



MINUTES

MEETING #40

TUESDAY, January 17, 2012

**Rainbow Room, 4th floor
Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West**

7pm – 9 pm [followed by socializing in the Radisson Lounge]

Residents attending:

33 Harbour Square – Helen Skwarok, Fred Taylor, James Russell,
55 Harbour Square – Norma Starkie, Ulla Colgrass, Leah Lambert, Braz Menezes
65 Harbour Square – Bob & Celia Rasmussen, Carol Lawlor, Lorna Rosenstein
77 Harbour Square – Laura Cooper,
99 Harbour Square – Margaret Hollingsworth, Ginette Fournier
208 Queens Quay West – Valerie Adamo, Estelle Weynman
230 Queens Quay West – Sara Hsieh
250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks
251 Queens Quay West – Allan and Angela Rivers, Louise Lemieux-Charles, Fran Pileggi-Costantino
260 Queens Quay West – Marcia Boyd, Kelly Gorman, Carol McCause
270 Queens Quay West – Rosemarie Cochrane
10 Yonge Street – Steve Fry
18 Yonge Street – Monica Tang
8 York Street – Cyndy De Los Santos
34 Little Norway – Hal Beck
650 Queens Quay West – John Horne

Guests:

Chris Hodgson (Harbourfront Centre)
Tom Davidson (rep. councillor McConnell)
Jen Chan (rep. councillor Vaughan)

1. Adoption of Minutes from November 08, 2011 meeting

With the following amendments:

- 1 Change "Sandy" to "Cyndy" in the last minutes under the members of Police Liaison Committee.
- 2 Add Fran Pileggi requested action regarding Toronto Water (TW), and action was taken with letters from Allan and Kelly sent to TW on concerns and suggestion regarding the boring site.

On a motion from Celia Rasmussen, seconded by Allan Rivers, the Minutes were adopted.

2. Adoption of Agenda

On a motion from Ulla Colgrass, seconded by Claire Sparks the Agenda was adopted.

3. Guest Speaker: Steve Munro, Transit Advocate "Public Transit & the Harbourfront Neighbourhood"

Steve has a blog (SteveMunro.ca) where he provides insightful comments and information about public transit in the city.

Steve has been involved in city transit politics since the 70's. He recalls the fight to save the streetcars and the opening of the Harbourfront line in 1991.

The current situation:

There's a debate about what is going to be built on Eglinton and Sheppard. The dream of private funding is falling apart. The vote on restoring the funding for Metrolinks will be very tight.

There are big concerns for Queen's Quay (East and West). The suggestion of a Bremner streetcar keeps coming up, but there are funding issues. Although Waterfront Toronto has funding problems regarding public transit, the amount needed on the Waterfront is trivial compared to Sheppard and Eglinton. On QQ East, there will be an important increase of people living and working in the area.

A lot of work is proposed or under way at Union Station. A proposed bus station is set to be built East of Bay, between the rail corridor and Lakeshore. This will replace the Bay and Dundas bus terminal. The proposed location already has heavy traffic, and the ridership for the Go buses is expanding.

Queen's Quay: The new streetcars will be larger than the current ones, and the new rails more quiet. In terms of capacity, TTC standards for streetcars are the seated capacity plus 25% to the average load, which translates to 75 riders for peak hours and 46 passengers for off-peak hours.

QQ West: Construction starting this Spring, ending in 2013. The rail will stay pretty much in the same space. Vehicles on the Westbound and pedestrian, cyclists, etc. on the Eastbound.

QQ East: continue same design as the West, all the way to Cherry street. One big technical problem: from the Bay street tunnel. There are 2 very deep sewers or watermains at Yonge street. The plan is to have to tunnel to go up to Cooper Street. Entrance to Redpath Sugar is also an issue.

Union Station: Second subway platform is under construction until 2014-15.

4. Report from the Chair

Steve Fry welcomed us back and expressed his best wishes for the New Year.

5. Treasurer's Report: Our balance is \$2,151.14.

6. Neighbourhood Representatives' Reports

Report from Tom Davidson:

1. Menkes development site: preliminary report went to council. There will be an important public meeting with the developer on January 31 (see committee reports below).
2. Issue of the budget of the City being amended. This should bring \$5 million from the surplus into the budget. If used for service, this could help restoring some of the service that was cut (although TTC would need \$9 million to do so).

