

**MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #68, Wednesday, September 13, 2017, Radisson Admiral Hotel,
249 Queens Quay West
Chaired by Allan Rivers**

Residents (who signed in) attending:

39 Queens Quay East -
10 Yonge Street. – Ed Hore
18 Yonge Street –
10 Queens Quay West – Paul & Janis Coburn
1 York Quay –
33 Harbour Square – Helen Skwarok, Raki Pillay, C.J. Holyk
55 Harbour Square – Ulla Colgrass, Leah Lambert, Eric Faucher
65 Harbour Square – Bob & Celia Rasmussen, Friedel & Klaus Hatje, Adrienne Pollak, John &
Susan Le May, Lauren & Cynthia Stephenson, Lorna Rosenstein, F. Koshimizu
77 Harbour Square – Laura Cooper,
99 Harbour Square – John Allett, Gail Fineberg, Harold Swartz, Irene Phillips
8 York Street - Peter Augruso
208 Queens Quay West – Estelle Weynman
211 Queens Quay West – R. Modlich-Evdemon, Susan Brown, Douglas Simpson, Gil & Ingrid
Rinaldi, John & Affaf Owen, N. Ranckanlami
218 Queens Quay West – Ann Mayer
228 Queens Quay West – Carolyn Johnson, Dave & Lynn Secor, David & Karin Milne, Ian Campbell,
Gordon & Elaine Moores
230 Queens Quay West – Rita LeCours, Romanna Yakivchyk, Angelo & G. Bertolas
250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks, David Greene
251 Queens Quay West – Allan Rivers
260 Queens Quay West – Marcia Boyd, Carol McCause,
270 Queens Quay West – Neal Colgrass, Susan & Masaki Nakamichi, Annick Aubert,
280 Queens Quay West –
350 Queens Quay West – Norman Di Pasquale
401 Queens Quay West –
34 Little Norway –

Guests:

Amy Zhao – Office of MP Adam Vaughan
Tom Davidson – Assist. to Ward 28
Brent Gilliard – Assist. to Joe Cressy
Heather Waddell – Harbourfront Centre
Christopher McKinnon – Waterfront Toronto
Ron Jenkins – Mississauga
Rob Roland – 500 Queens Quay West
Susan Davies – 500 Queens Quay West
Karin Langill – 600 Queens Quay West
Christine Laughlen – 600 Queens Quay West
Kealey Willaw – 600 Queens Quay West
Eric Ladelfa – 680 Queens Quay West

Jim Panou – 91 Stadium Road
Shirley Bush – 412 Eglinton Avenue East
Jonathan Hughes – ??
Robert Nordness – ??

Co-Chair Ed Hore opened the meeting and welcomed all those attending.

1. Adoption of the agenda.

On a motion from Carolyn Johnson, seconded by Estelle Weynman, the agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of Minutes from June 7, 2017 meeting.

On a general vote, the minutes were adopted.

Ed Hore passed the Chair to Allan Rivers for the remainder of the meeting.

Chair Allan Rivers noted the large turn-out and introduced those people who were listed to speak on agenda items, as well as Klaus Hatje the timekeeper.

3. Proposed Changes to YQNA Boundaries

Secretary Carolyn Johnson outlined the current boundaries as set out in the Constitution and explained the rationale for the proposed changes. The possibility of an eastward expansion was raised. **Chair Allan Rivers** noted that the meeting was already standing room only, and YQNA is not able to pay for a meeting room but relies on the generosity of the Radisson Hotel. Following a further brief discussion, the vote was called and on a show of hands the result was clearly in favour of the change with none against.

4. Proposed Name Change to Queens Quay Neighbourhood Association (QQNA)

Secretary Carolyn Johnson explained that while the group originated around York Quay, its area of interest has expanded and the new situation would be better reflected by referring to Queens Quay.

Chair Allan Rivers opened the floor for questions and comments:

There was a vigorous discussion with several suggestions for alternative names and also for no change at all. Some noted that YQNA has become a brand and is well known and respected.

