



MINUTES OF MEETING #52
TUESDAY, May 13, 2014
Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West
Chaired by Bob Rasmussen

Residents (who signed in) attending:

33 Harbour Square – Fred Taylor
55 Harbour Square – Ulla Colgrass, Laurie Brooks
65 Harbour Square – Friedel Hatje, Klaus Hatje, Bob & Celia Rasmussen
99 Harbour Square – Margaret Hollingsworth
208 Queens Quay West – Estelle Weynman, Greg Gibb
218 Queens Quay West – Patrick Walton, Diana Walton
228 Queens Quay West – Marie Blanchard, Sandra Taylor
230 Queens Quay West – Sarah Hsieh
250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks
251 Queens Quay West – Allan Rivers, Angie Rivers
260 Queens Quay West – Carol McCause, Marcia Boyd
8 York Street – Cyndy De Los Santos
34 Little Norway Crescent – Hal Beck

Guests

James Roche, Waterfront Toronto
Samantha (Sam) Gileno, Waterfront Toronto
Carol Jolly, Waterfront BIA
Heather Waddell, Harbourfront Centre
John Bowker, representing MPP Rosario Marchese
Tom Davidson, representing Councillor Pam McConnell
Rebecca Keenan, representing vacant office of Ward 20 (Adam Vaughan)
Kevin Currie, representing Redpath Festival
Carlton Aylett, representing Redpath Festival

1. Adoption of Minutes from March 11, 2014 meeting

On a motion from Allan Rivers, seconded by Clair Sparks, the minutes were adopted.

2. Adoption of the agenda

On a motion from Fred Taylor, seconded by Estelle Weynman, the agenda was adopted.

3. First Guest Speaker: James Roche, Waterfront Toronto

James gave both PowerPoint and video presentations of what has been done during the winter on the massive Queens Quay redesign, and showed what to expect in the

future. The past year was focused on installing services below grade. That work is near completion. Streetcar tracks are being laid with a sound-dampening system. The streetcar service will start August 31, 2014, going from Spadina Station to Union Station. 240 trees are being planted, many of them in large, growth-friendly silva cells that will give each tree 30 cubic metre of soil, enabling large trees to grow. Several tree species are tagged and ready for planting. TTC shelters will be installed this summer. The Martin Goodman trail will also be completed this summer. 25 designer benches are coming.

The new video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=glv4dCDfllc&feature=share&list=UUnpXjug4FbjmB

showed the magnitude and complexity of the underground work: more than 30 hydro chambers were installed, with hundreds of meters of electric cabling to connect homes and businesses. 750 meters of natural gas lines and 700 meters of sanitary sewer lines installed. 1200 new storm sewers and catch basins will manage rain and groundwater, which will protect the lake and prevent flooding. 5000 meters of telecommunication lines will provide phone, cable and internet connections. New underground wiring will serve 200 new streetlights with cedar poles, TTC poles and traffic lights.

Aside from the unusually harsh winter weather, the work was hampered by the often incorrect drawings of old services. The soil is unstable and under pressure from the lake – a bit like soup and hard to dewater and work in. Many contractors worked on their different projects. While the last underground work is being done, surface work can proceed in many places. The wide sidewalks are being made with 2.5 million pavers in red granite. Despite all difficulties, Queens Quay will be completed on time – the summer of 2015.

Patrick: Why are we having fewer trees on QQ than before?

Sam: The street will be greener than before, with over 200 trees and a double canopy in the middle of QQ.

Patrick: Why are we having so many laybys for buses in front of our (Riviera) building?

Carol Jolly: We live in a tourist area, and we need laybys. They give more control and order in the bus traffic.

Sam: QQ clean-up and new signage coming soon to QQ. We are managing to sort of stay within budget.

Margaret: Will the new TTC shelters have seating?

James: Yes.

4. Carol Jolly, WBIA and Heather Waddell of Harbourfront Centre presented their summer programs. Carlton Aylett and Kevin Currie were introduced as producers of the Redpath Festival events.

Heather: HfC will have 13 festivals this year and some joint ventures with the WBIA. Among the most popular is the Circus Festival.

