



**MINUTES OF MEETING #46
TUESDAY, March 12, 2013
Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West
Chaired by Allan Rivers**

Residents attending:

33 Harbour Square – Fred Taylor, Helen Skwarok
55 Harbour Square – Ulla Colgrass, Bob & Celia Rasmussen
65 Harbour Square – Friedel & Klaus Hatje
77 Harbour Square – Laura Cooper, James Russell
99 Harbour Square – Ginette Fournier, Dawn Watson
8 York Street – Cyndy De Los Santos
208 Queens Quay West – Estelle Weynman, Gloria Cornell
230 Queens Quay West – Sara Hsieh
250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks
251 Queens Quay West – Angie & Allan Rivers, Fran Pileggi-Costantino, Louise Lemieux-Charles, Ken Rutherford
260 Queens Quay West – Marcia Boyd, Carol McCanse, Kamala-Jean Gopie

Guests

Heather Waddell (Harbourfront Centre)
Jen Chan (rep. Councillor Vaughan)
Tom Davidson (rep. Councillor McConnell)

1. Adoption of Minutes from January 8, 2013 meeting

On a motion from Ulla Colgrass, seconded by Fred Taylor, the minutes were approved.

2. Adoption of agenda

On a motion from Bob Rasmussen, seconded by Fran Pileggi-Costantino, the agenda was approved.

3. Special Guest Speakers:

James Roche - Waterfront Toronto

James gave us an update and an overview of what to expect in the coming months on the QQ revitalization project for our area.

QQ Construction update: design elements for QQ, realignment of QQ, road shifted to north side, TTC corridor, etc. are under way.

Transit infrastructure and utilities beneath QQ require major upgrades.

Streamlined schedule, moratorium after construction complete (avoid more construction in the future).

We are in stage 1 of construction: utilities upgrades and TTC rebuild: Bell and Hydro are now working on utility upgrades (47 chambers, lot of duct work). Dewatering is happening right now.

Limited roadway work.

Eastern Construction is dealing with waterworks and sanitary.

TTC corridor (demolition done in 2012, rebuild will begin in the next few weeks).

Test pitting (to verify potential infrastructure conflicts).

Some of the challenges: dewatering is the major cause for delays.

Peter Slip bridge: a few things have to be done underneath the bridge for Hydro and TTC.

Quality control of the granite to be used (stored at East Bayfront).

Challenge: signage (cyclist, pedestrian, TTC stops, cabs, traffic, etc.). Shifting of traffic.

Demolition of old TTC corridor.

York lay-by partially completed.

Bell will be wrapping up in the next weeks. Hydro will be there for a few more months.

TTC portal: continued work effort in the tunnel.

Summer planning: reviewing schedule, will meet with TTC. A few activities are behind schedule because of dewatering.

Accelerate landscaping work where possible.

Deploy a traffic management plan that responds to increased summer traffic.

4. Report from the Chair

Hal Beck sends his regrets. Brian Iler sent information regarding TPA and the tax situation, but the deal has yet to go to City Council. Our condolences to Claire whose daughter passed away.

5. Treasurer's Report

We now have a balance of \$1,561.97.

Among our expenses: \$107.80 for the web server and \$100 for the meeting room set-up charges.

6. Neighbourhood Representatives' Reports

Tom Davidson (rep. Councillor Pam McConnell)

6.1 York off-ramp park:

It was a condition with Menkes and Tridel, that a portion of funds from Section 37 be used to bring down the ramp at Simcoe. The money has been received. City staff is working on design, and environmental assessment. We need provincial approval.

We want to make sure that city allocates resources for detailed design work. It will be well into 2014 before we get ready to do it. Therefore, the removal will likely be after the Pan Am games.

A meeting is scheduled for March 28 to address maintenance issues with the Gardiner and EA for reconfiguration of Gardiner expressway.

6.2 One Yonge Street area

There are talks of further development at the foot of Yonge Street.

The province is likely to market the LCBO site in the summer. The objective is to sell it off as quickly as possible.

6.3 Pier 27

We don't know what the status of the third phase is.