Web-master Neal Colgrass took the floor to outline the changes that would be required to various platforms such as the web site, the Facebook pages and the Twitter handle; some would be simple, some not so much. A member of the audience also mentioned the bank account name.

It was clear that the audience was divided on the issue so a vote was called by show of hands. Ed Hore kindly assisted in counting the votes. The result was as follows:

No Change – 27 in favour; QQNA – 21 in favour; QQNA (Central) – 1 in favour; QQWNA – 3 in favour.

Therefore the name YQNA will remain.

5. New Harbour Street design and future park at York Street

Secretary Carolyn Johnson explained that she represents YQNA on the Construction Liaison Committee (CLC), which includes representatives from affected buildings along the route of the former York-Bay-Yonge ramps along with City staff. She noted the current state of construction of the new ramp deck and the recent paving of Harbour Street along with the work at the York and Harbour intersection over the Labour Day weekend. The next CLC meeting will be held on September 21 and she would welcome hearing of any concerns after the meeting today.

Moving on to the park design, Carolyn explained that the support piers for the former York ramp are not being removed as part of the current project. Parks staff had asked for them to be retained and so their future will be decided as part of the park design and construction.

Chair Allan Rivers opened the floor for questions and comments.

Concerns with the piers included the safety of children climbing on them and of park users without clear sightlines, and attracting graffiti of the worst kind. Positive suggestions included quality art on them, and vertical landscaping. However, the general mood of the meeting was that the piers must be removed.

With respect to the park design, suggestions included lots of green space and flowers, making use of the shade from the mature trees, plenty of benches, a Story Pod for borrowing/lending books, accommodation for older children as well as little ones, a dog run, and a waterfall feature like the one at Sherbourne Street to mask traffic noise. It should be an iconic place with no commercial uses like a café on this valuable site.

Chair Allan Rivers introduced Tom Davidson, from the Ward 28 office.

Tom noted that a new park will be designed by Waterfront Toronto and City Parks with high quality consultation. A meeting will be held before the end of this year to discuss the needs of the community. The meeting will be well-publicized including through YQNA. The delay in moving forward is caused by the need for funding and for an agreement with Waterfront Toronto.

6. Update from Waterfront Toronto

Chair Allen Rivers invited Chris McKinnon to speak.

Harbour Square Park and Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Chris advised that in the Fall construction will begin for the first phase with improved signage, a wider promenade path, lighting and new trees. Wayfinding ideas are under review. A construction manager has to be hired and more information will follow once he/she is in place. The rest of the park design will follow once there is funding

Q. Will the paving on the pathway be like the rest of Queens Quay? The pavers with gaps between are hard on strollers and luggage.

A. Yes, they will be granite pavers.

Q. We need a PATH extension down to the lake.

A. This could be part of the East Bayfront LRT.

Q. The intersection of Bay and Queens Quay is very dangerous from observation.

A. Traffic management is now a City responsibility.

Q. When the Westin Hotel was built it was intended to have an underground connection but this was never put in.

Queens Quay Trees

Chris advised that the warranty period has been extended by a year. Some trees are sick and dying. A warranty walk was done this summer and this Fall trees to be removed will be marked. Dead trees will be replaced next Spring. Some ailing trees may recover. Staff need a report on the reason the trees are dying.

Q. The trees have not been watered regularly this year.

Q. Too many bikes are chained to the trees. We need more bike rings.

Q. We need more police presence on Queens Quay to keep drivers off the TTC tracks and bicycle trail.

7. Construction and Future Plans at Island Airport.

Chair Allan Rivers invited Ron Jenkins to make a presentation. By way of background, Ron outlined the current situation with the runways and the Marine Exclusion Zones (MEZ's) marked by buoys off the runway ends. The failed proposal to allow jets would have required a runway lengthening of 200 m at each end with lake filling. This 200m included a 150m safety zone (RESA) for landing overshoots. The Air France accident at Pearson airport in 2005 led to a Transport Canada recommendation for RESA's. Canada is behind in implementing international airport safety regulations.

