

MINUTES OF MEETING #60, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016
Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West
Chaired by Ed Hore

Residents (who signed in) attending:

10 Yonge St. – Ed Hore
1 York Quay –
33 Harbour Square – Anne Michaud, Josh Howard
55 Harbour Square – Ulla Colgrass, Catherine Kellett,
65 Harbour Square – Celia & Bob Rasmussen,
77 Harbour Square – Laura Cooper, Nan Cooper,
99 Harbour Square – Mary Marrone, Geri Doherty, Harold & Linda Swartz
208 Queens Quay West – Estelle Weynman, Kate Lee, Gail Middleton
218 Queens Quay West –
228 Queens Quay West – Carolyn Johnson, Gordon & Elaine Moores, Dave & Lynne Secor,
Ian Campbell, Alex De Sousa, Visanti Singh, Rick David, John & Rochelle Hayward
230 Queens Quay West – Derek Deil, Paul Attfield, Romanua Yakivchyk, Kasia Introwski,
John & Sal Baio, Eric Wong, Sara Hsieh, Rita Lecours
250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks
251 Queens Quay West – Allan Rivers, Angie Rivers, Fran Pileggi, Ken & Holly Rutherford,
Bert & Joy Van Kleef, Gerry Lewis, Gaetano Zafarano
260 Queens Quay West – Carol McCause, Wayne Christian,
270 Queens Quay West – Norman Di Pasquale, Neal Colgrass, Pat Kern, Annick Aubert,
350 Queens Quay West –

Guests:

Lenita Lopes – Office of MP Adam Vaughan
Joe Cressy – City Councillor
Brent Gilliard – Assist. to Councillor Joe Cressy
Tom Davidson, Assist. to Councillor Pam McConnell
Heather Wadell – from Harbourfront Centre
Kimberly Spice, The Bulletin newspaper
Jim Schaffner – City of Toronto

1. Adoption of Minutes from Nov. 18, 2015 meeting

On a motion from Carolyn Johnson, seconded by Claire Sparks, the minutes were adopted, subject to changing Chair Ed Hore to Chair Laura Cooper.

2. Adoption of the agenda. On a motion by Ed Hore, seconded by Nan Cooper, the agenda was adopted.

3. Chair Ed Hore introduced Councillor Joe Cressy and his assistant Brent Gilliard, who brought a presentation on some waterfront issues.

Joe outlined the Ward 20 boundaries, from York to Bathurst and the lake to Dupont.

Neighbourhoods are growing and more residents are coming out to meetings, like here tonight.

Waterfront: from Etobicoke to Scarborough, Toronto is becoming a waterfront city again. There are 17 million annual visitors to the area, second only to the Eaton Centre, 8 Blue Flag beaches and hundreds of businesses. Thanks to NOJETSTO and others, the fight against airport expansion has been won and after that distraction we can focus on going forward with our new vision. Waterfront Toronto (WT) was founded in 2001 with \$1.5 billion in funding from three levels of government. The agency has done a wonderful job. A KPMG study found its work has triggered \$2.6 billion in private sector investment, \$660 million in taxes and 1700 new jobs. The funding will expire in 2022 so we need renewed funds for WT2.0 to get on with flood protection and transit like the East Bayfront LRT. Also the Port Authority needs reform and he will work with the Federal Government on this.

Liveability: the area is about living in it, not just getting in and out, and the vertical villages need parks and community centres. The section of the Gardiner between Strachan and Spadina, which is not coming down, will be repaired for \$125 million. Beneath, thanks to a donation from the Matthews Foundation of \$25 million, a new urban playground to serve the 70,000 residents living nearby will be created, including parks, performance spaces and a dog run! It is due for completion by July 1, 2017. Another community space is planned for \$5 million at 318 Queens Quay, the Harbourfront parking lot which is leased from the City. Joe is on the Board of Harbourfront Centre, and in early February there will be a meeting about the revenue stream. There will be public consultation on the future use of this large space. The Rees Street Parkette is getting a \$200,000 playground. Consultation with YQNA and the Harbourfront Parents' Group has led to selection of both options 1 and 3 for equipment, so a new design will come out soon for implementation in 2016. At HTO Park the BIA is sponsoring an artisans market every weekend through the Summer. WT is working on fixing the pinch point on the bike path near the Harbourfront Community Centre with a short-term solution and ultimately another wave deck.

Bathurst Quay Study: the area has 2700 residents, schools, parks and the airport. There have been many meetings leading to a vision due to go to Council in June. Some ideas include re-use of the silos for arts and culture, an aquatic centre, and underground parking for the airport to free up the Stadium Road parking lot. 70% of traffic is airport drop-off and pick-up.

Gardiner Ramp: the EA study and design meetings with the condos took place around 2009.