Carol: During the May 24-25 Doors Open in Toronto, 15 docked ships on the Waterfront will have Gangways Open.

HfC is celebrating 40th anniversary with many impressive programs, concerts and festivals (see <http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/summer>)

WBIA has placed many pairs of Muskoka chairs in select Waterfront spots. WBIA is sending singing pirates out in public spaces, handing out cards that offer discounts in local businesses.

Among upcoming events is a presentation by urban planner Ken Greenberg, who has guided many HfC designs since its inception. A PowWow at PawsWay with star performing dogs, and the extreme water sport Flyboarding at Harbour Square Park.

Kevin: The Redpath Festival will happen all along the Waterfront, from HtO Park to the Sherbourn Commons, on June 20-22 (see <http://tewaterfrontfest.com/2014-programming>). That's the same dates of the Dragon Boat Races on the Islands, so big crowds are expected.

Heather: Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) is again sponsoring grand fireworks on Canada Day, June 30th. Other highlights are the South Asian and Ashkenaz Festivals.

Carol: A double-decker tour bus is branded with Waterfront images from May-Sept. A 2-hour tour includes free boat tour. Popular photo context coming up (600 submissions in recent years). WBIA is looking forward to the grand finale in June next year: Party on the Promenade to celebrate QQ's completion.

Marie: Will the WBIA have a bus shuttle on QQ again?

Carol: It's possible, but we need a 50% partner to run it.

Idea from audience: We need shuttle buses from Liberty Village to the Distillery.

5. Treasurer's Report

Angie: We now have a balance of \$1,162.15.

6. John Bowker from MPP Rosario Marchese's office said all provincial bills in the making are now dead, including Rosario's to free Toronto from the OMB. This automatically happens with a call to election. Gone is also his Bill 139 to improve condo owners' rights. Still, the debates raised awareness of both important issues. AGCO will no longer enforce conditions attached to liquor licences, handing responsibility to the City. Rosario is opposed to island airport expansion, including the possible \$50 million that the Province could be asked to pay towards the adjoining infrastructure.

7. Tom Davidson from Councillor Pam McConnell's office talked about Jennifer Keesmaat, Chief Planner of TO working on fundamental changes to city growth. Instead of the current "site-by-site" approach, a new Development Permit System seeks to develop according to neighbourhood needs and structure – density, height, parks, transit, schools and public spaces. Everything needs to be considered, or developers will not get building permits, according to this proposed DPS bylaw. Lower Yonge Precinct and areas east of Jarvis are slated for development, which will be discussed in June. The Planning Dept. intends to hold off the Toronto Star, LCBO and Loblaws development sites pending further studies. Design work and tear down of the ramps from the Gardiner in our neighbourhood will probably start in 2016. The design of the park at York and QQ will include YQNA's participation.

Allan: Has Pam new information about the caps in numbers of passengers and slots that the City requested from the Island Airport?

Tom: The request for caps being necessary to put the airport on the Council agenda again, is being held firm by the City and by Pam.

8. Rebecca Keenan from vacant Ward 20 office is our main contact until an interim councillor is chosen. She reported that Public Works is fixing the weakness that caused the underpass at Lower Simcoe to flood last year. Cycling lanes are improved and added in the Ward. AGCO is still setting conditions for a few aspects of licenced establishments, such as noise and hours and some indoor requirements (otherwise AGCO gives the oversight of restaurants/bars to the City).

9. Report from Kelly Gorman, YQNA planner of the Waterfront Mayoral Debate.

Read by Bob:

The debate will be on Tuesday, September 16th at 7 p.m. at Harbourfront Community Centre.

We will be letting people into the gym at 6:30 pm.

Our moderator is Nicole Swerhun.

The hosts are YQNA, BQNA and Waterfront BIA.

Media will be alerted closer to the date.

4 out of the 5 front-runners have confirmed attendance but John Tory is still trying to juggle his calendar in order to be available for the debate.

A focus group from the hosting parties will be having a meeting to prepare the questions at the beginning of June and if anyone has any important issues (besides the obvious) then they should email me at:

kgorman63@rogers.com

10. Adjournment

On a motion from Allan and seconded by Nan, the meeting was adjourned.

11. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday September 9, 2014