

SLNA DELEGATES MEETING
September 27, 2006

OWN CO-OP, 115 The Esplanade

Executive Members in Attendance:

President: Paul Smith, St. Lawrence on the Park
Treasurer: Bruno Leps, Market Square
Secretary: Joan Campbell, Market Square
VP External: Frank Burns, Longboat Residents Association
At Large: Wallace Simpson, Crombie Park
At Large: Ronny Yaron, Woodsworth Co-op
At Large: Connie Yang, OWN Co-op V

Voting Delegates in Attendance:

Leo Agosto, Marketview Housing Co-op
Cherril Baker, David B. Archer Co-op
Randy Bath, 15 Scadding
Barbara Bell, Woodsworth Co-op
Keith Bricknell, The Metropole
Dana Brooks, King George Square
Delano Brown, Marketview Housing Co-op
Jim Childs, Caroline Co-op

Elisabeth Ecker, St Lawrence on the Park
Terry Eitel, Old York Tower
Karl Froehr, Windmill Line Co-op
Stig Harvor, La Place Saint-Laurent
Aurie Hensman, 160 Frederick St
Ewa Jarmicka, Harmony Co-op Homes
Ani Kounavis, 25 The Esplanade
Marcus Little, The Wellington
Ron Monteith, Woodsworth Co-op
Maria Moreno, O.W.N Co-op
Dan O'Leary, 15 Scadding
Sherri Russell, F.A.N.

Alan Seymour, Longboat Residents Association
Nancy Sheppard, St Lawrence on the Park

Larysa Sikorska, 15 Scadding
Farhan Syed, The Metropole

Frank Touby, Harmony A. Housing Co-op
Verna VanSickle, David B. Archer Co-op

Associate Members and Guests:

Beverly Carr, St. Lawrence on the Park
Wendy Stockwell, St. Lawrence Lofts
Edward Nixon, Windmill Line Co-op
Tim Rourke, 15 Scadding
Howard Bortenstein, City Council candidate
Janet Leong, FAN
Sylvia Grimson, OWN Co-op
Tom Davidson, Councillor McConnell's Office
Ben Marans, smartliving St. Lawrence
Peggy Powell, Market Galleria
Didier Pomerleau, King's Court
Norman Hart, PAL

Arlyss Ponchuk, Recording Secretary

ACRONYMS:

BIA: Business Improvement Area
CMHC: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation
CPLC: Community Police Liaison Committee
FPS: First Parliament Site
SLCRC: St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre
SLSL: smartliving St. Lawrence
TCHC: Toronto Community Housing Corporation

Catherine West, 1 Church Street

Jacque Williams, Old York Tower

TIACAC: Toronto Island Airport Community
Advisory Committee

TWRC: Toronto Waterfront Revitalization
Committee

With Regrets:

David Sangaraille, , La Place Saint-Laurent

Non-Voting Alternates in Attendance:

Francesca Guida, 55 The Esplanade

Registration and Refreshments

Ani Kounavis took attendance at the door.

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks — Paul Smith

Paul Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. He welcomed everyone, introduced himself as President, and chaired the meeting.

The Chair's opening remarks were made under agenda item #9.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Delegates made the following amendments: Under Other Business, add a) Park – Sylvia Grimson, b) Fair Vote Ontario – Tim Rourke, c) Buskerfest – Marcus Little

***Motion: to approve the Agenda as amended.
Moved by: Frank Burns
Seconded by: Karl Froehr
CARRIED***

3. Approval of July 26, 2006 Minutes and Business Arising

Motion: to approve the July 26, 2006 minutes as presented.

Moved by: Keith Bricknell

Seconded by: Cherril Baker

CARRIED

Barbara Bell pointed out that in the minutes of July 26 she did not recommend inviting the Guardian Angels to conduct walks, but to come to an SLNA Delegates Meeting to talk.

