



MINUTES OF MEETING #54
Wednesday DAY, November 12, 2014
Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West
Chaired by Allan Rivers

Residents (who signed in) attending:

10 Yonge St. – Ed Hore
 33 Harbour Square – Fred Taylor
 55 Harbour Square – Ulla Colgrass, Laurie Brooks
 65 Harbour Square – Friedel Hatje, Klaus Hatje, Bob & Celia Rasmussen
 208 Queens Quay West – Estelle Weynman
 230 Queens Quay West – Sarah Hsieh
 250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks,
 251 Queens Quay West – Allan Rivers, Angie Rivers, Fran Pileggi-Costantino
 260 Queens Quay West – Carol McCanse, Marcia Boyd
 270 Queens Quay West – Neal Colgrass

Guests

Joe Cressy, City Councillor and Guest Speaker
 Adam Vaughan, MP, surprise guest speaker
 Peter Maragos, MPP Han Dong's Constituency Manager
 Tara McDonnell, MPP Han Dong's Constituency Assistant
 Tom Davidson, Representing Councillor Pam McConnell's office
 Yunfei Zang, introducing transit survey ap
 Frank Glosnek, 373 Front Street W.
 Mohamed Nur
 Jonathan Hughes, 515-121 Scadding Ave.

1. **Adam Vaughan** flew from Ottawa to Toronto to speak to us. Given his limited time, he spoke first. He had spent several hours that day exchanging information with Joe Cressy, who took over his job as councillor. The main topic was the Island Airport.

Adam said that the rules for voting in Council on any changes pertaining to the Island Airport were now changed, from the previous 2/3 vote for change to a 50/50 vote. The Federal Government had just tabled a new omnibus bill, which contained provisions for the Feds to acquire property, exemption from taxes and other changes that could affect the status of the Island Airport. The City-owned Silo lands at Bathurst St. could be bought for \$1 and sold for development. It changes the game.

Adam said Pam McConnell and Joe Cressy are our best allies in Council to prevent a jet airport and that YQNA and others must get their message to all councillors.

He hopes we will have a new Federal Government in the next election to set new protections for the airport.

Ed Hore: What is airport Tory's position in Council?

Adam: Tory says he leans heavily on City Staff. If Staff says no to the airport expansion, I guess he will go that way. Tory will favour his Public Transit Plan rather than go with airport expansion, though his staff is hawkish on Deluce. There is no quick solution and there is no funding.

Allan Rivers: What is the price of tickets of the direct train to Pearson?

Adam: Tickets are not known yet. There is no doubt the train will cut into Porter's business. Porter sells discounted tickets, using a huge number of blogs. Business tickets are very expensive.

Bob Rasmussen: What is your view of the two top Staff in Tory's office being former lobbyists for Essex and Porter.

Adam: Worrisome. They are well connected with the Federal Government and (Transportation Minister) Lisa Raitt.

2. Adoption of Minutes from September 9, 2014 meeting

On a motion from Estelle, seconded by Bob, the minutes were adopted with a minor correction.

3. Adoption of the agenda

On a motion from Angie, seconded by Marcia, the agenda was adopted.

4. **Joe Cressy, Guest speaker:** "Adam and I will be a phenomenal one-two punch on issues such as housing, policy and the island airport. We agree about the state of the city." Joe spoke about his years working in Ghana on anti-poverty and HIV issues. He is an activist for human rights in vulnerable societies in Africa as well as on reservations in the Canadian North.

He said: In Toronto, 29% of young people live in poverty, and we have no way to fund transit. \$860 million are needed to repair and establish affordable housing. The notion of investing in our city is stigmatized – we need to invest again. The Waterfront is front and centre, it is thriving and is the second largest tourist destination.

We need enforcement of noise bylaws – in outdoor concerts and party boats. Public parks are not for commercial use.

