

**MINUTES OF MEETING #56 Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West
Chaired by Ed Hore**

Residents (who signed in) attending:

10 Yonge St. - Ed Hore
33 Harbour Square - Helen Skwarok, Bonnie Ben
55 Harbour Square - Ulla Colgrass
65 Harbour Square - Friedel Hatje, Klaus Hatje
77 Harbour Square - Laura Cooper, Nan Cooper
99 Harbour Square - Daphne Lavers, Harold Swartz, Margaret Hollingsworth, Geri Doherty
208 Queens Quay West - Estelle Weynman, Eva Sarenland
218 Queens Quay West - Kagen Kerman
230 Queens Quay West - Sarah Hsieh
250 Queens Quay West - Claire Sparks
251 Queens Quay West - Allan Rivers, Angie Rivers, Fran Pileggi
260 Queens Quay West - Wayne Christian, Marcia Boyd
270 Queens Quay West - Neal Colgrass
34 Little Norway Crescent - Hal Beck

Guests:

Marvin Stemeroff, Assoc. VP of AECOM, guest speaker
Heather Waddell, Harbourfront Centre
Tom Davidson, representing City Councillor Pam McConnell
Michelle MacIntosh, MP Adam Vaughan's representative
Peter Maragos, representing MPP Han Dong
Angela Homewood, EA specialist, Ports Toronto
Nicole Swerhun, of Swerhun Facilitation
Terry Turl, Water Taxi Association
Shirley Bush, 412 Eglinton West
Ian Gardner, Port Credit (Mississauga)

1. Adoption of Minutes from Jan. 14, 20145 meeting
On a motion from Nan Cooper, seconded by Allan Rivers, the minutes were adopted.

2. Adoption of the agenda. On a motion from Daphne Lavers, seconded by Claire Sparks the agenda was adopted.

3. Terry Turl introduced the newly established Water Taxi Association. He said their 9 water taxi operators have proposed to Parks and Recreation that they get temporary docking permits this summer at the pier next to the York Park (near waterfall). He said there is great need for more water taxis, had already operated them last summer, and that the Pam Am Games would put more pressure on taxis this summer. He suggested future plans include a 20' floating dock along the boardwalk at Yonge Street after this summer. He said that taxis could expand their routes and not only serve the islands but other nearby locations.

James Dann of Parks had denied them access, being concerned about unauthorized boats and the ability to enforce rules and bylaws.

4. Marvin Stemeroff from AECOM, a global expert in management programs of large projects, was guest speaker. He lives in Guelph and is tasked with getting opinions from residents in Toronto about the island airport and is hired by Ports Toronto (PT). "I look for a balanced assessment of what is current use and what's proposed," he said. Eight disciplines will be considered in his research: socio-economic impacts, land use, archeology, transportation, marine navigation, recreation and more. As he spoke, people interjected their questions.

Allan: What discipline does dumping of excavated soil in the lake come under?

M: It touches on many categories.

Fran: What is the timeline for your finished report?

M: Some time in the fall, not decided yet.

Neal: Is the new jet finished and certified?

Angela: Not yet. It is still being tested.

Wayne: Expansion of the airport (for jets) would be big. 941,000 sq' need to be filled in all the way to the lake bottom.

Angela: Materials for that may come by boat, rail or truck.

Nan: If the results of expansion turn out to be negative, will that be in your report?

Angela: The Report will be posted by PT for a 30-day review.

Unknown: Will all groups be heard?

Nicole: All groups who applied to be included in our survey were accepted. They were about 60% against jets and 40% pro jets.

Allan: PT's public meetings on the airport were not advertised well enough. The media were not covering them.

Nicole: Civic groups promote these meetings.

Angela: PT has advertised in the papers.

General reaction: Very poor one-time ads.

Marvin said PT's meetings in December and January dealt with uses of the Waterfront - as home to residents, recreation, tourism and more.

Ulla: Will you ask Toronto citizens about the Waterfront without giving them information about the jet proposal?

M: We will not educate people about jets and we won't mention the airport – just ask people how they feel about the Waterfront. How important it is so them.

Angie: How can you finish your report in the fall, when there is no completed scope, terms of reference, no master plan and no business plan?

Nicole: A year ago the City gave us steps to follow, limits of activity regarding the master plan and business plan.

M: We have done EAs on projects that were never built.

Ulla: Don't you need a business plan, and how do you get it if you can't see Porter's books?

Angela: The EA process will be going ahead with or without conditions.

M: Our EA is very comprehensive.

Estelle: What models are used in each category of assessments?

M: Each category has different models – many scientific categories have special models.

Margaret: What if you find that most Toronto people don't use the Waterfront and don't find it an asset?

