

SLNA Delegates Meeting Minutes

May 31, 2017

1. Welcome and Introductions: A quorum existed the meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m. by Chair, Elisabete Way.
2. Approval of Agenda: moved by Keith Duncan, seconded by Don James. Carried.
3. Approval of April 26th Minutes: moved by Peter Tomlinson, seconded Louise Murdoch. Carried.
4. **Metrolinx Presentation:**
Manuel Pedrosa of Metrolinx (Manager) delivered a presentation that provided an overview of Metrolinx plans for adding tracks in the local railroad corridor extending from lower Don trail west to Union and north to Richmond Hill.

Expansion is to help accommodate more trains and enhance goal of providing 15-minute service for GO patrons. This work is part of a more comprehensive 25-year plan to increase capacity and improve service.

The GTHA (Greater Toronto/Hamilton Area) regional express rail will move from Diesel service to electrified service.

Sherbourne and Jarvis bridges will be widened to accommodate extra tracks. Metrolinx is focused on creating a seamless coordination between Gardiner work and Don Lands rail expansion which includes the new station - New Harbour - located in the Unilever development.

Among the biggest impacts will be the removal of trees/vegetation. Efforts will be made to minimize this impact and put back as much trees, etc., as possible. Other issues associated with this work:

- Road impacts
- Noise and lights - overnight work has to be done but again efforts will be made to minimize these impacts
- Potential graffiti challenges on new infrastructure such as retaining walls.

For updates on work and timing visit:

1. www.Metrolinx.com/unionstationeast send question via email to: unionstationeast@metrolinx.com - sign up to get project/meeting updates

Delegate Questions:

Why is Metrolinx spending so much money putting in infrastructure when there are trains used in European countries that do not require extensive infrastructure (they are powered by batteries). Metrolinx explained that they investigated options to electrification but did not see options that could be approved given requirements in our region.

What is Metrolinx going to do to address the pedestrian experience walking under dark bridges that will now be even bigger with these expanded rails? Metrolinx explained that lighting is an option that they are considering. They are also considering splaying the interior walls of each bridge. It was suggested that Metrolinx involve artists.

What is the time line for completion of this work? Metrolinx will be wrapping up the assessment work by the end of the year. It is expected that construction should be completed in 2019.

What will happen to the recreational trail at the Lakeshore/DVP? Metrolinx is coordinating with work happening there and trying to coordinate with the city to actually improve the trail.

How will Metrolinx do this work without impeding local traffic? There are no staging details yet but this is an issue that will be considered. Metrolinx will be marrying their program with the city's plans to determine the most logical way of staging/timing work. Residents will know the plan months ahead of time.

5. **51 Division CPLC: Community and Bike Safety Presentation**

SLNA delegate Don James introduced Staff Sergeant Peter Troupe who is in charge of the 51 Division Community Response Unit; Auxiliary Staff Sergeant Edison and; Troy Ford, Parks Ambassador with Parks & Recreation.

Follow on Twitter - @TPSAux51Div - keep in touch with D51.

The presentation started with Staff Sergeant Peter Troupe.

1. Once a month CPLC meet to discuss various issues - Don James is the community rep on this community. Don informs the police on various issues in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood.
2. To address current budget constraints, Toronto Police Services is in the process of streamlining calls for service - e.g. crossing guards are supervised by police officers making approx. \$100K per year. Hoping to have crossing guards supervised by a private service instead. Lifeguards are managed by the Toronto police - too expensive to run this way - another group could manage Lifeguards. The goal is to have police dealing with the most important calls.
3. Right now they are calling the new configuration for special response the Public Safety Response Team (PSRT) 64 officers - started May 1. Rigorous recruitment process - focus on community awareness abilities. They will be directed across the city - mandated to focus community engagement. Trained to deal with extreme events - natural disasters, terrorism, crowd management, search management for missing and vulnerable people
4. PSRT will be deployed on a daily basis for patrols. Staff Sergeant Troupe explained that the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood is a very cooperative neighbourhood - residents will make complaints, send pictures, etc. to the police to address problems that they witness. There are a very few people that cause most of the problems in this area.
5. Major crime units are in every division in Toronto. Residential Support Unit - 6 extra officers and a detective - covering 51 division and two others downtown. They take burden off of existing officers at 51 and other divisions.

6. Ultimately Toronto Police Services is trying to get by with less officers through streamlining and more efficient services. The goal is to become more affordable to the tax payer and more efficient in response.

Auxiliary Staff Sergeant Edison discussed the Auxiliary Program - around since 1957 - arose out of a need for help during an ice storm. 50 years later the police auxiliary program is an integrated part of the Police Service.

