



MINUTES OF MEETING #48
TUESDAY, September 17, 2013
Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West
Chaired by James Russell

Residents attending:

10 Yonge Street –
33 Harbour Square – Helen Skwarok
55 Harbour Square – Ulla Colgrass, Michael Colgrass, Leah Lambert, Carol Lawlor
65 Harbour Square – Bob & Celia Rasmussen, Susan LeMay, Paul Hellyer, Sandra Hellyer, Lorna
Rosenstein
77 Harbour Square – Laura Cooper, Nan Cooper
99 Harbour Square – Ellen Nichols, Margaret Hollingsworth, Odd Knudsen
208 Queens Quay West – Estelle Weynman, Cyndy De Los Santos, Gloria Cornell
218 Queens Quay West – Patrick & Siana Walton
228 Queens Quay West – Sandra Taylor, Carolyn Johnson
230 Queens Quay West – Sara Hsieh, Marie Blanchard
250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks
260 Queens Quay West – Marcia Boyd, Lilly Li
270 Queens Quay West – Neal Colgrass, Antonio Trombacco, Rosemary Cochrane
245 Queens Quay West –
251 Queens Quay West – Angie & Allan Rivers, Berts & Joy Van Kleff, Ken Rutherford
480 Queens Quay West -
500 Queens Quay West - Susan Davies
34 Little Norway Crescent – Hal Beck
65 Bremner (Maple Leaf Square) – Elizabeth Jin

Guests

Ron Jenkins (guest speaker)
Heather Waddell (Harbourfront Centre)
Jen Chan (rep. Councillor Vaughan)
Shirley Bush (1299 Bayview Ave., CAIR activist)
Kimberly Spice (Bulletin reporter)
Tim Ehlich (NoJetsTo)
Jess Dawe (Ryerson journalism student)

1. Adoption of Minutes from May 14, 2013 meeting

On a motion from Bob Rasmussen, seconded by Allan Rivers, the minutes were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

We have a balance of \$1,042.89. We received \$70.00 in donations (minus the charge for each transaction).

3. Report from the Chair, James Russell

A serious gas leak happened in the morning of September 9th on Queens Quay West in front of 55 Harbour Square. It was caused by a construction mishap. The street was closed and all construction halted the entire day on the street and in Oxford's Waterpark Place. The entrance to 55 Harbour Square was closed. There was a strong smell of gas escaping until the gas main was repaired in late afternoon. It was considered a serious situation, but fortunately nobody was hurt.

The street construction on Queens Quay in front of the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel is almost finished. The red granite bricks and patterns with grey pavers are in place and the taxi and lay-bys are working.

The Streetcar portal will be completed in December this year. Streetcars will not be running until spring 2014, and even then they will not be going into Union Station. A North-bound bus connection will be available at Bay St. until Union Station is completed.

Tree wells are being installed along Queens Quay to create a good growing environment for larger trees.

If anyone has questions about the construction of Queens Quay, the go-to guy is Robert Passat, 416 505-3073.

James asked that people dial down their complaints about noise. There had been two seriously threatening calls about noise, but we will have to live with it for another two years. Questions from Marcia about upcoming TTC deadlines were directed to the Waterfront Toronto website, which is up-to-date on construction schedules.

James mentioned some infrastructure surprises were found by the crews that are working on new underground installations of services – not everything was shown in the old plans and caused problems.

Marcia said the TTC loop construction at Q.Q. and Spadina would last three months and cause intermittent traffic stoppages.

Patrick complained that not enough work happening on Q.Q. He finds it slow and disorganized. He asked what would replace the 20 trees that were removed between York St. and Rees streets. James said large tree cells were coming and better trees. Claire added that each block will have a special tree sort.

Report on Parks:

Leah talked about the playground we hope to get installed for pre-schoolers at Rees Parkette on Q.Q. (across from the Simcoe WaveDeck). YQNA has investigated getting a playground for several years after Harbourfront Centre removed the only one around. This little underused Rees park would be ideal for a playground – it has good access, shade trees, grass and benches.

Clair said it now serves as latrine for dogs and homeless people. A question was asked if the ground contained PCBs. We will ask Parks and Recreation.