4. Treasurer's Report — Bruno Leps

Treasurer Bruno Leps reported. As of September the SLNA's finances are on budget. Connie Yang and her team did a great job on the Canada Day Celebration; the event broke even financially. Most membership fees have been paid and he will follow-up on the few

outstanding. He recommended no fee increase for 2007, but did recommend sending membership notices out earlier, in January, from now on. He urged the SLNA to undertake a membership drive.

5. Report from Bill Graham’s Office — Jenn Syntetos

The Chair reported that Jenn Syntetos sent her regrets.

6. First Parliament Site —Tom Davidson (Pam McConnell’s office)

The Chair reported that the SLNA Executive had posed the question to the City and Provincial representatives: “What is the status of First Parliament site?” Blake Webb from George Smitherman’s office was not in attendance, but Tom Davidson reported on behalf of the City.

First Parliament Site (FPS) is the site of the first Parliament of Canada. It was constructed in the 1790’s and it was burned to the ground by the Americans in the War of 1812. The City built over it completely. The location is just west of Parliament Street, above Parliament Square Park. An archaeological dig in recent years confirmed its presence.

The City and Province sought to gain ownership of the land for a heritage site. The City already owned one parcel of the land, a parking lot. The Ontario Government acquired from private owners two other parcels of land surrounding the site that were being developed into a Porsche dealership and a carpet factory. Through a land swap the Porsche dealership will be built in the Donlands. The three parcels are now in the hands of the Ontario Heritage Trust, to establish a heritage interpretation site for the FPS. The fourth and last parcel is the actual location of the Parliament buildings. It is still privately owned and has on it a car wash and car rental. Negotiations continue.

Local groups, particularly the Citizens for Old Town, have already conducted research on making the land a heritage site, and once the final parcel of land is available, public consultations will resume. Studies have established four priorities:

1. the site would be publicly accessible and open to everyone

2. the site would have a significant and meaningful heritage interpretation component to it, whether an actual building or a proper heritage plaquing of the area

3. the site will be connected with green space to the park on the south

4. surface parking on the site will be compensated for offsite in order not to lose parking capacity, and so that the site will be dedicated to green space and heritage interpretation.

Stig Harvor pointed out that the City was on the verge of buying the FPS but was derailed by Toronto’s amalgamation into a megacity. Both processes and finances were lost when services were downloaded from the Province onto the City. “This city does not have the money to do the things we need until the Province will again upload social housing and some other services that we now have to pay for.” Delegates applauded.

President Paul Smith said that Tom Davidson and Blake Webb will be asked to report a timeframe for the FPS to the SLNA at the October SLNA Delegates meeting.

Tom Davidson then responded to Delegates’ questions, on behalf of Councillor Pam McConnell’s office.

In response to Sherri Russell, Tom explained that Sobeys is building a number of stores across the city. The proposed site at Princess and Front Streets will take more time because they need approval of a site plan application through the City’s Planning Department. The store will use the existing warehouse.

Ronny Yaron expressed concern that the City's purchase of a landfill site near London will reduce people's incentive to recycle. Tom described the purchase as an interim measure only. Twelve consultations and meetings are taking place regarding recycling. He will send a list of the scheduled meetings to the SLNA for distribution to Delegates. The City also has speakers who will respond to invitations to speak to residential buildings about composting and recycling.

In response to Cherril Baker, Tom clarified that last year the City passed a policy to impose a levy for garbage in multi-unit residences, based on the average amount of garbage a unit is expected to produce. Pam McConnell voted against it as she believed more preliminary preparation and notification was necessary. The policy has been deferred for at least one year, to summer 2007.

In response to Karl Froehr, Tom will determine Pam McConnell's opinion on the Gardiner Expressway, and report back at the next meeting.

In response to Sandra Walker, Tom explained that the composting program is being developed in stages throughout the city, in Etobicoke, Scarborough, North York, then City of Toronto's Old Town. The overall diversion rate to landfills has decreased significantly. A pilot project for composting in highrise buildings is being implemented in the next few months.

In response to Catherine West who would like to use her own composting to fertilize her plants, Ben Marans of smartliving St. Lawrence will send information on vermi-composting. Catherine recommended that the City become involved on a large scale. In response to Cherril Baker, Tom stated that the City no longer provides worms for composting. Dan O'Leary of the SLNA's Gardening Committee offered to supply worms to interested persons.

