



ST. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting

Held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from 7 – 9:30 p.m.

Hosted on the Zoom Videoconference Platform

Welcome and Board Update - Stewart Linton, President

In his welcome to the community members Stewart acknowledged the difficulties we are all facing in light of the current Covid 19 situation and expressed his hope that we will be able to sustain social respect and political courage in the months to come.

The following MOTION was approved by the SLNA Delegates:

Due to the delay in holding the elections for Directors in 2020, be it resolved that terms for the Directors elected at the October 2020 AGM be extended for 5 months, so that terms will begin expiring in March 2022, to align with our historical AGM date.

Update on Community Policing - Staff Sergeant Todd Gowan

Staff Sergeant Gowan brought greetings from his colleagues and explained that the Community Response Unit for which he is responsible is 50 people strong, which sounds like a large number, but he stressed that it is always a struggle for officers to be where they are needed the most. Daily meetings are held, as well as a weekly Crime Management Meeting to assess what has happened during the previous week, jointly with people within the division and other partners.

He also talked about the fact that the neighbourhood programming will be augmented with new officers, there is no confirmation on numbers as yet. There will be designated officers specifically for our neighbourhood and this will allow them to get to know the neighbourhood and our specific issues. There will also be an email address unique to our community with an email access point which will allow residents to report ongoing issues of concern rather than simply using it for reporting a crime.

Regarding the Foundry issue and the protest, Staff Sergeant Gowan stressed that the role of the policy service is to keep the peace and keep everyone safe, and certainly peaceful protest is not an issue. He also mentioned that the police service has grappled with the current Covid situation to the same degree as the general community and he urged everyone to comply with the health measures that are currently in place.

The other issue of concern is encampments and tents and possible problems that may arise from this. He stressed that this is a social issue - people are experiencing homelessness - and once again the role of the police is to keep the peace. They don't want to criminalize someone for being homeless. Of course actual crime should still be reported and there is an infographic available which will be made available to us within the next few days which clearly lays out the communication process.

Neighbourhood Officer Program - Sergeant Henry Dyck

Sergeant Dyck reported that there will likely be four officers and ongoing funding and commitment from both the Policy Service and the City. These officers will be dedicated solely to your community, and this has worked very successfully in other neighbourhoods. The neighbourhood community officers will also work with over 100 social service agencies in the area. The officers will "own the geography" i.e. they will be dedicated solely to this community. In answer to a community member's question - the metrics for success are reduction in crime and disorder.

A SLNA community member asked Staff Sergeant Gowan for assistance. She is part of a group called "Friends of Berczy Park". There is a blue tent in the Park in an area heavily used by dog owners, and they are at a loss as to how to remove the tent. Staff Sergeant Gowan passed this concern on to their city partners, i.e. the Park Ambassador and the people dealing with embankments.

In response to a community member's question on how one should deal with a clearly crime related issue such as drugs being sold in Market Lane, Park Staff Sergeant Gowan provided a **phone number to call - 416-808-5119** - leaving a name and return call number and clearly describing the area of concern. He urged community members not to respond to scam calls,

scam emails or pop-ups and mentioned that the RCMP has an Anti-Fraud Centre listed on their website.

Suzanne Kavanagh, Chair of SLNA Development Committee - UPDATES

The Development Committee meets on the first Thursday of every month with City planning staff and any Development applicants. Their last meeting was on January 7 and involved the first round of **applications for 234 King Street**. The developer is Emblem Properties. They are asking for a 40 storey tower, with a floor plate of 821 sq.m. The Tall Building Guidelines list 750 q.m. Amongst other concerns, the brick is very dark. The Committee's recommendation to the planner is to consider more of a mid-block size application. This is also an opportunity to work with the BIA and enhance the public realm along King and Princess Streets.

55 Yonge Street, corner of Yonge and Colborne. The entire building will be demolished. They want to use the existing footprint, but the Committee feels that there is an opportunity to step back and create a smaller footprint and wider sidewalks, given that the sidewalk is very busy. The application has not been received as yet. They are aiming for the building to be mixed use, 10 storey office with residential use on top. The architectural firms are Quadrangle and Partisan.

