot more dark. Works agreed to put in brighter light bulbs before

deciding whether additional lights were necessary. Five more studies were to be done, but instead at Pam's direction they simply installed more lights. Aurie Hensman thanked Pam for the new lights, which make a significant difference.

The community walks are going exceedingly well. An historical walk through heritage Toronto was held on Sunday, starting from the Market Gallery; 85 people attended. An exhibition is opening next week at the Market Gallery, on the work of the "Bring Back the Don" taskforce. The opening is October 2 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The exhibition will remain through the wintertime. Bruce Bell also does a Market walk, and he advised Pam that he had a full complement every day and is now doing walks 5 days a week.

Pam stated that people are walking a lot in this neighbourhood, so pedestrian safety is clearly important for this neighbourhood. She expressed the hope that as result of the Pedestrian Safety Committee, the St. Lawrence neighbourhood becomes the first truly safe pedestrian community in the city.

West St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Development Planning Charette: Pam emphasized that the St. Lawrence community gave an incredible presentation at the charette. Our community voice was very strong and clear, and very reflective of community wishes.

Cyclists on Sidewalks: Ron Monteith asked if the Pedestrian Safety Committee could deal with adult cyclists on sidewalks, who pose a threat to pedestrian safety. Pam recommended that the Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) be advised of the bicycle issue, as they can encourage the police to enforce the city by-law.

Police Services Board: Ron Monteith asked Pam for an update on the Police Services Board (PSB).

The PSB has submitted the complaints system to Justice LeSage for him to review, as the current system does not work very well. An auditor identified two major problems: 1) that third parties are not permitted under the current system to report (ex. If you are present when another person has an altercation with a police officer, only the person in the altercation can report the police officer's behavior), and 2) that the police investigate all of the complaints. The complainant must go to the police station out of which the officer works, to make the complaint—not many people want to do that. The complaint goes through the command officer to the chief. If the chief feels it has no merit, he dismisses it. If he feels it has some merit, he assigns the investigative officers, and he assigns the judge if any discipline is to be meted out. That's the way the law is written. That seems an unfair procedure for civilians who just want to complain that someone was rude to them or that something inappropriate happened. The old system had an independent investigative body, and civilian independence over the complaints investigations. Both have been approved within the PSB's submission to Justice LeSage, and were agreed upon nearly unanimously by the Board.

The PSB is currently going line by line through the budget and finding areas where moneys are being used for expenditures other than front line officers, or where front line uniforms are being used to shadow others, who normally would be on the front lines themselves. There are 5,260 officers in uniform. Under 3,000 of them are actually in our Divisions or on the streets.

The PSB has asked that bicycle patrols and foot patrols for community response be prioritized. They await a report on how that initiative is being implemented.

The zoning system has been put in place here and throughout the city. Pam expressed concern that it is not accomplishing well what it was intended to do, and needs to be reviewed.

By the end of 6 weeks Pam will have a better sense of the police budget, and whether the budget is being used more efficiently for front line officers doing community work.

The City appointed a new member to the Police Services Board last week. The City has the jurisdiction of 4 members of the PSB: three are City Councillors and the fourth is a civilian. The civilian position was filled. One hundred and fifty people applied, and were shortlisted to three. Pam described the selected candidate as a perfect fit for all the issues, particularly for work on racial profiling. Minorities and women are still underrepresented in the police force, not so much at the entry level, but further up the ranks. By law, every police service must have a police force that reflects the community. The PSB is developing an action plan for these people to be supported in their career and throughout the ranks, so that police ranks will reflect the community.

Pedestrian Safety: Rose Wilner expressed concern that some intersection traffic lights change too quickly, so that the elderly cannot fully cross the street before the light changes. Pam explained that 1) when the red hand flashes, that is an indication not to start to cross, but it is still safe to continue walking if you are already crossing the street, and 2) a charette is looking at the crossing on Front Street to Dominions' grocery store, to determine if pinch points could be created to make the distance for pedestrian crossing narrower.

Rose Wilner also pointed out that crossing Jarvis westward on The Esplanade is dangerous for children going to school. Pam responded that this area has been identified as problematic. No solutions have been reached yet, but the issue is under consideration, both by a charette and by the Pedestrian Safety Committee.

Rose Wilner further noted that on the southwest corner of Bay and Wellington, moisture and cold weather can create a skating rink where the sidewalk slopes to the pavement. Pam offered to arrange for Rose to discuss this matter with Michelle Buckley.