From its runway length Billy Bishop should be a Code 3 airport but in fact it is Code 2. The expansion for jets would have raised the status to Code 3.

Ron mentioned the recent article in the Toronto Metro newspaper about new safety regulations. One way to meet these regulations would be to extend the runways into the lake by 50 m at each end, but other valid options exist which were not mentioned in the article. Today Billy Bishop has 100 m of safety zone beyond the designated runways. Other solutions are an arresting surface of engineered material or a reduction in the declared runway length. However, the existing runway is too short and the Q400 planes cannot fly fully loaded, so 50 m off the runway would impact Porter with more distant destinations. Air Canada only flies to Montreal so it has less need for a full payload.

Ports Toronto is now talking about 50 m lake fill extensions. The Tripartite Agreement prohibits lake filling so it would have to be re-opened. If the runways were extended the sunk costs would then justify a lease renewal beyond 2033.

However, Ron noted that a change to the taxiway could effectively extend the runway. We need a proper design like the work done for the Environmental Assessment (of the extension for jets). Transport Canada is working through consultations on RESA's and seeking feedback from airport stakeholders across the country. For most airports there is ample land available but Billy Bishop is about the worst case.

Ron remarked that there is also a political angle to the issue. The City's current Mayor is a supporter of the airport. The Federal government today is Liberal with Marc Garneau as Minister of Transport. If there were a Conservative government it would include jet supporters. The airport

today is unsafe with respect to emergency access and constrained airspace. A new airport here would not be approved. Porter lobbyists Michael Diamond and Sussex Strategies are active in Ottawa.

Q. Why not keep it at Code 2? An improvement to Code 3 would allow private jets to operate.

Q. How can residents be heard?

A. Through the politicians. Write to the newspaper etc.

8. Waterfront Summit hosted by Waterfront for All

Co-Chair Ed Hore explained that Waterfront for All grew out of the NoJetsTO effort, and deals with the whole Toronto waterfront from Etobicoke to Scarborough. There will be a Summit at George Brown College on October 27 in the afternoon and workshops on October 28. There will be good speakers including a contingent from Boston to discuss their waterfront revitalization experience and explore the issues.

Ed also noted that **the Rebel Nightclub Hearing** will reconvene at the end of October for 5 days to wrap up.

9. Ward 28 Update

Chair Allan Rivers invited Tom Davidson to speak.

Tom thanked members of YQNA for their messages of support and condolence during Pam McConnell's illness and subsequent passing. He noted that Pam continued to work for her constituents from her hospital bed, much to dismay of her care-givers. There was a celebration of her life on August 25.

The work of the Ward 28 office continues with staff under the ambit of the City Clerk. Staff will be depending on help from YQNA in the future. The City has a procedure to fill a vacancy on Council. The Clerk will bring forward a report recommending the proper course of action. At this stage in the term of Council the recommendation will likely be for an appointment. Suitable candidates, who must undertake not to run for election in 2018, can put their names forward, and a special meeting of Council will make the selection for someone to serve until November 2018. The person appointed should continue Pam's direction.

For the 2018 election, Tom noted that the result of the Ward Boundary Review has been appealed to the OMB. The Clerk needs the issue settled by the end of December 2017 to put the new Wards into effect.

Director Ulla Colgrass gave a tribute to Pam McConnell, which is attached.

A member of the audience suggested that the new park at York Street bear her name.

10. Ward 20 Update

Chair Allan Rivers invited Brent Gilliard to speak.

Brent advised that the development proposal for 390 Queens Quay is still before the OMB, with a full hearing planned for 2018. City staff are opposed to the project.

For the park proposal at 318 Queens Quay the City is partnering with Waterfront Toronto and they are not quite ready to set up public meetings to build on the work done to date.

