



ST. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Community Meeting

**Held on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 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 November 2021 SLNA Community Meeting.

Board member Donna Patterson reminded the audience of an important exhibition of a Photo exhibit in front of the courtyard of the St. Lawrence Library, sponsored by Jamii. Over the years Jamii established a long-term relationship with the Pikangikum First Nation and the Photo Exhibit has been curated by 11 young women from the Esplanade community. “Illuminated Perspectives” portrays Pikangikum First Nation and its spectacular beauty. The photos capture the essence of northern wildlife and the people who live there.

Update – Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam acknowledged the presence of Felicity Campbell, her neighbourhood lead for the SLNA area. Councillor Wong-Tam attended a meeting at the Toronto East-York Community Council where the St. Lawrence market public realm master plan, originally created by the BIA several years ago and never adopted by Council, has become a part of the civic dialogue at City Hall. It will now be ongoing dialogue when new applicants and developers come in, wishing to build in the neighbourhood; the first thing they will be given is a document on how to make the streets more attractive. She is looking forward to what the Master Plan 2.0 will look like, and it will be developed by the BIA, with her office closely working with them. It will result in millions of dollars of new investment in the neighbourhood,

better quality streets, more landscaping and other improvements, but there has to be a critical path to get this done.

The other item discussed was the Transit Oriented Communities Report. SLNA is strongly represented in the many meetings held about the First Parliament plans, notably by Stewart Linton and Suzanne Kavanagh, eight meetings have been held in shaping this application but the broader community has not had a say in this. Councillor Wong-Tam is trying to put in a city planning process regarding the provincial lands so that the broader community can understand what is happening. It is important to build civic and capital investments with at least two thoughts: what is the equity impact, who is going to be benefitting and how is it going to be rolled out. Can we garner other community benefits in addition to parkland and civic improvements.

Councillor Wong-Tam hosted a Ward 13 Toronto Centre Ontario Line discussion, inviting significant stakeholders from the community, with an eye to coordinating what a Ward 13 Toronto Centre response would look like to the pending Ontario line construction. Councillors Fletcher and Cressy will be doing the same in their communities. When it comes to negotiating with the Province it is advantageous to have a larger voice.

The Café TO program has been approved again by Toronto Council, the fees will be waved one more time. Addressing small business owners, they are introducing in the 2022 budget a new item, a small business owners tax class. There should be a reduction in small business owners' property taxes of at least 15%.

Market Lane Park is yet to be finished and fully beautified but it is a beautiful space and will add so much to the neighbourhood. The situation at the Novotel Hotel has caused challenges in the neighbourhood with 300 residents in a small confined area, but given the pandemic it was probably the right step to take. In the long term Councillor Wong-Tam does not support the hotel being used for this purpose, her view is that we need all the hotels back in the city, they are critical to the downtown economic recovery. The Police Pilot project was widely successful. The Esplanade/Mill bikeway opening has been rolled out, and it will take a little while to iron out any problems, hopefully by next spring. The Winter Village Christmas Market at The Distillery District is back after being forced to take a break last year and they are offering different selections of service and experiences. If we bring back the festivals we bring back the culture, and ultimately bring back the city.

In regards to Café TO, a community member wonders how we can assure safety for residents sitting on the streets again, with relatively little protection. The response was that in order to make people feel safe and the space inviting the city will support business owners to landscape up and build up their surroundings, with perhaps more natural materials as opposed to jersey barriers.

There was a question about Wellington – is there a timeline for next year regarding start-up of reconstruction and will there be access to patios again. The intention is to start construction as early as possible and try to get everything done before the Café TO installation.

Thanks were expressed to Councillor Wong-Tam for all the work she and her staff have done for the community.

There was a further question about the death of a pedestrian in an area not directly in our neighbourhood, at Sherbourne and Dundas, related to construction sites. Is there a way to make that intersection in that area safer for the residents that live there, perhaps with traffic wardens. Cyclists have a particular problem with this, and so do other users of the road. The response was that the best thing to do is to contact 311, generating an investigation. Very often, if contacted, Councillor Wong-Tam's office will contact the work zone operator, sadly only one person for our entire ward. It is a budget issue to get a badly needed second work zone operator. If a development gets approved then by way of that approval they have to get the road occupancy. The individual who was killed was a vulnerable member of the street community. The questioner responded that the woman was killed by a cement truck, and that probably no one could have survived that specific encounter.

Motion from the Board for Approval of the 2022 Budget - **Carried**

St. Lawrence Market and Precinct Updates – Daniel Picheca

The Market, as an essential business, was open during the pandemic and was subject to the various health measures. Things are only now slowly improving with higher vaccination rates and people returning to the market. We are hopeful that early in 2022 we will return to a more normal situation. During covid we have had to put a pause on certain programs. The annual Arts at the Market program was deferred during 2019 and we are looking to relaunch the program in the spring of 2022, applications will be taken during January/February and the program will be launched in April. The program normally goes from April to Thanksgiving weekend in October and we are anticipating to have the usual number of vendors participating.

A Farmers Market program that takes place every Saturday in the temporary market has been impacted – during the heart of covid vendors were understandably cautious about coming to the market, and we have not caught up with former numbers as yet. But vendors are returning and are happy to continue to serve the community. The farmers will continue to use the temporary market for the remainder of 2022. The South Market is preparing for the Christmas Season, and crowds are beginning to increase and in early 2022 we will start with regular hours again, followed by pilot hours shortly after. The Councillor mentioned the new Flower Shop which just started up today. We are looking to bring in some other new vendors in the market,

including some pop-ups, to fill some of the vacant spaces. We also want to increase diversity in the market.