The Island Airport is the big issue. We need to engage the public in it and establish Toronto as a Waterfront city. NoJetsTO does phenomenal work. We need City Hall to reaffirm the airport conditions of the last session in Council and to work with City Staff. The Province should be our strong ally – it carries tremendous weight. So far Glenn Murray has not been helpful. We must explore ways to organize and contact Wynne.

Carol McCann: The airport vote in Council is very close.

Joe: It is important to defer the airport issue in Council.

Claire Sparks: Public Health is against airport expansion and even against the current airport. Porter wants an airport the size of Ottawa's. Can they show three other waterfront airports in such a urban setting?

Ulla: There is no masterplan for an expanded airport. What would Council vote on?

Joe: on Nov. 3rd, Tory will make assignments to City Committees: for Toronto Port Authority, Waterfront Toronto, Harbourfront Centre, GTA, Planning, Growth and Standing Committees. The best airport plan is to get Council to reaffirm the former unanimous decision of the previous Council.

Peter Maragas, MPP Han Dong's Constituency Manager and assistant Tara McDonnell answered questions from the audience about the Island Airport: Han Dong does not support a jet expansion of the airport. He agrees with Adam and Joe.

Allan: We need access to the inner workings in Queens Park and Premiere Wynne. Ontario owns Ontario Place next to the new park and the runway. You can't be impartial.

Tara: We want people to call our office, Cell is 416 603-9664.

Peter: Han is drafting a letter to YQNA about his position on the jets.

Celia: Can Han come to our meetings in January or March to speak to us?

Tara: Can YQNA write a letter to Han, who will present it to Glenn Murray?

Bob: Rosario Marchese was a very strong supporter of the Waterfront as an NDP MPP. Now Han is in his job and is in the ruling party, and we haven't heard any support from Han. We want the Waterfront to be recognized as a destination. Wynne hasn't given her opinion yet – we want the Province to say something!
Does Han have a newsletter?

Peter: It will come soon.

5. **AGM:** Bob Rasmussen and Allan Rivers have been co-chairs for six years and wish to leave their positions.

Klaus Hatje thanked them both for an outstanding job.

New co-chairs Ed Hore and Laura Cooper were unanimously elected. Angie continues as Treasurer, Ulla as Secretary and Neal as Webmaster.

(An attachment will show YQNA's Committee members).

6. **Angie** reported a balance of \$1,098.70 on Oct. 14, 2014. Ulla suggested that we place a collection box at the door at future meetings, where people can drop a voluntary contribution, since we have no other income.
7. **Tom Davidson** from Councillor McConnell's office reported that they look forward to working with Joe Cressy. Pam's office is active in the new committee to redesign the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal as well as the redesign of Harbour Square Park. Waterfront Toronto will issue design competitions for everything. Extensive public consultation will eventually select the designer. It will lead to a masterplan process and one of the priorities is a Playground. New ferry designs will be presented in March and completed in a few years. Tender for the York Off Ramp have gone out, and the removal of ramps is expected in 2016. The PATH is now completed through the ACC, and an accessible elevator is coming on the ACC side.
8. **Other business.** Ed: What about the removal of Captain John's? TPA has authority, but there is no action yet.

Bob: YQNA has been working on getting two Playgrounds. We have also met around noise problems along the Waterfront from tour boats and clubs (Polson Pier).

Ed: reporting from NoJetsTO that YQNA members have been in consultation with Nicole Swerhun to establish the scope of the TPA's voluntary EA. It will be done on a shoestring and a make report to the City. Staff will report back to Council at the end of the year.

Claire: reminded people of the large Dec. 10 townhall meeting at the Convention Centre on the scope of the proposed jet expansion of the airport, hosted by TPA.

Yunfei Zhang from University of Toronto Transportation Research Institute (UTTRI) introduced a smartphone-based travel survey in partnership with Waterfront Toronto. By installing a free app to track transit travel, residents could win \$1,600 prizes while improving transportation in the region.

On a motion from Bob and seconded by Claire, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, 2015.