Harbour Street is to become more pedestrian-friendly, there will be more park space and a more liveable area. The project has received EA and Council approval. There will be expropriation behind some condos and the Parkette. There is a public process ahead for more design work. It is about revitalization and liveability, not more development.

Tom Davidson provided an update on plans: in June there will be a public meeting for the Lower Yonge Precinct together with general information on this ramp project. New ramp construction to start this year; in 2017 the old ramps will be decommissioned to minimize the ramp closure period. Early in 2017 there will be a public process for the new park, for 2018 implementation.

Joe Cressy returned to the floor for questions.

Q Why not leave the ramps as is? What about GO buses? City is cutting into Rees Parkette, trees, Riviera land used by dogs. The York park is fine.

A It was a done deal before Joe was on Council. It's about a better park that is 4 times the size of the Parkette, leading to more park space, plus the ideas at 318 QQ will improve things more, and Harbour Street will be nicer. There was community work done at the time.

Q Why not stop it?

A Because it is a good project.

Q On Robertson Crescent the Police park and block the now two-way road. How can Police vehicles be removed?

A Joe is working on it. The parking regulations are being changed to prevent others from parking in the area, and more green time put on the traffic signals. There is to be a meeting with the BIA about improving Robertson and Joe will bring the Police in.

Q On the ramp issue, the corner (of Simcoe and Lakeshore) is not safe, it is dangerous now and has no police presence. There can be heavy traffic with events at the ACC Rogers Centre etc. and many pedestrians. What will happen with ramp traffic dumped on Simcoe Street?

Q More pedestrian space on Harbour Street will be good. However, no developer wants to have nice streetscapes and retail uses at grade. How can Joe help?

A The street experience matters. In City Place east of Spadina there is little retail and street animation; it is better on the west side as we learned. Having more retail and public realm space at street corners from the start is important, because re-do's are hard.

Jim Schaffner took the floor. He has been involved in the ramp and traffic design and signal timing. The detailed design will look at intersection design, including crossing lengths and times, placement of zebra stripes, etc. The public will be involved.

Joe Cressy took back the floor.

Q Concerned about traffic on Queens Quay; Does the ramp really need to be removed? There is too much construction in the area. The corner is dangerous already.

Q It is our main entry (to the Riviera). The ESR was disappointing as the public was only interviewed at Bay and York Streets. We must have no right turn on red off the ramp. Our parking garage and driveway access will be a problem. At the corner pedestrians are hidden by columns. Talk to us, we have formed a Committee on the matter.

A In September 2009 the first meeting was held and throughout 2010 there was a residents' group working on the design and vision for nicer streets. It is public investment in the area. Adam Vaughan (then ward councillor) has said Simcoe residents were involved. The project responds to a community request in the past for a more liveable street on Harbour and York. The City does need to deal with construction and traffic impacts. Joe wants to improve it so he will come and talk to the residents.

Q The City's first report said no private land would be required. Was there an amendment?

A Expropriation sounds threatening.

Q Why spend \$200,000 on the Parkette when there will be construction?

Q Did not know until recently about the ramp project and did not realize York ramp demolition means a new ramp touching down on Simcoe. At the Riviera the issue is garage driveways for our condo and the public garage. The City must do something to manage the traffic. Pedestrians will have to cross the ramp, Harbour and Lakeshore – 9 lanes. What about a pedestrian bridge over it all? It is busy in the summer and should be looked at. The PATH currently ends at the convention centre, consider an extension.

A These are expensive ideas. The study was done with the community in the past. We need to look at all the issues going forward. As for the playground, there is a 10 year capital plan and the money came available for this year. There is a long history of requests for improvements to the Parkette. There will be meetings.

Jim Schaffner took the floor.

A In July work is due to start on the ramp building. Some part of the Parkette will be hoarded off but there will be no problems for the new playground.

Q Why is more land now required than was shown in the ESR?

A. For the bike trail.

Tom Davidson took the floor

A The linear bike trail along the Lakeshore is different from the facility on Queens Quay.

Joe Cressy took back the floor

Q There is already a park at York Street. It will be a disaster. All the land around will be developed so in 10 years' time the City may sell it off. RBC could take it over for a second office tower.

A The City has never sold parkland for development. The entire vision is for growth. King-Spadina has gone from 1,000 to 10,000 residents and it needs a park. We have 4 times the growth rate of the rest of the City. We have to add parks for families and dogs, and expand the liveable space. Section 37 development funds go to parkland, there will be no sale. Joe commits to this.

Q (Ed) About TPA reform do you have any ideas?

A it will be an iterative process. The TPA was set up against the City's wishes. We can look at WT as an example of a good agency. We need to reform the TPA to be more democratic. Joe will be meeting with Community Air on Friday to discuss island issues. It makes a change from talking about 80 storey building proposals at other meetings in the ward.

Laura Cooper recommended that meeting attendees stay up to date through the YQNA website, Facebook and possibly Twitter.