7. Committee Reports

Planning & Development Committee:

Ulla reported on the Oxford's development at York and QQ:

3. They have started digging, will end in July. The most noisy part.
4. Staging quite far into the park. Land will be returned to park.
5. Replacing two mature trees that were removed.
6. Possible participation from Menkes and Tridel in modifying the ramps.
7. Interest in "spilling out" in the new park with a terrace and chairs.
8. They would like to close the sidewalk along Queens Quay (north side along site) while constructing (2 years). We think 2 years is too long and Tom Davidson will take our message to Pam McConnell.
9. Oxford promises to keep the walkway through the park viable during construction.
10. Will retail stores be geared to the office population? And what will their hours be? They expect to have a food court on the second floor and are hoping to attract other restaurants/cafés.
11. Sidewalks, street furniture and pavement on QQ are quite different from Waterfront plans. We are asking that they conform to the Waterfront materials.
12. Oxford is planning a covered portion of the walkway on Bay Street.
13. They are hoping to build an elevator to supplement the steep stairs now connecting the Path to the second floor so that the new PATH section will be more accessible than it now is.
14. They promise that the large lobby planned for the southwest corner of the building will be used for events that will "animate" it for the public (e.g. like Brookfield Place).

James and Ulla reported on the Menkes' proposal (90 Harbour Street):

YQNA planning committee studied Menkes proposal with planner Sarah Henstock at City Hall on Oct. 27. We found the development much too massive (more than 3 times allowed density and double the height).

1. Members of the committee met with Menkes on Nov. 30. – Peter and Alan Menkes, architect Peter Clewes, lawyer Adam Brown (now our Menkes liaison)

and other Menkes employees. Ulla wrote an article that got front page coverage in the Bulletin.

2. Next steps: Menkes are reworking their application.
3. They are going before the Design Review Panel at Waterfront Toronto on February 8.
4. James asked Menkes for traffic and other site studies and got none so far.
5. Planning Staff at City Hall reported on Menkes' application at January's Community Council with a request for Menkes to have public consultations – a rebuff of the current proposal. Therefore, the City is holding a Community Consultation meeting on January 31. All YQNA members are encouraged to attend this meeting to be held at 7 p.m. at PawsWay.
6. Since Menkes' current proposal is so massive, would it make sense to eliminate one condo tower?
7. YQNA members are concerned about height (70 storeys) and density (overcrowding).

Tridel Development at 10 York Street (the triangular lot between the York off-ramp and the Gardiner)

1. Adam Vaughan organized a meeting in November. The 75-storey tower would be 6 times the allowed density. Tridel revised the plans, but they are still the same.
2. There are many issues regarding this: overcrowding, difficult access (it is located 5 meters from the Gardiner), it doesn't conform to the height and the density allowed for this area, and it doesn't conform with the Birds Safety guideline. There appears to be a conflict of interest, since the lot was sold by the City to the developer, who paid top dollar and needs City approval to build far beyond zoning.

Waterfront Toronto construction work

Kelly Gorman reported on the following update she got from Andrea Keleman from WT on January 17, 2012:

1. Waterfront Toronto's work (subject to approvals/permits) is expected to begin in the spring – likely April.
2. The draft staging notes work between Rees to Bay for the relocation of sewers.
3. Although Waterfront Toronto's work will not commence until the spring, preliminary utility work will begin shortly along Queens Quay.
4. Advance work for Bell Canada and Toronto Hydro is planned to start in February.
5. During the Hydro work we will see localized road lane closures for the hydro chamber construction each intersection over a period of 2 to 3 weeks per chamber and at multiple locations.
6. Bell Canada is expected to work between York to Rees on the installation of conduits and chambers. The duration of that work is to be confirmed with Bell.
7. Once we have a confirmed construction schedule we will be communicating that information to the Construction Liaison Committee.

8. WT will hold a public meeting and media briefing to ensure everyone is aware of the work that will take place.

There will be lots of road closures and Waterfront Toronto will keep us informed. Peter (from 270 QQ) will liaise with stakeholders.