7. Community Ambassadors (often on bikes) are here to bridge between the community and the Police Service. Over 340 volunteers. Each year about 60-70 new members are brought into the program.
8. 11 auxiliary officers on the 51 Division Team.
9. 51 Division - Auxiliary officers gave 2,676 hours to the Service last year.
10. Average of 175 hours per month. Peak month is July - because that is when summer activities happen. In this neighbourhood the Pride Festival happens in July.
11. Community based initiatives - Cabbagetown Festival, Forsythia Festival, D51 Open House, Regent Park BBQ, National Peace Officers
12. Delegate Question: Market Street north - park has been taken over by homeless people - threatening to older female seniors. Sergeant Troop explained that his officers are through the park daily but due to the proximity to the liquor store and tourists the area can attract troublesome individuals.
13. Cram-a-Cruiser - helping the community with their needs - parked at Metro, Freshco, Loblaws. This Saturday June 3 at Loblaws from 12-4 pm (food drives). Goal trying to have a Cram-a-Cruiser every 2 months.

Troy Ford - Parks ambassador for Parks and Recreation. 2003 City of Toronto invested in a Parks Ambassador position to service Bathurst to Don Valley, Bloor to the Waterfront.

14. Parks Ambassadors try to get outreach workers to work with homeless people in parks and have the authority to remove people under trespassing laws. Contact Troy Ford at 416-771-3042 cell or call 311 if you have any questions or concerns.
15. Increase of needles in park - park ambassador staff are cleaning them up. Delegates were encouraged to call Park Ambassadors for needle issues and people sleeping in the park.

Questions/requests

Ian Morrison (Spire Condo at Adelaide and Church) explained that someone from 51 Division had spoken to residents in his building about ways to improve areas of the condo that were found to be unsafe. Can this presentation be shared with other resident groups? Sergeant Troupe explained that there is a department within 51 that looks at ways to improve building safety called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) - contact Sergeant Troop (email info on website) and he can provide further information. You can also download a complaint form from the website and submitted it.

6. Board Update

1. New website up - there are some glitches that the board is currently assessing and will be coordinating fixes with the webmaster in the coming weeks.
2. Send feedback about the website to board@slna.ca
3. Heritage Conservation District Mediation - starts Sept. 25
4. Canada Day: Volunteers are needed - contact Cherril or Jacquie Williams.
5. Canada Day Parade starts at Crombie Park along the Esplanade, moves up Church, along King to St. James Park - opening ceremony starts at 12 p.m. Events run from 12 - 4 pm. There will be 3 live bands, face painting, puppeteers - Jim and the Beanstalk, Young Peoples' Theatre will be doing something, and many other cultural and heritage groups will be hosting activities throughout the day. Posters will be posted to the website in the coming weeks.

BIA Update (Ashley Varajao)

- i. June 1 - concert in St. James Park - Lemon Bucket Orchestra and BBQ hosted by St. Lawrence Market vendors. See flyer or website.
- ii. Flyers were shared with delegates about concerts and free movies in St. James Park - information will be posted to the website and shared with SLNA members via email.
- iii. Berczy Beats - every Wednesday there will be musicians in the park performing between 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Security will be in the park at this time.
- iv. June 28 - Berczy Park grand opening - 3 pm - 7 pm
- v. Streetscaping - plant hangings are up - in the process of planting perennials.

Jamii Update

- On June 27 Canada's Multicultural Day - Jamii will be hosting a celebration in the park 5 pm to 9 p.m. - Crombie Park - Sherbourne and The Esplanade
- June 17 Jamii will host movie night on The Esplanade - small concert before movie

Development Committee Update

- vi. May 26 - OMB granted participation status for 301 Queen St. East - proposal is for 26 stories but developer is open to beginning discussions and would like to avoid any hearings.
- vii. June 6 - Toronto Waterfront will be having a Town Hall meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, location George Brown College on the Waterfront (near the Corus building). Information will be posted to the website.

Councillors' Office Update

Tom Davidson could not attend the meeting, so Elisabete Way provided the update:

- **Heritage Buildings:** Council has now adopted a motion requesting reports on protecting heritage buildings. A heritage survey is underway for all heritage structures across the city that are of value. Any areas or buildings under threat may be protected under the Ontario Heritage Act and through the City's process for demolition permits.
- **Air BnB & Rental Shortages:** Discussion of regulating short term rentals will soon be before Council. On June 14 Licensing & Standards Committee will discuss and vote on a new regulatory framework. City Council will consider the item on July 7/8.
- **OMB Review - The Local Planning Tribunal Act 2017 (LPTA)** is enacted. The new Act continues the OMB under the name LPTA and repeals the Ontario Municipal Board Act. Many provisions in the new Act and the old Act are substantively the same. The new Act lists types of rules that the Tribunal may make regarding its practices and procedures and specifies certain powers of the Tribunal regarding proceedings.

As of May 3 the City of Toronto has established the Toronto Local Appeal Board (TLAB) that will replace the function of the OMB pertaining to minor variances and consent applications.

To find out more and comment on this legislation - www.ontario.ca/ombreview and www.ontla.on.ca.

6. **Other business:**

- Request that SLNA board consider asking the BIA to implement a graffiti abatement program like a number of other BIAs.
7. St. Lawrence Library Branch Events: Tea and Books - Wed. June 21 at 2 p.m. and celebrating local wordsmiths on June 27 at 7 p.m. (Ann Marie Woods).
 8. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Doug Fairbank, seconded Judith