



St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting

Held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Hosted on the Zoom Videoconferencing Platform

SLNA President Stewart Linton welcomed all community members and delegates to the January 2022 SLNA Community Meeting.

Delegate Follow-up Report on Graffiti – Chris Ellis, District Manager, Investigation Services, City of Toronto

Investigation Services include a very wide range of topics such as Property Services, Waste, Graffiti and Assistance to Tenants. Simi Dhillon, Supervisor with Municipal Licensing and Standards delivered a power point presentation on graffiti and how the City deals with graffiti vandalism from a Bylaws perspective. Graffiti is a deliberate type of art genre that can be described as Deliberate Markings and Public View. There is graffiti vandalism and graffiti art. Graffiti Vandalism is described as a) any deliberate markings made or affixed without the permission by the owner, b) considered to be a tag by the Executive Director of MLS, c) incites hatred/violence, or d) contains profane, vulgar or offensive language. Municipal Licensing and Standards uses either the graffiti bylaw or the property standards bylaw, the graffiti bylaw is much more extensively used.

Graffiti complaints are first submitted to 311, then sent to the appropriate team and then assigned to an officer. Before an officer attends to conduct an inspection the City sends a Graffiti Advisory letter as a courtesy to make the property owner aware that there is graffiti on their property. The property owner is required to remove the graffiti. The officer then waits a

minimum of 10 days before conducting an inspection. Once the inspection of vandalism is conducted they will determine whether or not there is graffiti on the property. If so the officer will take photos of the violation and issues a Notice of Violation, a legal document which outlines where the violation is located on the property, and a compliance date. A notice is served by registered mail as well as taped to the front door of the property. 14 – 30 days are given for compliance.

In order to achieve compliance it is necessary to remove or clear the graffiti from the property. They could also apply for a graffiti exemption through the graffiti panel or the Executive Director of MLS. They would determine whether the graffiti could be considered as graffiti art.

If there is non-compliance there will be a re-inspection fee, followed by city remedial action whereby the city would have their city contractor attend the property to have the graffiti removed with the cost applied to their property taxes.

There is also “Hateful Graffiti”, inciting hatred or violence against a person or group, which takes precedence over regular street graffiti and becomes an urgent matter. It will be inspected within 24 hours and is required to be removed immediately.

Preventative measures are removing the graffiti as soon as possible, increasing security, installing cameras, and planting climbing vines. Certain graffiti can also be turned into graffiti art through turning it into murals. Street ARToronto (START) will work with property owners in that regard, separately from MLS.

There was a question from the audience about heritage properties at 110 Lombard Street and 82 Church Street, and Chris Ellis offered to discuss this after review.

You can contact Chris Ellis at 416-392-7735 or christopher.ellis@toronto.ca.

Community Outreach In Times Of Covid – Kathy Biasi, Outreach Manager at St. James Cathedral

Kathy oversees not only the drop-in but other kinds of outreach, such as connecting and partnering with other agencies. She tries to connect the church to what’s happening in the area. Collaboration and partnerships are important to their running their Drop-in effectively, and donations are necessary to keep them going. They have been operating for 27 years. In 2019, before the epidemic, they served well over 10,000 healthy meals in a sit-down environment. The church subsidizes a Foodshare Good Food Box Program, and subsidized 723 boxes in 2019. Other services provided were a Street Health Nurses Clinic staffed by a nurse practitioner to do health checks, Foot care, Haircuts, and provision of emergency clothing and

personal care items. The choice of attending Bible Study was offered as well. Most importantly, it is a safe place to visit and create community. 100% of the guests are over 30, with 60% over 60, it is definitely an older crowd.

Of course things have changed at this point. All indoor programming has stopped, and food service, while available, is take-out only. They opened 2 days a week starting on Good Friday in 2020. There is a huge catering kitchen which allowed them to do the work that needed to be done. Meals are always fresh and nutritious. All the protocols were put into place, going by the mandate of the Anglican Church. During covid the numbers went down, covid has impacted older people in particular, living alone, and often with underlying health issues.