Rosemary also wanted a playground for older kids. Another person wanted exercise equipment for all ages.

Later in the meeting, Jen Chan from Adam Vaughan's office talked about the City helping us get a playground, including plans, funding and installation. They had done that elsewhere.

Report on YQNA Website:

Bob encouraged everyone to visit our new website. It was designed by Tony Makepeace and has evolved under webmaster Neal Colgrass. All contacts are updated: email address for reps in every building in our area, condo boards, Waterfront BIA, Harbourfront Centre, schools, police, politicians and other links.

Leah drives most of the Twitter and Facebook feeds, and people are responding. Everybody is invited to submit blogs and photos to the webmaster.

Sara Hsieh was praised for her super job as Communications Chair and keeper of our membership and email lists for many years. She helped the transition to MailChimp, which enables people to subscribe and unsubscribe to receive emailed YQNA news.

Angie explained that donations are welcome (we have no membership fees) either as cash, cheque or through our new PayPal account on the website.

The Minutes of our meetings can now be found in "Documents" on the website.

Guest speaker Ron Jenkins was delayed by traffic. James introduced him as an avid sailor and member of the National Yacht Club. He is also a birder and nature photographer. He doesn't live on the Waterfront, but spends much time here. He markets computer hardware and teaches courses in marketing.

Ron presented his document :

<http://yqna.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/YQNA-presentation-2013-10-05-A06.pdf>

which can be seen in the "Document" files on www.yqna.ca . The subject is the marine aspects of Porter's proposed jet expansion of the Island Airport. Without going into details of this well-researched presentation, the expansion off runways into the lake would severely restrict boating uses of this popular recreational area, diminish tour boat businesses and prevent Tall Ships from entering the Bay. Other hazardous results of jets would be health issues due to noise, air and water pollution, bird strikes and the danger of jet blasts.

Claire suggested that a class action suits from residents and businesses could result. Michael said that councillors should know all the facts, given the short timeline before a Council vote. Susan said that more buildings and runways would be needed for jets. Jen said we could speak to the Mayor's Executive Committee on Sep. 24, '13. Bob urged everyone to write to City Councillors, and Hal asked Ron about the effects on the adjacent bird sanctuary on the island (Ron didn't know). Tim said the issues needs to get into the media. We need endorsements from organizations and also lawn signs. Dec. 5, 2013 is the designated Council vote on the issue.

Police Committee Report

Cyndy De Los Santos reported that crime stats were discussed at the CPLC meeting. We were reminded that statistics, graphs and maps are based on preliminary info reported to the police and may not have been verified yet. Over all, crime rate in our division is down, which is a testament to good policing and the cooperation & vigilance of people in the community.

<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/>

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Toronto Police 52 Division's CPLC Fundraiser is on Wednesday, October 9 @Crocodile Rock, 240 Adelaide St. W. from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$50 each: Hors d'oeuvres, Silent Auction, and live entertainment by Steven Ambrose & the Romeos. All proceeds are for the 52 Division Contact Alternative School Scholarship Fund.

In the past, YQNA gave \$100; except for last year's \$50. Respectfully suggest that we donate more, especially since it appears we are not going to have a police appreciation pot luck dinner which YQNA organized in 2009 & 2011. (It was approved by show of hands).

This request is also directed to individual YQNA members. Donations of cash or gift items/services for the Silent Auction will be much appreciated. Several YQNA members contributed last year.

From Councillor Vaughan

Jen Chan reported from Councillor Vaughan: He supports our efforts to get a playground at Rees Parkette and we will talk about these plans. The TTC loop at Spadina and QQ will require 3 months of construction with intermittent traffic blockage. The loop is located around the 410 Queens Quay condominium, and it will allow both the 509 and 510 streetcars to reverse direction. The TTC is installing a new signal system that will facilitate an extra 15% of trains. Two weekend closures of subways would take place on Sep. 12-14 and Oct. 19-20. A public meeting, Oct. 10, at Metro Hall would deal with the Yonge to Jarvis built form along the Waterfront.

James reminded us to save trees in the York Off-Ramp Park.

Estelle motioned to end the meeting, Marie seconded.

Next YQNA meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 12 with columnist Christopher Hume as guest speaker.

(Minutes taken by Ulla)