In response to Ronny Yaron, Tom confirmed that the City will not charge an extra levy for garbage exceeding two bags as of this fall.

The Chair thanked Tom Davidson for his report.

7. The Meaning of "Green" — Ben Marans of smartliving St. Lawrence

The Chair reminded Delegates that no other neighbourhood in the city has a smartliving program. Our former president Cam Miller introduced this in co-operation with Eneract, and Eneract hired Ben Marans as full-time Project Coordinator. Ben Marans is doing an outstanding job. Delegates applauded.

The Chair announced that last night the SLNA received an award from the City's Clean and Beautiful City Program for the smartliving St. Lawrence program. Dennis Glasgow applied for the award on behalf of the SLNA. Dan O'Leary led our campaign with a new Gardening Committee, which is doing outstanding work in the community finding

orphan spots and developing them into gardens. Ronny Yaron clarified that the SLNA received four awards for gardens in our neighbourhood.

Ben Marans then gave a PowerPoint presentation. Eneract oversees sustainability and energy efficiency projects. Smartliving St. Lawrence (SLSL) is a community sustainability program, one of Eneract's main programs. SLSL has been in operation for a little over a year. Cam Miller's original plan for an energy efficiency program grew into a community sustainability program with three pillars: community, environment, and

economy, contributing toward a healthy, vibrant community.

Programs include: a walking club for the St. Lawrence Seniors Club, community organic gardening (ex. Dan O’Leary’s children’s garden at the south end of Princess Street Park), a family/youth leadership camping program through SLCRC, youth initiative tree pit revitalization near Princess Park, a Butterfly Garden near the SLCRC by the basketball court, an environmentally friendly EcoShed in Princess Park for community gardening tools, nutrition education, a Cool Shops Program which provides energy audits for small businesses, GreenTbiz which provides energy retrofits for small businesses, a speaker series to support Toronto Dollar, assistance to Old Town Toronto Alliance which has a website directory for the community at oldtowntoronto1793.com, working with residences to find ways to reduce energy and water consumption, solar panel energy and thermal insulation for SLCRC’s pool, AutoShare (\$50 driving credit for all residents in the SLNA who sign up to rent a car by the hour; annual membership fees halved recently to \$250), and a free bike maintenance workshop this summer.

Smartliving St. Lawrence is always seeking to build partnerships with community organizations and is always looking for volunteers in the community.

A new resource guide will cover about 16 areas that individuals or buildings can look into to reduce costs and protect the environment. Ben will bring copies to the next meeting.

Ben described himself as a community resource. He is happy to give presentations and answer questions at meetings of committees, managers and Boards. He recommended that all buildings establish a Conservation Committee/Green Committee.

SLSL has a monthly electronic newsletter; hard copies are also available. It gives updates on events and tips on energy and water conservation programs.

Ben aims to attend every SLNA meeting and give updates on SLSL’s activities. His contact information is: (416) 488-3966, ben@smartliving.ca, www.smartliving.ca/stlawrence.

Karl Froehr invited Ben Marans to have an information table at the Volunteer fair at Windmill Line Co-op’s Elections GMM in October.

In response to Ronny Yaron, Ben advised that SLSL’s funding ends in part this year, and in full next August. The stakeholders are seeking additional funding to make the program sustainable, as it will take 5-7 years to see results in the community. The Toronto Atmospheric Fund and the Trillium Foundation are the current funders.

Ronny Yaron announced that City Hall is holding a Green Toronto Festival this Friday. She distributed flyers for Delegates to post in their buildings.

Delegates applauded Ben Marans’ presentation.

8. What the SLNA Expects of Its Delegates — Ronny Yaron

Ronny Yaron described the SLN as both one community and many different communities. The SLNA can report to its membership many neighbourhood initiatives, but the other half of

the equation is to have as full and representative a membership as possible, to include the whole community. She strongly

recommended increasing the number of members in the SLNA.