The number of volunteers had to be cut down from 25 a day to about 10 per day, running a kitchen and serving food, and they stayed open during the pandemic, the guests were very happy about that. In the summer, with the air conditioning running, St. James serve as many as 150 – 200 meals per day, and that has been drastically reduced to 65 to 70 a day. Getting PPE for the volunteers was difficult since it is quite expensive, and there was of course hands-on training for the volunteers. The Toronto Drop-In Network have been very supportive, they brought in PPE stock, take-out containers and other items, including water. Everybody was given a bottle of water every day, having that bottle which can be refilled is a benefit for the guests. For Christmas they received blankets from a Holiday Inn that closed up, so they could give them out for Christmas. Many individuals donated food and funds to buy meals. Second Harvest deliver food for free, everybody is offered a glass of milk, and they make coffee and tea to keep them warm. There is always a choice of a vegetarian meal as well. The current time slot for meals is Fridays, 1:30 – 3:30.

They hosted four vaccination clinics on site and through those vaccination clinics are able to also offer health checks. There is a bi-weekly delivery of masks and there are test kits available. They were able to celebrate Christmas with the help of donations, and hope to hold the festivities inside next year. They are presently running a foot clinic with a chiropodist whose services are paid for through a donation. In response to a question from the audience Kathy said that gently used shoes and boots would be most needed and helpful, as well as underwear, those are their biggest needs. Larger sizes for men and women would be appreciated.

Kathy is usually there three or four days a week. If anyone wishes to drop donations off on one of the days Kathy is at her workplace, the door at 65 Church is open and you can wait in the adjacent vestibule and give Kathy a call at 416-658-7638 – she'll likely be in the kitchen.

Update on the St. Lawrence Heritage Conservation District – Suzanne Kavanagh

Heritage is a part of this community and unique to our neighbourhood. Suzanne introduced the members of the Heritage Committee: Peter Tomlinson, Ian Morrison, Marcus Little, Kristine Morris, Renate Tilson (Board Liaison), adding that the SLNA President is an ex officio member of all Committees and always welcome to attend the meetings.

Suzanne showed an image of the Dominion Wheel & Foundries Ltd. plaque attached to St. Lawrence Hall, paid for by the SLNA, which is one example of Heritage Interpretation and commemoration. It was a year ago that the SLNA engaged in legal action to stop the demolition of the Foundry in our neighbourhood. A further image shows another attempt at Heritage Interpretation in a new building going up at 65 King Street, the Google building, where Suzanne showed the original building next to the new one which attempts to mirror the roofline of the historical one in their lobby design.

Suzanne also showed several examples of “heritage lighting”, one of St. James Cathedral. St James Cathedral and the City collaborated in this specific heritage lighting project. A further example shown was the lighting of St. Lawrence Hall, a national historic site which was slated to be destroyed in 1967 but was saved through the influx of some centennial money in the same year and underwent some minor restoration. Presently the building is “dark” once again because of the construction of the North Market and no programming is presently taking place. It falls under the auspices of the St. Lawrence Complex under the stewardship of the City of Toronto and consists of the North Market and South Market, along with Market Lane Park and the current market tent.

Another slide shows the Old Shoreline, with the market in the background, juxtaposed with a new photo featuring brass footsteps. Something like this could be used for Heritage Shoreline Interpretation, some sort of demarcation leading from Parliament to Yonge.

A further image showed the St. Lawrence Hall bell and cupola. It has not rung for some time since the cupola requires work. It is part of the State of Good Repair, which is in the budget for the St. Lawrence Market Complex. Phase 1 will be to bring in an engineer to check out how the bell can ring without causing any damage to the cupola, and Phase 2 next year will be the actual ringing of the bell! Next year is the 40th anniversary of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, so this is perfect timing.

The next slide addressed the Heritage Conservation District, a project started in 2005. The information will be on the City of Toronto website and we will link it to the SLNA website when this is finalized. In 2005 we interviewed heritage architects to see if we could do this on our own, but then we had to stop everything because the Province was rewriting the Ontario

Heritage Act, causing the City to rewrite their terms of reference in this regard. In 2015 the process started again and the City hired heritage architects retained to walk us through the study and the plan and it was finalized and went to City Council for approval in December 2015. Fast forward to today – we finally got the decision in November 2019. Not quite what we wanted but sufficient to run with it. In July 2020 to now we have been refining it and it became law on November 15, 2021. A further image showed the current boundaries: It starts from Scott Street, over to Adelaide, down Berkeley, over to Front Street, down Jarvis, and then along The Esplanade.