Jen Chan (rep. Councillor Adam Vaughan)

6.4 Pier 4

Amsterdam brewery is moving in. Standard liquor licence conditions to prevent problems to arise. Conditions: operate as a restaurant, and not as a night club, noise bylaw applied to liquor licence.

6.5 Ten York Street

Request for accessible sidewalk space during construction.

6.6 Public Library

Public meeting regarding library at Bathurst and Fort York. Construction under way. Meeting April 10 regarding the park by the library.

6.7 OMB

Rosario's OMB bill presented at Queen's Park.

6.8 Casino

We are encouraged to go to the NoCasino.com website and get the petition signed by as many people as possible.

The release of the report, scheduled to be released in March or April, has been delayed.

Heather Waddell (Harbourfront Centre)

Planning for the summer. This year the season will open with **Zero Gravity Circus** (10th anniversary of circus festival) on Victoria Day weekend. Working with BIA to make sure Waterfront is opened for business.

For the summer, many popular programs are coming back. **Dancing on the Pier** is extended. **Free Flicks** are back on Wednesday. Harbourfront is partnering with the **Redpath Toronto Waterfront Festival for the Tall Ships** (June 20-23). The theme of the **photo exhibit** this year is on 9 rivers that go into Toronto.

Ontario Square will open at the end of June and **Canada Square** on Canada Day.

The neighbourhood attendees raised the importance of having a playground, which was not in the plans but should be.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Police liaison

7.1.1 At the March 6 CPLC (Community Police Liaison Committee) meeting, the Executive Director of the Crime Prevention Association of Toronto talked about the **smartphones apps** for people in apartments and condo buildings. York University and OCAD are using similar apps, to triangulate and pin point exact location where help is needed. The director also spoke about a \$50,000 grant from the province to create workshops/walking tours, especially for seniors. They will promote safety with the slogan: "Use your ears, eyes, before your feet."

7.1.2 Toronto Public Health & TPS (Toronto Police Service) Divisional Policing Support announced their joint program, "...**Drug Take-Back Day**" scheduled for May 11, 2013. Media and press conferences will be held to let people know about this event and where they can drop off drugs anonymously...

7.1.3 As per the last YQNA meeting, we talked about having another **Police Appreciation Dinner** (our 3rd potluck). Date/details to be discussed at future YQNA meetings.

7.1.4 TPS news reports, publications, and crime statistics are available online at <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/> (YQNA under 52 Division: Waterfront Communities & Toronto Island, Map 77)

7.2 Planning committee

7.2.1 No Casino

Braz Menezes wrote a 3-page letter of **protest against a Toronto casino** with input from other YQNA members. It was sent January 15 to all city councillors and many other influential parties. We had thanks from Code Blue and other anti-casino forces. Liberty Village Residents' Association is sending their own NO CASINO letter to politicians and also sending YQNA's letter of objection (see below).

7.2.2 Proposal for transit

YQNA has made a formal presentation of **our proposal for transit along Queens Quay and into Union Station**. It has been sent to key people and has been very well received. Here it is:

- We prefer the right-of way streetcar to run at grade from the West end of Queens Quay to the Port Lands.
- We suggest WT Planning reserve the ground floor and one floor below in the Conference Centre on the corner of Bay and QQ.
- The ground floor can become a transit concourse with shops, restaurants, tourist information etc., open to both Bay and QQ.
- Ample escalator access connects the concourse to the tunnel into Union Station.
- Tracks are used for electric People Movers that run continuously, without drivers between this hub to Union Station.

The lease of this Conference Centre's City-owned land is up either now or in the near future. The **Harbour Castle Hotel** is apparently sold and the new owner has big plans for both the Hotel structure and the **Conference Centre**. Timing is probably important for making a Transit Concourse a condition of redevelopment.

This proposal -- which has been forwarded before by YQNA without the Concourse idea -- would:

- save the \$330 million cost of digging another tunnel east to Freeland Street
- prevent QQ from getting another ugly hole in the ground to the streetcar tunnel
- cut the high maintenance costs of the tunnel
- make QQ the beautiful boulevard we want
- serve the millions of visitors to the Ferry Docks and Harbourfront events
- avoid crowds piling up at Union Station
- make a great start of QQ as a pedestrian boulevard, with people walking to ferries and events, freeing up streetcars.

