

MINUTES OF MEETING #55 Wednesday, January 14, 2015
Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West
Chaired by Laura Cooper

Residents (who signed in) attending:

10 Yonge St. – Ed Hore , Theresa Thompson
55 Harbour Square – Ulla Colgrass, Braz Menezes, Ara & Bonnie Ehalbardjian
65 Harbour Square – Friedel Hatje, Klaus Hatje, Bob & Celia Rasmussen
77 Harbour Square – Laura Cooper, Nan Cooper
208 Queens Quay West – Estelle Weynman, Carmen Buske
211 Queens Quay West – Kristine Thompson
230 Queens Quay West – Sarah Hsieh
250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks
251 Queens Quay West – Allan Rivers, Angie Rivers
260 Queens Quay West – Wayne Christine, William Laderoute, Kamela-Jean Gopie
34 Little Norway Crescent – Hal Beck

Guests

James Roche, Waterfront Toronto
Samantha Gileno, WT
Pina Mallozzi, WT
Joe Cressy, City Councillor
Brent Gilliard, Cressy's assistant
Tom Davidson, Councillor Pam McConnell's assistant
Shirley Bush, 412 Eglinton W

1. Adoption of Minutes from Nov. 12, 2014 meeting

On a motion from Nan Cooper, seconded by Allan Rivers, the minutes were adopted.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was unofficially adopted.

3. Joe Cressy, City Councillor Ward 20, was a surprise guest, accompanied by his assistant Brent Gilliard. He said the newly formed Greater Waterfront Coalition (GWC) has asked the Toronto Port Authority (now TorontoPorts) for funding to do independent analyses of environmental effects resulting from an expanded Island Airport to accommodate jets. He said GWC's process is critical. TPA had asked to meet with Joe to get his opinion on the jet proposal (it's negative). He mentioned two important upcoming meetings to scope out the TPA's EA process, at the Convention Centre on January 24 and 26, 2015.

What is needed is to have the TPA respond to the needs and conditions of the neighbourhoods near the airport. TPA wants every study finished in 6 months – on traffic, noise etc. We need to persuade new city councillors to oppose jet expansion. “The expansion is a hail-Mary pass by Deluce,” said Joe. The Council’s Climate Change sub-committee will include this airport in its findings.

Joe had high praise for Waterfront Toronto. He said 97% of their projects were finished on time and on budget, and they have generated lots of revenue for the city. The Council will review the future of WT in June. He asked if GWC could include WT and other important Waterfront elements in its mandate. The Waterfront is a top priority to Joe. Revitalization is different from redevelopment, he said and WT is fully capable and fully staffed.

4. Theresa Thompson, spokesperson for Harbourfront Moms, lives on Queens Quay. She introduced their association, which arranges meet-ups with parents and children. She casually met with a few mothers in the neighbourhood years ago and found it “a lifesaver”. They are now 400 families with 600 children signed up in the area. In Theresa’s own building, every second condo on her floor is home to children. The Moms arrange activities that engages both kids and parents – strolls, Harbourfront Centre, Centre Island, play dates, soccer, dancing, language classes, public speaking, science club, RBC giving junior finance club, movies, puppet shows and having the library on wheels come to the condos. They have 3-4 events every day, most of them free of charge, for infants to 8 years old. Harbourfront Moms have a website: www.meetup.com/harbourfrontmoms
Theresa was happy to hear YQNA is pushing for two playgrounds on the Waterfront: in Harbour Square Park and in the Rees Parkette.

5. James Roche, Director of parks design and construction at WT, was guest speaker. His accomplishments so far are Canada’s Sugar Beach, Sherbourne Common, Under Pass Park, and Cork Town Common. He attended our meeting with WT staffers Pina Mallozzi and Samantha Gileno. James’ illustrated presentation was named “Transforming Our Waterfront: What We Found Along the Way.” What WT found underground surpassed anything they anticipated. It made the redesign of QQ much more complex, lengthy and carried unexpected costs. They faced aging and failing infrastructure, pipes with no apparent connection to anything, high water levels, sinkholes developing and worked from inaccurate drawings from the City archives. In all, they found 110 conflicts below ground. Everywhere they had to build chambers while dewatering to house the new services. Hydro even had to send divers down to plug a chamber! With each challenge, they often had to redesign the infrastructure. On top of it all, last winter was brutally cold.

The sleek lampposts had to be installed on a large surface foothold, since the watery ground could not hold them. Now the silva cells to facilitate the large tree allée along QQ are in place, high-end telecommunications is installed along with all other infrastructure. It has a moratorium of 5 years on any possible changes. The wide granite sidewalk and other surface work is still being done. QQ will open on time,

June 19, 2015 with much celebration. We were invited to send in our own party ideas.