Ronny pointed out that the Delegates Code of Conduct was printed on the back of agenda.

Ronny explained that Delegates are present on behalf of their housing complex, whether Co-op or condo or freehold house: "You represent a group." The SLNA gives Delegates information to take back to their buildings. Ronny noted that when she has visited local residences, she has not seen posted the notices distributed at SLNA meetings. She strongly

recommended that Delegates convey the SLNA's information to their residences, and perhaps give regular reports at Board meetings or general meetings of residents, to keep all members of the community advised.

Ronny welcomed suggestions for how Delegates might carry SLNA news back to their buildings. Joan Campbell recommended reporting SLNA news in building newsletters. Ronny suggested sending SLNA email reports onward in email trees, and noted that Councillor Pam McConnell's regular newsletter is full of community information.

9. Opportunities for Involvement — Paul Smith and Ronny Yaron

a) Internal committees

SLNA internal committees open to volunteers include:

Administrative Committee: a kind of Secretariat for the Corporate Secretary. The Chair noted that George Brown College is making available free administrative courses for four SLNA members, which could start in the January term. Delegates will be sent an email inviting them to apply.

Communications Committee: this group maintains the SLNA's website and other communications.

At the request of Aurie Hensman, the Chair acknowledged that the SLNA should review the SLNA's By-laws again as it has not been done so in several years.

Development Committee: monitors new building projects in the neighbourhood from the design stages through completion, works with engineers to ensure that new buildings fit the neighbourhood, and works with the Community Design Guidelines.

Financial Committee: a Fundraising Subcommittee is being developed under the Financial Committee to raise "serious money" for the SLNA

Seniors Committee: is looking for a space for a seniors' centre in the community.

Neighbourhood Beautification Committee: a gardening committee headed by Dan O'Leary.

Canada Day Celebration: organized by Conny Yang. Volunteers are welcome to help plan next year's celebration.

Community Events Committee: organizes events.

Edward Nixon has volunteered to organize this year's Volunteer Awards. Nominations are due November 15; Awards Day is December 15 at the St. Lawrence Market. Nomination forms are available at www.oldtowntoronto1793.com and www.slna.ca.

The Chair reminded Delegates that tomorrow is the Gala opening night for the CommFest

Community Festival.

b) External committees

Delegates received on arrival a listing of various associations and community groups with which the SLNA is affiliated. Paul Smith and Ronny Yaron reported that the SLNA is considering appointing Delegates and Alternates from the SLNA to each external group. Elections might be held for positions if multiple people are interested. Delegates might consider attending one or two meetings of a group in which they are interested, to see whether they would like to volunteer for it.

Ronny advised that the Toronto Drug Strategy should be excluded from the list of external groups as the SLNA was not one of the community groups selected by Councillor Kyle Rae to be represented on that task force.

Motion: that the President should write a letter to Kyle Rae, requesting that the SLNA have representation at the Toronto Drug

Strategy--Neighbourhood Strategies Working Group.

Moved by: Terry Eitel

Seconded by: Cherril Baker

Frank Burns called the question.

CARRIED

Alan Seymour pointed out that Citizens for Old Town has no projects to work on at this time but will rejuvenate when the First Parliament Site becomes viable as a heritage site. He therefore suggested that it does not need a Delegate from the SLNA.

Ronny Yaron advised that she will email to Delegates an amended list. At the next SLNA Delegates meeting Delegates will be invited to discuss the list further and volunteer for positions.

c) Changes in the Executive Committee — Paul Smith

Diane Hollingsworth, elected for VP Internal at the AGM in March 2006, has resigned. The Executive Committee recommends Ronny Yaron to fill the position until the next AGM meeting.

Motion: that the SLNA choose Ronny Yaron as VP Internal until the 2007 elections.

Moved by: Frank Burns

Seconded by: Wally Simpson

Carried, one abstention

A Director-at-large position is open. The Executive Committee recommends Ani Kounavis fill the position until the 2007 elections.

Motion: that the SLNA choose Ani Kounavis as Director-at-large until the 2007 elections.