7.2.3 Development and Growth Committee at City Hall

Greg Gibbs and Ulla attended the **Development and Growth Committee at City Hall on Feb. 28th to speak to the proposal to allow Section 37 funds to flow towards Public Housing**. We sent a letter with YQNA's objections, on the grounds that public housing needs are so severe that all Sec. 37 funds could be directed to it. The original purpose of these funds was to benefit communities as compensation for overdevelopment. Public housing should be paid by City budgets. Ulla spoke about that and also acknowledged

Adam Vaughan (on the committee) for his efforts to get affordable housing into the new Tridel Tower.

7.2.4 City Planning for downtown neighbourhood associations

Greg and Ulla went to a **meeting called by City Planning for downtown neighbourhood associations**, March 6 at Metro Hall. These associations attended:

Connie Langille - connielangille@hotmail.com – Church Wellesley

Mike Yen – mike@mikeyen.ca – Entertainment District Residents Association

Andrey Matusевич – andrey.matusевич@bmo.com - BENA

Lester Brown – Gooderham & Worts (will have to track down Lester's email address, not listed)

Linda Brett – info@blooreast.org – BENA (Bloor East)

Vicki Trottier – vicki.trottier@gmail.com – Fort York NA

Dean Maher - dean.maher@rogers.com – City Place

Greg Gibb – greg.gibb@gmail.com – YQNA

Ulla Colgrass – ulla@colgrass.com – YQNA

Norm Waite – ncwaite@live.ca – Bay Cloverhill Community Association

Todd Hofley – libertyresidents@gmail.com – Liberty Village

The meeting was called by:

Bianca Wylie

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and City Planner Peter Moore.

Bianca and Peter wanted to hear our problems, though they had been amply expressed in a larger public meeting, Feb. 12 in the Reference Library, also hosted by Planning (attended by Ulla). Most important in the smaller meeting was our decision to communicate and collaborate on large issues that affect us all. Right away we have shared a NO CASINO campaign, allowing Liberty Village Residents' Association to send out our YQNA letter to show united support.

7.2.5 OMB

Ulla sent all the above associations the news of **Rosario Marchese's private members bill to abolish the OMB**, which passed second reading at Queens Park on March 7th.

Rosario thanked us for our support:

Not only did supporters fill up the entire member's gallery on the opposition side of the house, supporters also filled up the government's side as well! This makes an impression on the members, I can assure you. In addition to the York Quay Neighbourhood Association, there were supporters representing the Trinity-Bellwoods Community Association, the Annex Residents' Association, the Harbord Village Residents' Association, the CityPlace Residents' Association, the Fort York Residents' Association, the Kensington Market Action Committee, the Kensington Market BIA, the Liberty Village BIA, the West Queen West BIA and many other groups and organizations.

7.2.6 Patio at E11even

We are still working on limiting the **patio size of Restaurant E11even** on York Street, and request they get another 2-year permit (not in perpetuity).

7.2.7 Accessibility of sidewalk and hoarding during construction

We are still waiting to meet with **Menkes regarding their public arts contribution**. Estelle has a presentation ready for a meeting on this issue, which has been postponed several times.

We are also working on **widening the sidewalk** along their building site on York Street, as well as improving the looks of the hoarding. Braz wrote a letter regarding the inaccessibility and danger of the sidewalk, and Ulla took pictures. This material will be used in their next meeting at City Hall. Menkes' Harbour Plaza has not been before the Design Review Panel yet.

7.2.8 Media

We are **still looking for media coverage**. John Bentley Mays told us he was going to write about Menkes and general city planning. Christopher Hume promised the same, but must have encountered problems at the Star.

7.3 Website

YQNA really needs to have a website that would be dynamic and up-to-date. We have adopted a motion for YQNA to approach Tony Makepeace and ask him to make a proposal for designing and maintaining the website, and an estimate of costs associated with it.