Concerns were raised from one resident of the Waterclub regarding this whole project.

Traffic committee

Report from Kelly regarding Speeding on Lakeshore

Kelly called Danny Budimirovic in Transportation to request more speed reviews of the traffic on Lakeshore. Since his studies showed that there is no significant speeding during weekdays, she asked for studies later in the evening. He said that he would do that but not until the spring, since snow removal interferes with the equipment needed to capture the speed and volume of traffic. He also needs to know:

1. the locations and direction of traffic (between 2 and 4 locations)
2. the days of the week
3. the times of the day

Members of YQNA are asked to provide Kelly with this information.

Toronto Water issue

Kelly reported on a discussion she had with Tracey Ehl of Toronto Water on January 17, 2012:

1. New storm water tunnels will be built from the Keating Railyards to Inukshuk Park. They can't bore from one site to the other because the distance is too great. Therefore a mid point is essential, and that site is at the southeast corner of the Rees St. parking Lot. The construction will take place in approximately 15 years.
2. When completed, there will be an access hatch that will take up 2m by 2m of space. There will also be a venting structure that will be 3m x 9m by 2m. This is an improvement over the original plan, which would have included a 30 m. underground storage tank.
3. This proposal will freeze any development of the Rees St. parking Lot. However, if someone puts in an application to build on the site, and it is approved, then TW will have to find another solution.
4. Using H2O Park as an alternative site was suggested, but TW feels that the tunnel would have to meander too much to go there and that will make the construction more difficult.
5. At a meeting in October, Toronto Water agreed to meet with Waterfront Toronto to discuss possible alternative solutions. This meeting has not yet taken place; however, Tracey assures me that it will take place. Michael D'Andrea (director of this project) will be calling Chris Glaisek in the next few days to set up a meeting.
6. Toronto Water will be writing a response to our request to make changes in their plan. They will be sending an email copy of that response to Allan Rivers and Kelly Gorman.

Communications Committee

Sara reported that we now have 191 members.

Police Liaison Committee

Cyndy reported on the activities of the Police Liaison Committee:

1. A Town Hall Meeting hosted by 52 Division Toronto Police and CPLC (Community Police Liaison Committee) was held on December 7. YQNA was ably represented.
2. The schedule for the 2012 CPLC Meetings at 52 Division was changed. The YQNA meetings and Police Meetings at 52 Div will no longer be a week apart. This means that Crime Stats Reports will be old news by the time they are shared with us. Members who are interested in these reports are encouraged to visit the Toronto Police website: www.torontopolice.on.ca. The waterfront community and the Toronto Island are shown on the Map as D52 and Area #77.
3. The Toronto Police website is also a good source to get notification of Road Closures; Community Events; Information Alerts; Existing Amber Alerts; Missing Persons; Emergency Incidents; Neighbourhood Crime Alerts; Severe Weather Alerts; Threats to School Safety; Marine & Water Safety; Crime Prevention Information.

Report from Hal regarding the airport

Hal distributed a list of stakeholders that was prepared and presented at the TPA Nov. 17 meeting, and is asking us to email him if there should be more stakeholders included.

1. A couple of issues from the TPA meetings: the minutes of the meeting are not available. There are in-camera sessions (lack of transparency). The Noise Subcommittee has not been formed yet. We're not kept up-to-date on the construction.
 2. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 18.
 3. Hal requested an organization chart so that we would know whom to contact with our issues, and who is responsible for what.
 4. There is now a new link for noise complaints.
 5. Overnight construction, affects Bathurst Quay. We need an Emergency notification protocol and a Construction notification protocol (widening of taxi ways in June and November, construction of pedestrian tunnel, etc.).
 6. Recommendations of Jacobs noise management study: none have been implemented. Members who have concerns regarding the Jacobs noise study, are asked to email Hal.
 7. Engine run-ups are not part of the data collected in the noise study.
 8. Sound barrier, proposed single north barrier. We would like to have permanent barrier.
8. Other business: Annual General Meeting: Deferred to next meeting in March.
 9. Next Meeting Date and Chair: Tuesday, March 20, chaired by Bob Rasmussen
 10. Adjournment

On a motion by Carol McCause, seconded by Fran Pileggi, the meeting was adjourned.