Cam Miller thanked Pam McConnell for her report.

11. Provincial Update from George Smitherman's Office (MPP) — Jason Lisenchuk
Jason Lisenchuk was not present at the meeting.

12. Federal Update from Bill Graham's Office (MP) – Frank Clarke
Cam Miller welcomed Frank Clarke.

Island Airport: Frank reported that Jean LaPèrre's office contacted him regarding the Island Airport issue. Transport Canada is currently in discussions with the City and the Toronto Port Authority (TPA) to deal with the whole liability issue, and their goal is to wrap that up soon (although they gave Frank no timeline). With the liability issue resolved, they can then introduce regulations that can absolutely prohibit a fixed link to the airport.

Jennifer Arp: Frank introduced new colleague, Jennifer Arp. Frank has been promoted to Office Manager, and Jennifer is the New Community Outreach Co-ordinator. Frank assured Delegates that they can still remain in contact with him; just call him at the office.

SEDERI and HRSD: Bill Graham's office has been working closely with SEDERI, to mediate in the relationship between SEDERI and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSD), which provides funding for SEDERI projects. Frank Clarke encouraged Frank Burns, President of SEDERI, to contact him again if SEDERI needs any further assistance in the matter.

CPLC Town Hall Meeting: The Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) is holding a Town Hall meeting on community safety issues, Mon., Nov. 15, at St. Lawrence Hall, 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Bob Kemp, Chair of the CPLC, is gathering police reps and political reps not only to talk about community problems but also proactive ideas that could be developed. CPLC could emerge from the meeting with ideas to improve the community. Bill Graham's office will put some ideas on the agenda for the CPLC. Frank strongly encouraged everyone to come out and participate.

Bill Graham's Availability: Ron Monteith asked if it would be possible to see the MP more often. Frank responded that Bill Graham does a lot of national travel now that he is Minister of National Defence, but he guarantees that he can forward any concerns to Bill Graham directly.

Cam Miller thanked Frank Clarke for his report.

13. New Business

a) Ontario Health Coalition New Campaign

Chris Ramsaroop and Alan Nelson appealed to Delegates to post signs supporting the Ontario Health Coalition's campaign for government not to privatize hospitals. There are 70 health coalitions in Ontario. The SLNA is a member of their organization. A number

of hospitals and mental health facilities are facing reorganization as combined public and private partnerships, including Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and Toronto Grace Hospital. Others are rumoured to be facing the same prospect, including Credit Valley and Humber Regional. Chris explained that when privatization takes effect, the hospitals begin to lose services. At CAMH, 1,500 of 2,400 employees will be laid off and their work will be contracted out. Eventually clinical staff will also be laid off. Chris asked not only that people help save his and others' livelihoods, but that people recognize that the quality of their own healthcare will be seriously affected. Continuity of care will erode (same nurse during convalescence vs. different nurse each day under privatization), and people will need to start paying for services.

Chris and Alan brought lawn signs stating "Don't Privatize Our Hospitals" for Delegates to take away and post in support of the campaign. Chris pointed out that the signs also fit well in windows.

b) Community Consultation Meeting for 40 The Esplanade

Dwight Peters strongly encouraged Delegates and others to attend a Community Consultation Meeting which will address development plans for 40 The Esplanade. The meeting takes place at the Hummingbird Centre's Lower Lounge on October 7, 7:00-9:00 pm. The Hummingbird Centre is located at 1 Front Street East. Enter by way of the West Terrace on Yonge Street. (See agenda item 6 for context.)

West St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Development Planning Charette: Dwight stated that proposals made at the charette included plans for buildings 25-50 storeys tall. Dwight described this as an assault of height coming down on this neighbourhood which will double the mass of buildings in Old Toronto. If that concerns you, he said, please show up at the meeting on October 7, so that the developers cannot build tall buildings in our neighbourhood. We have one crack at this, and if we are not proactive now we will need to live with the results.

14. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:51 pm. The Chair asked Delegates to enjoy the food donated by Carousel, in the St. Lawrence Market. He also asked Delegates to return namecards to the accordion file. Joan Campbell asked Delegates to remember to pick up their bulk SLNA newsletters for distribution at their residences. Ronny Yaron distributed flyers brought by Al Rezoski, which announce the Community Consultation Meeting on October 7.

The next Delegates' Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 27, 2004, at 7:00 pm.

Karen Serwonka, Corporate Secretary

Cam Miller, Chair