4. Chair Ed Hore invited **Tom Davidson** to provide an update on Ward 28 matters.

Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

The project involves a redesign of the terminal and Harbour Square Park. There will be a meeting on January 26 at 6:30 in the Brigantine Room to go over the current design. The plan includes a children's play area. The phasing plan will be discussed, along with Phase 1 funding and design.

East Gardiner

There will be a meeting on January 19 at 6:30 at the Toronto Reference Library to look at the new hybrid design options. The elevated ramps are going further north, and there will be public realm options under the Gardiner from Cherry to Jarvis, similar to the west end of the Gardiner project, along with safer intersections.

Budget

There will be a budget Town Hall with Pam McConnell at St Lawrence Hall on January 21 at 6:30 pm. This meeting will include information on the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Yonge-York-Bay Ramp Project

The existing York ramp does not meet current safety standards. There will be a nicer park. Other options were looked at and the selected option was found to be the best. However, the

intersection design is critical. According to the EA traffic model, infiltration to Queens Quay will not be a problem.

Q With respect to the ferry terminal, what is happening about visitor parking at Harbour Square?

A. It is on leased City land. It may go underground.

Q from Ulla: The first suggestion for the ramp demolition came from Braz Menezes of YQNA.

Q What about The Docks night club?

A. They are planning for a renovation and outdoor structures. They had a liquor licence with conditions, which has been revoked. New conditions are proposed to mitigate noise. The AGCO refused the application so it has been appealed to the Divisional Court. City staff are authorized to oppose the conditions at the hearing this month.

5. Harbourfront Centre – Heather Waddell

Heather noted that the Natrel rink is Toronto's premier rink. It will have a partner in 2 years' time. There is still space in skating lessons for all levels. On Saturdays there are DJ Skate Night: 1,000 participants came to the first one in December.

In the Visual Arts programme, on January 29 new exhibitions will open with a free party from 8 to 11 in both the Bill Boyle Artport and the Power Plant. This weekend there is dance at the Fleck Theatre in Queens Quay Terminal. On January 20 the World Stage season starts, see the website for details. It includes shows from France and from Brussels/Palestine.

Kuumba will be celebrated the first weekend of February, followed by a "snow globe" on the Monday of the Family Day weekend in February. Next will be Lunarfest for the Chinese New Year, the year of the monkey, on February 20/21.

Camp registration is now open for March Break and the Summer with many programmes as shown on the website. There is a Community Liaison meeting on February 1 with Joe Cressy.

6. Greater Waterfront Coalition – Ed Hore

Ed noted that the GWC united residents' groups around the airport expansion issue. Should it disband or continue? It could deal with the TPA. The TPA mandate is all about transportation that has a 1950's vision for the waterfront as a working port. It needs to be more in sync and up to date. There is also the constant threat of crazy ideas to deal with on the waterfront.

7. Treasurer's Report - Angie Rivers

Angie announced that there is currently \$1407 in the kitty, and asked for donations to the box.

8. Committee Reports

a) Planning – Ulla Colgrass

Ulla spoke about a meeting between several YQNA officers and planning consultants concerning a proposal for two office towers to house 10,000 employees on Bay Street north and south of the rail corridor. The towers will be connected by a POP park above the tracks. The GO bus station will remain below the north building. It will be connected through the PATH to Union Station and will extend it further south. The Committee has a list of 9 items from former area planning manager Al Rezowski to get completed. They will meet soon with the new CEO of Waterfront Toronto Will Fleissig. Ulla invited the audience to e-mail any questions or concerns.

Q. Are you doing anything on the parking lot at Rees? It provides visitor parking for the adjacent condo.

A. Years ago YQNA submitted an idea. Then Ward Councillor Olivia Chow had said parking could go underground. It has to be discussed with the City and Harbourfront Centre.

b) Community Police Liaison Committee – Claire Sparks

Claire advised that a meeting was held at OCADU as an Open House. \$3041 was raised from the Summer Barbeque which is going to a children's programme. 52 Division is being renovated to include a Community meeting room with related facilities.

On the rush hour parking blitz, Police would like to use photo ID of service trucks instead of tickets. It can cost \$1000 for a tow to the pound in Scarborough, but a new pound has opened in the Portlands which will be cheaper. The Police are also asking for increased fines for parking infractions, that cannot be reduced by a JP.

With respect to crime statistics, in 2011 there were 48,000 residents with age 25 to 44 being the largest group. Seniors 65 to 85 represented only 3%. High rises are the most common building form, which is expected to reach 98% eventually. The area south of Lakeshore is quite safe, with theft from cars and shops being the main problem. In the Entertainment District there is more serious violent crime. Something to look out for is taxi fraud on credit cards, where the PIN is noted and a fake card handed back. Also ID theft is on the rise. Police ask residents to report anything suspicious.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday March 9, 2016.