At this point, **Chair Allan Rivers** invited Heather Waddell from Harbourfront Centre to talk about the Pawsyway building. Heather said that Harbourfront put out a Request for Expressions of Interest which has now closed. There were several submissions which will be reviewed by the Board of Directors, which includes the Councillors. Williams Coffee will remain for now. The rest of the building is being cleared ready for a retrofit by the new tenant, which could last for 6 to 18 months. The use will align with Harbourfront's programming and the local residential uses. A member of the audience requested that it not become a nightclub.

Brent continued by explaining that a deck is being built at the Portland Slip to remove the pinch point in the bicycle trail and remove conflicts for pedestrians. It will be completed in October now that the lake level has dropped enough. The eventual plan is for another wave deck at this location.

Construction has begun on Block 31 in City Place for the schools and community centre. While construction is under way, pedestrian connections along Spadina Avenue will be improved.

Meetings include Waterfront Transit Re-set on September 18 at Harbourfront for the Central Waterfront, and an Official Plan Amendment to change the land use for the Rail Deck Park from Utility Corridor to Park, at City Hall on September 25.

11. Policing

Chair Allan Rivers noted that Wayne Christian was at the Police Liaison Committee meeting to request more police presence on Queens Quay to keep drivers off the TTC tracks and bike path among other local issues.

12. Treasurer's Report – Allan Rivers

Angie was unable to attend the meeting so Allan stated that the balance now stands at \$1875.50. Donations at the last meeting amounted to \$180.

13. Other Business

A member of the audience requested that a sound system be provided at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

The next meeting will tentatively be on Wednesday November 8, 2017

Tribute to Pam McConnell by Ulla Colgrass

When city councillor Pam McConnell died on July 7th at age 71, it was a great loss to Waterfront residents and the city. She began in 1994 as councillor in Ward 28, which includes the Waterfront east of York St. We are now waiting to hear who will take her place until the next election in October, 2018 when a permanent councillor will be elected.

Pam was a fiery defender of those in need. Her tremendous energy fueled the remake of Regent Park, helped the homeless, fought for women's equality and inclusion in politics. She even spread her vision to international projects on gender equality in Europe and Africa, which I only learned about when I asked her where she got her exotic trademark jackets. She was not one to promote her own accomplishments, but often couldn't restrain her enthusiasm for what she had

experienced – new funding for social programs, urban renewal, new parks or what her grandchildren had done.

I went to the memorial service in August for Pam at the grand St. James Cathedral. It was overflowing with friends and admirers, and crowds were standing outside. All of officialdom was there, including 5 Toronto mayors, councillors, planners and prominent citizens. But most of the crowd were the people Pam had worked with during her long public career. They were from public housing, indigenous groups, artist co-ops, women's shelters, immigrant groups, and LGBT leaders. They spoke, they sang and danced – and in the process taught some politicians a lesson or two about public service. I sat next to a musician who had started Regent Park's music school with Pam's help, and on the other side was Pam's hairdresser, who had clearly lost her favourite customer.

I learned a few new things about Pam that day:

She was less than 5 feet tall, and I always thought she was a lot taller!

She was not an NDP woman in Birkenstock sandals, but loved elegant and pricy Italian shoes.

She had beautiful nails that were done every week, and always in the colour of Kinky in Helsinki.

On the Waterfront, Pam was a driving force behind the naming of Jack Layton Ferry Dock and the erection of the popular sculpture of Jack on his tandem bike in Harbour Square Park. She also negotiated \$10 million in Section 37 Funds from developers around our upcoming park at York Street, which made it possible to remove the ramps. For years she helped us ward off all bidders on this park.

Pam's senior advisor Tom Davidson has been our constant liaison to her office, so we saw her only when necessary. Totally pragmatic about what YQNA could accomplish in the bureaucratic maze at City Hall, she laid out our options and gave useful advice. In Council she was a formidable speaker. She might have been pushed around physically by a belligerent Rob Ford, but in mental combat she was invincible and could wrap up complex issues on the spot and with great precision. She will be missed, but we are grateful for her lasting gifts.