7.4 Communications

We have now reached 200 members. From January 8 to March 12, 2013, 13 messages were distributed by email to members.

7.5 Traffic

7.5.1 Construction on QQW

The biggest problem for all of us is the construction on QQW; however, residents have told us that they are pleased with the signage so they always know where they are supposed to go whether they are walking, driving or taking public transit.

7.5.2 Bus stops on Lakeshore

Waterfront Toronto has responded to residents' requests re: signage, lighting at TTC stops etc. They discussed increased bus stops on Lakeshore with the City but could not come up with any other safe places on Lakeshore to put stops.

7.5.3 Meeting on Transit and decongesting Toronto

Kelly attended that public meeting on Transit on Monday, March 4th at St. Lawrence Centre. Moderator: Matt Galloway

Panelists: JENNIFER KEESMAAT, Chief Planner; LARRY BEASLEY, retired Chief Planner, Vancouver; CAROL WILDING, Pres. and CEO Toronto Region Board of Trade; JOHN HOWE, Metrolinx; Councillors PETER MILCZYN and MICHAEL THOMPSON

The focus of the discussion was **how to improve transit in Toronto and how to fund an improved public transit system**. The Metrolinx plan to improve transit is called "The Big Move".

Highlights of what was discussed:

- The "Moscow Syndrome": Moscow stopped spending money on transit 20 years ago and now the roads are becoming parking lots due to overwhelming congestion. Toronto is becoming another Moscow and spending must occur now so that we can avoid the same fate.

- Torontonians who are fed up with congestion are willing to pay as long as they know for sure that their money will go to an improved transit experience.
- Suggestion that there should be extra charges for cars and decreased charges for public transit to get people out of their cars and on to public transit.
- Torontonians will have to pay \$600 each annually to fund an adequate transit system.
- Suggestions for funding (as long as each increase is dedicated to transit):
 - zoned fares
 - increased property tax
 - increased sales tax
 - gas tax
 - parking levy
 - road tolls
 - bringing back the vehicle registration tax.
- People don't want to pay more taxes; therefore a better way to advertise "The Big Move" is needed to convince people spending is necessary.
- People need to be aware of the consequences of not spending on transit
- Both councillors felt that people are willing to pay if they know for sure that the money will improve their transit experience.
- A "Citizens' Bill of Rights for Movement" should be created by all levels of government involved in transit.

7.6 Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Meeting held on March 1, 2013

Tidy up aesthetics adjacent Queen's Quay by removing the tri-panel advertising sign near the Centreville ticket booth when new contract is signed.

Row of posts and banners from Queen's Quay to gate to be reconsidered. Proposal to solicit paintings by children depicting various aspects of the islands. Proposal to increase size of banners.

City Blue letters "Island Ferry Dock" to be reinstalled on concrete facade above original gates.

Design proposal - Install signage overhead new Ferry Ticket Booths with City Blue lettering: "Jack Layton Ferry Terminal". Perhaps illuminated letters.

Area lighting to be reviewed. Fred recommended dark sky compliant to correct the wall wash and glare now experienced at Harbour Castle and Harbour Square.

Olivia reported that bronze sculpture design looks good. Location to be set with view of lake. After installation, monies will be held in a reserve fund for ongoing maintenance. Olivia expressed concern that donor recognition "ribbon" may conflict with snow clearing.

In addition to landscaping in vicinity of sculpture, designer will work with Parks staff to relieve congestion prone "bottle neck" in gate area.

Public realm art proposal from world renowned artist comprises painting yellow certain areas of the existing concrete structures at the dock entrance. City will consider public process and solicit proposals before deciding.

Two unionized firms want to donate labour for landscaping and mounting bronze sculpture.

PROJECT TIMING:

- End March to consider future needs for passenger waiting area. In the interim, restoration of current passenger waiting area will be completed.
- Naming Ceremony to be scheduled around July 15.

8. Other business

There was no other business discussed.

9. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2013

10. Next Chair: Bob Rasmussen

11. Adjournment

On a motion from Angie Rivers, seconded by Estelle Weynman, the meeting was adjourned.