The budget overrun on QQ reconstruction was criticized by Mayor John Tory, although he had met with WT and understood the inevitable reasons. Many comments at this meeting defended WT and commended them for overcoming the serious obstacles. Hal pointed out from his professional life as a project engineer that an overrun in Greenfield projects of 35%-40% is normal (fits the QQ overrun).

Ed asked about future plans for QQ East of Bay St. to Parliament. James could not give a schedule, but said the Martin Goodman Trail will open this summer from Stadium Road to Parliament Street.

Ed asked how we can best support WT. Samantha said we already support them well through politicians.

Pina said the granite sidewalks do not like the de-icing salt, nor do the trees that will soon be planted. She asked us to use calcium chloride instead of salt. She also said a new signal transit priority system is coming soon, making traffic much smoother. She explained how traffic signals cannot be too close together, and why a signal at the entrance at 55 Harbour Square is not possible.

6. Angie Rivers, treasurer, reported a balance of \$1224.80 on December 31, 2014. Donations totaling \$130 were given since the Nov. meeting. Ulla brought a new YQNA donations box and many donations were given.

7. Tom Davidson reported from Pam McConnell that an advantage of Pam's title as Deputy Mayor is giving her access to John Tory. She is active in Council initiative to combat poverty and is speaking to how to get the most out of existing funds in the budget. Transit and employment are also on her agenda.

Pam is active in the Jack Layton ferry Terminal redesign and the adjacent Harbour Square Park. Five teams were invited to submit designs and will present them in March, 2015. The masterplan for the park must include a playground, and it can perhaps be installed before the entire park is completed.

45 Bay Street plans are submitted to City Planning for condo towers, a bus station (to replace the bus station off Bay St. South of Front Street), and will feature an elevated park above the railroad tracks between the towers. [YQNA was invited to see the plans and approved them with one small adjustment to a sidewalk facing Bay Street]. This development will add another link to the PATH.

The York to Bay and circular ramps are now tendered for removal. Front Street at Union Station will be finished at the start of the Pan Am Games, and the entire Station completed early in 2016.

Klaus said Oxford Developments cut down 3 trees when they began construction on QQ. One tree was very large. Will Oxford replace them?

Tom was uncertain about that, but it is now on record.

Claire: Can we save the large mature trees in the Off-Ramp Park?

Tom was also uncertain of that, but we should talk to WT. They will issue a competition for this park design.

8. Clare Sparks (in Marie Blanchard's absence) reported from the Police Liaison Committee. She said 52 Division expected the Pan Am Games to be a friendly event and promised HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes from 5 am to midnight on several roads. That requires 3 people in a vehicle. At times some major roads, such as Bloor St., will be closed. Toronto has to wait for the Provincial Police to set rules for the Pan Am Games. They had a backlash from Police conduct during the G20 meeting.

9. Ed Hore, board member of the Greater Waterfront Coalition, reported on the founding of GWC and activities so far. GWC is backed by over a dozen neighbourhood associations in Toronto, including CORRA, which represents 52 associations. Ed said the Island Airport is a highly technical issue. Robust public consultation is needed because aeronautics are so complicated – the effects of the Island Airport on buildings, marine exclusion zones, the environment, business, development and much more. We need independent studies and cannot rely on TPA's (TorontoPort) EA. Since no independent study of this airport's effect on the city has been done, GWC has applied to TPA for funds to hire experts. On Dec. 9, 2014, Ed (a lawyer) wrote TPA a detailed application from GWC for intervenor funding, and GWC members discussed the issue with TPA a week later.

10. Hal Beck reported on the latest Liaison Committee meetings with TPA. He has attended 16 for YQNA so far. He reported that completion of the tunnel is delayed. Hal and a BQNA representative focused on outstanding issues, such as noise measurement data in which they found discrepancies, and the uncertain NEF noise contours. Ipsos Reid provided no answers to airport issues, especially with their Waterfront going all the way north to Bloor Street! The Taxi Staging at Eireann Quay will be decommissioned in July this year. What happens then? TPA's CLC meetings can be observed by the public. Hal said they are slated for March 4, May 20, Sept. 23 and Nov. 25 this year. The current masterplan for the Island Airport is a revised plan from 2012. Is that the baseline for the TPA's EA? A separate EA for extended runways is needed. Hal rolled out an impressive array of technical facts and figures re the airport and was applauded for his work. On Jan. 15, the TPA holds a stakeholder meeting. Ed Hore and Wayne Christian offered to be our representatives.

11. Adjournment

On a motion from Ed and seconded by Estelle, the meeting was adjourned.

12. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Laura will check availability at the Radisson Admiral Hotel before the meeting notice goes out.