On Saturdays, through partnering with Spadina Fort York Community Care, there is a foodbank in the market with contributions from both South Market and temporary market vendors. There is distribution to residents in PAL and OWN, and it is a very popular program with a lot of people relying on it. We will be looking for further participation to expand this project.

We work with the BIA and some other stakeholders regarding Market Street. For this year Market Street was closed for a couple of weekends and we are working on a pilot project for pedestrianizing part of the street for the future with a variety of initiatives and possibly some winter programming for late 2022.

There are a couple of major capital projects around the precinct, one being the North Market Redevelopment with some major infrastructure being built at the moment. There is a Project Management Team of the City managing this project. Currently they are looking at estimated completion of the project in early 2023. In the first quarter of 2022 the steel structure will be completed, and from March to early fall all the exterior structure will be completed, and then the interior work will continue until early 2023. There have been issues with labour and supplies due to covid. The Parks and Recreation Management Team are working on the Market Lane Project on Market Lane Park, the redevelopment plan is under way. There are 7 phases in the project – phase 1 and 2 is the planning phase, phase 3, 4 and 5 is the design phase and phase 6 and 7 is the Build phase. There was a public consultation meeting held, which will move into the planning phase. Phase 1 and 2, the planning, is scheduled for winter of 2021, the design phase 3, 4 and 5 is scheduled for spring and summer of 2022, and the build phase, 6 and 7, is slated for summer of 2022 into 2023.

The lower level redesign is another major project at the market. A consultant was hired and we are in the design phase of this. Currently funding is only available for a portion of the project so it looks like the project is going to be phased in and the first phase is anticipated for the fall of next year.

We have partnered with TO Life and they just added a theatre event that travelled from St. Lawrence Centre to the market, with very positive impact. Opera Atelier has been filming some of their virtual shows in the St. Lawrence Hall, and we are looking to cooperate with other arts organizations. We are also partnering with Doors Open during the Doors Open event in the spring. Our Strategic Plan expires at the end of this year, so we are working closely with the St. Lawrence Market Advisory Committee and hired a consultant to help us develop a new strategic plan, starting in 2022, and we would appreciate any input from the community. Another goal is to make the market more environmentally sustainable, eliminate the use of single use plastics as well as reducing the environmental footprint. Stewart Linton expressed

his thanks on behalf of the community and the Association for the support Daniel has given to some of our initiatives, such as the vaccination clinic, the waste reduction group and other projects. Stewart Linton mentioned that regarding partnering with TO Life, it became clear that there are some really interesting spaces in the market that might have great potential. Daniel responded that it has become clear over time that being part of the local community is very important and the market is not simply a retail environment.

Donna Patterson from the SLNA Waste Reduction Group expressed her thanks for all the help they were given, including use of the tent. The Waste Reduction Group is starting on their St. Lawrence Reduces program which is a program whereby they will talk to businesses to ask if they would allow customers to bring their own reusable containers and this seems to be aligning nicely with the Market's strategic plan.

Another question dealt with the market's traditional hours, regular hours, pilot project hours and holiday hours, and the advice given was to look at the website for information for the foreseeable future at <http://www.stlawrencemarket.com/>

BIA – Robyn Posner

Robyn reported that the very successful SHOPOTT2WIN program is once again being offered, with a draw once a week. There was a Pumpkin Parade at the end of October, a most successful event, and they are scheduling a Cavalcade of Lights on December 4th in Berczy Park from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

The following events are planned for 2022:

- Historic re-enactors will return in June
- Berczy Beats
- Music in Old Town Toronto
- Bard in Berczy
- Old Town Toronto Pumpkin Parade
- Cavalcade of Lights
- Panc-Rake Community Clean-Up
- Feast of St. Lawrence (August 12/13)

Community Update – Stewart Linton

The first item is on Market Lane Park. A stakeholder meeting was held on November 10, followed by a community workshop on November 18. 3 design concepts were presented: “stitch”, “flex” and “meander”.

The “stitch” concept featured:

- Preserve existing trees
- Indigenous place keeping
- Programmable space at north
- Water feature at South
- Materials similar to Market Street
- Seating similar to Berczy Park
- Heritage lighting

“flex” featured:

- Preserve existing trees
- Indigenous place keeping
- Water feature integrated as above at South
- Paving bands aligned to trees, columns
- Modular, moveable benches
- Contemporary lighting

The experts state that the trees are in relatively good shape throughout.

“meander” featured:

- Water theme: existing trees plus 2 planters
- Indigenous place keeping
- Imbedded approach to celebrating water
- Water feature integrated with boulders at South
- Paving: granite cobbles in organic patterns
- Seating curvilinear, organic wood, boulders
- Catenary (overhead) lighting

It was made clear at the meeting that this is not either/or – designs can be chosen from all three concepts and put together as desired.

The easiest way to give input is to go to the City of Toronto website and search Market Lane Park improvements. The deadline is December 3. Another option is to email the Project Leader: nancy.chater@Toronto.ca

There will be a public consultation meeting on the First Parliament Site:

December 6, 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Pre-registration required Register at bit.ly/CorktownTOC-2

An easier way might be to go to google and type in corktown engage

Stewart thanked everyone for their attendance, along with a reminder that there is no community meeting in December.

The next SLNA Community Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.