The Heritage Committee will now also be the Heritage Conservation District Advisory Committee, working hand in hand with the City staff through Heritage Preservation Services to watch out for any heritage permits that come in.

Our next Heritage Committee meeting will be with Cabbagetown to discuss signage to walk us through how exactly do we do that. We need something to tell the story about what was here – not just the colonial piece but also the indigenous piece. The plaque program that we have been doing with along with Heritage Toronto is very important, and they are certainly interested in working with us. We are looking forward to celebrating our 40th anniversary.

Community Update – MPP Suze Morison, Toronto Centre

In terms of advocacy with the Provincial government MPP Morrison reports that a lot of their efforts have been directed at the Safe Return to School Plan, trying to advocate for appropriate PPE for staff and students, more rapid tests on site, and better reporting requirements. They have been trying to assure that the schools have all the support they need to keep the children safe.

If you are a small business owner right now please contact MPP Morrison's constituency office at 416-972-7683 to find out about renewed supports for small business.

The other big piece of concern the growing surgical backlog, particularly cancer surgeries are getting cancelled. She is personally familiar with an individual who was in an accident and had to wait two days for surgery with a broken back. The hospitals don't have enough nurses to staff the ORs. The norm of one patient/one nurse in ICU does not exist any longer. The Omicron wave is having a substantial impact on our health system, the resources are lacking at the moment.

Regarding legislative updates, MPP Morrison reports that they were able to bring the Gender Affirming Health Care Advisory bill forward for first and second reading in the fall, and it did pass second reading. This will create an advisory committee within the Ministry of Health to

improve gender affirming health care in Ontario. Two-spirit, transgender, non-binary, gender diverse, and intersex individuals continue to face significant challenges to accessing health care services that are friendly, competent and affirming. Far too many are fighting, waiting, and still not getting the care they need.

The other bill is the St. James Town Act which came about as a result of the fire at 650 Parliament Street a few years back in regards to the aging high rise infrastructure in our city, particularly in regard to rental buildings, in order to keep the residents safe. This bill had to be reintroduced but hopefully will pass soon. It reads:

To require that landlords set a portion of each month's rent aside for the purpose of maintaining their rental units, and require that landlords provide a partial refund of rent when they fail to meet their monetary obligations to their tenants.

They are also working on a Mask and Match program in their office. If you have high quality masks you can donate, such as N95 and KN95, please contact MPP Morrison's office and you will be helping vulnerable members in the community to be properly protected.

Community Updates – Stewart Linton

Stewart, please take those comments out once you have read them – with the best will in the world, without the images to look at some of the changes re Parliament site were impossible to convey, it just did not make sense. The only thing that was really clear was the following:

Expansion of Parkland – First Parliament Site Expansion from 810 sq m to 2,133 sq m

Market Lane Park – Comments on Options:

- Small space, start modestly
- Trees – replacement is not healthy, flexible plantings
- Strong indigenous place keeping at North end
- Interpretive elements, indigenous public art
- Water feature at South end
- Simple and consistent paving, activity zone
- Flexible, movable eating
- Flexible dark-sky lighting

SLNA Waste Reduction Group News

Donna Patterson announced that the Waste Reduction Group will be holding a one-day REmarket on **Thursday, February 10, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.** at the St. Lawrence Market Tent (125 the Esplanade at Market Street). This will be the third REmarket event.

They are collecting for the Salvation Army again this year – clothing, accessories, electronics, bedding, towels and books, and new this year, mobility aids such as canes, crutches, prosthetics and prosthetic socks. They are also collecting glasses for the Optic Zone who will be sending them overseas. Used pens will be delivered to Staples at Yonge & King and the new location at Richmond afterwards; they accept pens, ink, toners and used electronics. Email reduce@slna.ca if you have questions. Volunteers for the day will be appreciated, we will be outside the tent to take donations.

President Stewart Linton thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next SLNA Community Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.