Moved by: Joan Campbell

Seconded by: Frank Burns

CARRIED

d) Developments — Frank Burns

Frank Burns of the SLNA's Development Committee reported.

406 Adelaide Street East the block between Sherbourne and Ontario Streets, at the T-

junction with Princess Street, currently a parking lot: An application has been made to the City to develop the site into a 29 storey tower including a 5-storey podium. Zoning allows only 26 metres (about 8 storeys) and the

developers are not following stepback rules. The City's Planning Department is obligated to hold a public meeting, then foster a working group.

Southwest corner of Jarvis & The Esplanade: Developers of the proposed Shoppers Drug Mart might prefer to open a new dialogue with the community for a mixed-use development rather than appeal to the OMB to approve its existing plan.

275 King Street East: Representatives of the SLNA's Development Committee attended a meeting and were sharply reprimanded for not keeping motions consistent and material up to date, so from now on the committee will ensure its presentations are backed up by the SLNA. The problem arises that often the hard bargaining does not start until right before the meeting. A possible solution is an e-vote, but not all Delegates have email, so perhaps Delegates without email could be linked with Delegates who do, as a communications tree. Through this method, hopefully within one day the Development Committee can have an

SLNA Delegates' decision when urgently needed.

Princess & Front Streets: the Sobeys development might be a back door way of introducing another box store into our neighbourhood. We are reduced to begging for an audience to look at the plan and we hope to get input on a site plan review. Do we want amenities? To go forward, the committee requires a vote.

Gardiner Expressway: tearing down the Gardiner to open up access to East/Bay/Front is nonsense, because a railroad viaduct obstructs the same path as the expressway, even more so as it is at ground level. The planners have suggested as an alternative to the Gardiner Expressway two one-way streets with five lanes. This would move throughway streets closer to our neighbourhood and will increase particulate matter in the air.

Front/Church/Esplanade: the developers of the Five Corners building are now before the OMB requesting approval for development.

10. Community Fund Projects Update – Ronny Yaron

Ronny Yaron reported on one success story for the SLNA's 2006 Community Fund grants to local community organizations. She recently attended a soccer game organized by the

SLCRC and found it to be a large event with many volunteers, including parents, and great uniforms for the kids. "We did well to support them," she said.

11. Other Business

a) Park - Sylvia Grimson

Sylvia Grimson proposed that as part of the skating rink initiative discussed at the last SLNA Delegates meeting, a bandshell be established at the site (in Crombie Park where

the basketball court is located), with a roof and railing and 3-4 steps, so that we could enjoy summer games and music.

b) Fair Vote Ontario - Tim Rourke

Tim Rourke reported that the Province has convened a Citizens' Assembly, one for each riding in the province, to discuss how to

change the voting system for proportional representation. A speakers' bureau is trying to bypass a media blackout to inform people. Tim

asked to give a presentation. The Chair is developing a list of themes for SLNA

Delegates meetings and offered to get back to him.

c) Buskerfest - Marcus Little

Marcus Little reported that the recent street festival Buskerfest was noisy until well into the evenings. There are five residential buildings in the vicinity of St. Lawrence Market where the event was held. He asked the SLNA to support in principle reduced noise at the event in the future. The Chair accepted Frank Burns' proposal that the SLNA mediate with the organizers directly rather than write a letter of

objection. The SLNA's Noise Committee and President will follow up.

Alan Seymour, Chair of the Market Lane Park Steering Committee, asked that noise complaints be reported to the group, as this is the first complaint he has heard about Buskerfest.

c) Handicap Issues

At the request of Karl Froehr, speaking on behalf of a neighbour of his in Windmill Line Co-op, the Chair promised that the SLNA

would address issues of concern for the handicapped in the neighbourhood.

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Ronny Yaron thanked everyone who helped to set up the meeting.

The SLNA acknowledges the St. Lawrence Market Complex for sponsoring this evening's refreshments, and OWN for providing the meeting space.

The next Delegates meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2006, at 7:00 pm.

President

Corporate Secretary