Klaus: How can you filter out Scarborough and other suburbs where people often think of the Waterfront as an elite area and don't appreciate it?

Unknown: How can you be unbiased when you are paid by PT?

M: This is my profession. I have done this for 30 years and don't tailor EAs to a client's needs.

Laura: Are you polling people just in English?

M: That is a good question. I will think about that.

Nicole: The airport can increase the passenger load from 2.4 million to 3.6 million without jets. The City wants to shrink it to less than 2.4 million.

Daphne: Jets would ramp up airport activity much higher than 3.6 million. The Tripartite Agreement only allows Stol aircraft. The current planes are not Stol, but have jet engines, though they use propellers. So the Tripartite is already broken. The new jet aircraft are way more noisy – look at Bombardier's website.

Nicole: Toronto Island Pilot Association has legal proceedings underway with PT. 2500 tons of fuel is sitting above ground and is going on tanker trucks on the passenger ferry. An explosion would be catastrophic.

Ed: We met with Transport Canada last night and regulations about fuel came up.

Nicole: Regulations are very strict in Vancouver!

Shirley: Are you aware of the City's health report on this airport?

--- Then Ed announced the time was up for Marvin, our guest speaker.

5. Angie Rivers, treasurer, reported a balance of \$1,199 on February 27, 2015. She collected \$100 in donations at the last meeting and paid \$129 to our Web Host.

6. Tom Davidson reported from Pam McConnell's office that work on the ramps from the Gardiner will begin late 2016. Both the Simcoe ramp and the circular ramp at York St. are tendered and budgeted. Funding of \$10 million came from Menkes' Harbour Plaza development through Section 37. The City's capital funding covered the rest and Council approved the total \$30 million budget. After the ramps are down, the park design at York and QQ begins.

Captain John's ship at Yonge St. hasn't moved. The City and Ports Toronto are still looking for someone to pay for it and remove it. Final bids will be in April, 2015, and expected removal in mid-May.

Several special events will happen in Waterfront Parks this summer, all of them hosted by non-profit and charitable organizations. They can only make money from food & beverage sales. The City has had a Pilot Project of leasing the new Waterfront Parks for commercial events, with the aim of profit from these incentives going into the general City budget, but not much has been generated. Pam did not support this, but it was approved by Council. There is now a limit on such events. Event organizers can no longer charge for tickets or fence in an entire park. It must be kept open to the public and purchases of food/drink is optional. Council will vote on this Pilot Project at the end of 2015.

Regardless of the outcome, the City can't charge much in rental fees.

The scope of the large Island concerts was to generate seasonal and longer use of the Island. Tom mentioned that the ferries were overwhelmed with the extra concert crowds on weekend concert days.

Daphne: The concerts on Hanlan's Point and other Island venues were very loud on shore every second holiday last summer.

Marcia: I monitored the HtO park concerts last summer. The park is much too small for that type of use.

7. Peter Maragos, assistant to MPP Han Dong, assured us that Han will be our guest speaker at our next meeting, May 13 (he cancelled for this meeting). Peter also mentioned new development legislation is coming, and that the Condo Act continues to be discussed in public meetings.

8. Michelle MacIntosh, MP Adam Vaughan's constituency representative, reported that Adam is focusing on three issues in Parliament:

- Protecting Toronto's Waterfront. No reopening of the Tripartite Agreement.

- Investigating the murder of indigenous women and finding ways to prevent it.
- Getting an urban agenda. Adam has toured Canadian cities to speak about needed improvement in affordable housing.

Meetings will be coming regarding the CBC, as well as rail safety.

Michelle passed a petition to keep the Tripartite as it is. Many signed.

9. Heather Waddell, director of Planning at Harbourfront

Centre, reported that skating was still happening on their site. They are switching to Spring, cleaning the 10-acre site and getting marinas ready, with new docks coming in. Garbage bins have been removed from QQ for the opening of the Promenade on June 20-21. The summer will have dance performances, circus programs, festivals and many other attractions (see HfC website). Harbourfront and WBIA is in partnership with Gangways Open, which gives access to ships and opportunities to get on sail boats. Canada Day will have the usual elaborate fireworks, and Nuit Blanche will be active on the Waterfront.

10. Hal said that the Stakeholders Committee regarding the Island Airport has dealt with noise issues, but found no solutions. Serious security issues at the airport have also been raised, such as inability of necessary emergency vehicles to reach the airport, especially during winter with thick ice.

11. Ed talked about the progress of the Greater Waterfront Coalition's effort to receive funding for independent Environmental Assessments pertaining to safety and economic effects from the proposed jet expansion. Progress has been made, and funds are promised – amount unknown at this time. They will be managed by Waterfront Toronto.

11. Adjournment

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

12. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 7, 2015.