First Parliament Site

Link for First Parliament Site - City of Toronto - <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/venues-facilities-bookings/booking-city-facilities/first-parliament-project/>

Suzanne provided some history on this legacy project, a stop/start project, so to speak, which was started several years ago. The site is fronting on Front Street and Parliament, The library used to have their distribution centre on the South-East corner on Parliament and Front which was owned by the City and the other side of the block on the South-West corner was owned privately. Former Councillor Pam McConnell was instrumental in working on what was called a land swap. At the time a working group was struck, made up of different stakeholders. The idea was to work with Ontario Heritage Trust which currently owns the corner of the Infinity Dealership at Berkeley and Front.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-councillors-warn-first-parliament-area-not-for-sale-as-province-seeks-to-seize-historic-site-1.5883018>

We are now in a holding pattern. Metrolinx was going to use the site as their staging area, i.e. where they would bring in all of their equipment, and then it was discovered that it was also going to be the entry point for tunnel boring. We now know that Metrolinx wishes to expropriate the land in perpetuity. The Councillor's office has talked about next steps, and the press is interested.

[.https://www.slna.ca/first-parliament-site.html](https://www.slna.ca/first-parliament-site.html)

Dominion Wheel and Foundries Heritage Site

A Ministerial Zoning Order was ordered by the Province to redevelop the site upon which stands the Dominion Wheels and Foundries Company buildings. Suzanne reported that it is believed that three towers are planned for this site, one 18 storeys, one 34, one 40, and that the 18 storeys tower is designated for inclusion of a number of "affordable" suites. It is not clear if these suites are condos (units for purchase) or rentals. On January 14, nearby residents reported trucks on the site and screening being installed to prepare for demolition. Residents/Friends of the Foundry contacted the city councillor and discovered that a firm called Quantum Murray was on site and responded to residents' questions that they have been contracted to raze the entire site by the end of March.

The Friends of the Foundry started the petition "Save the Foundry". In order to file an injunction the group needed to apply through a neighbourhood association that was incorporated. Fortunately it was possible to file through the SLNA. Development Chair (and former SLNA President) Suzanne Kavanagh has put her name on the affidavit and the SLNA is the applicant of record. A Go Fund Me site was launched to cover legal fees and, to date over 20,000 have signed the petition and over \$20,000 has been raised.

www.friendsofthefoundry.ca

SLMNBIA - Robyn Posner

Robyn reported on the great success of an Incentive Program run by the BIA called Shop Old Toronto which ran for six weeks, whereby the lucky winner(s) shared \$1,000 in prize money. The purchaser received \$500, and the vendor received \$500, and the draw was held once a week. The program helped many small businesses to remain open during this challenging period. The prize money was generously funded by our local BMO at King and Church.

Robyn was happy to report that we are able to offer the Shop Old Toronto incentive program again, this time for eight weeks, until April 5, and there will be a grand prize of \$2,000.

Ward 13 - Edward LaRusic

First Parliament update - the City has been notified by the province of its intention to expropriate the site to support transit development planned by Metrolinx (re: the Ontario Line subway). The Councillor's office will speak to Metrolinx about their objectives and hope to have more information soon. Currently Councillors and staff are engaged in budget consultations and planning work. There is a page listed on the Ward 13 website which will allow the public to learn about the budget process and build their own budget, please go to <https://makingcents.ethelo.net/page/welcome>

Ward 10 - Tom Davidson

The advent of a community-based police presence is very valuable. The Executive Committee going towards City Council is funding the framework for another aspect of work which is crisis response. Crisis calls relating to mental health can be addressed with community support based action rather than police action. This is an entry point to a city-wide model that can be utilized afterwards. The David Crombie Park revitalization first phase funding has been put in the city budget and the procurement process will be beginning and working groups will reconvene. Studies for the Bike lane Project are progressing.

Toronto Centre - Suze Morrison

In response to a community question - MPP Morrison repeated commentary shared by the opposition NDP party which asserts that the province is holding onto \$9 billion in COVID-related funding.

The next SLNA Community Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24.