

**YQNA FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING #72, Tuesday, May 15, 2018, Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West  
Chaired by Angelo Bertolas**

**1. Presentations by Provincial Election Candidates.**

The meeting opened with statements from the three candidates in attendance:

Rita Billerman – Green Party of Ontario;

Hand Dong – Liberal Party of Ontario;

Chris Glover – Ontario NDP.

Iris Yu, PC Party, sent regrets.

These candidates are running for election on June 7, 2018 in the new Riding of Spadina-Fort York, since the Provincial Government adopted the new Federal Ridings for this election.

The report on this part of the meeting appears at the end.

**2. Adoption of Minutes** from March 13, 2018 meeting

On a motion by Carolyn Johnson seconded by Laura Cooper, the Minutes were adopted.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

**Treasurer Angie Rivers** reported that the bank balance stands at \$1326, with \$250-worth of cheques to be debited. She noted that there is a donation box at the meeting.

**4. Terry Fox Legacy Project**

**Geri Berholz** spoke about her project started three and a half years ago to preserve Terry Fox's legacy. When only 18 years old, Terry ran a marathon a day for 143 consecutive days across Canada. When he reached Toronto his Marathon of Hope captured the nation's imagination. Toronto needs a place for a memorial, and a site has been found between the Music Garden and the Spadina wetland on Queens Quay.

There are already many bronze statues of Terry in various places, so this memorial will be a different kind of public art chosen by a jury. Terry's official biographer Lesley Scrivener is a partner in this enterprise. They have a two year time frame for the project, and have raised \$70,000 so far from private donors and sponsors.

Ontario schools co-ordinate the annual Terry Fox runs with Betty Fox to raise money for cancer research. Over the past 38 years there have been some successes.

**5. Update from Harbourfront Centre (HC)**

**Iris Semany**, Chief Programming Officer at HC, spoke about the coming summer programme of events. Dancing on the Pier will run from 7 to 10 on Thursdays. There will be Big Bands at the end of June. There will not be any fireworks for July 1 due to lack of funds, but there will be concerts and other events. Some other festivals include Island Soul, Taiwanfest, Brave - a new project about Risk and Failure in July. There is an Ashkenazy event this year. Next weekend HC will host an international children's festival, with free stuff and ticketed events. For more details, visit the website. Regarding the former Pawsyway, there are some short term uses but no long term tenant as yet that fits with the culture campus at HC. There will be summer camps for 6,000 children in the building.

## **Q & A**

Q. Regarding the Power Plant, the Power Ball had loud noise late at night which was disturbing to residents. The loud-speakers must be turned away from the nearby condo's.

### **6. Update from MP Adam Vaughan's Office**

A National Housing Strategy has been announced for repair and construction.

The Windmill Co-op will receive funding under the Community Housing plan of \$500 million over 10 years.

Details of the Governor General's Awards are on Adam's website.

### **7. Update from Ward 28 Councillor Lucy Troisi's Office**

**Tom Davidson** reported that the **York Quay Park and Rees Park** design competition launched today. The teams were briefed today and will be taking public input. Dog off-leash facilities to be re-visited, but fenced areas are not included yet. He will be looking into it.

At **30 Bay Street** new office buildings are proposed. A public meeting is planned for June.

At the Pinnacle project at **One Yonge** there will be a community centre, a new LCBO and a central park under the precinct plan agreement.

**MLSE and Scotiabank** are planning for a new video screen at the ACC.

### **8. Airport Update from Hal Beck**

There have been meetings about the Master Plan with BQNA and the Port Authority, hosted by Gene Cabral. The next meeting is on May 30 at the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre at 6:30.

### **9. Road Closures During Sporting Events**

**Wayne Christian and Claire Sparks** attend the 52 Division Police Liaison Committee meetings. The Division runs from the Lake to Bloor and Spadina to Yonge. The road closures are being done to control the crowds and avoid problems with unruly people. Our representatives have stressed the need for more police on the waterfront during the tourist season.

### **10. Elleven Restaurant Patio**

YQNA met with MLSE and stressed our opposition to a permanent enclosed patio. They noted the need for public access to the overhang during events like the recent ice storm.

### **11. Toronto Local Appeal Body (TLAB) Training**

Laura Cooper and Carolyn Johnson attended a session put on by the Chair, Ian Lord. The entire process is digitized with forms on an open website. TLAB mainly deals with appeals to Committee of Adjustment decisions.

### **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm .

**The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 11, 2018**

## **Provincial Candidates' Presentations**

### **Rita Billerman – Green Party of Ontario**

Rita is a first-time candidate, although she has worked on campaigns in the past. Her family suggested that she run. She has been interested in politics since University. She holds degrees in climatology and finance and works in the areas of Bay Street capital markets, ethics and regulators. She belongs to her neighbourhood association and does fundraising for a children's choir.

The Green Party has a strong platform on the environment, fiscal and social responsibility with a focus on balance; it is not really a left-wind party. In BC, New Brunswick and PEI the Greens are making inroads. The platform was released yesterday about People, Planet and Jobs. The goal is to be carbon neutral by 2050. Clean tech jobs employ 7 times more than the oil and gas sector.

Local goals include closing the Pickering nuclear plant and buying clean energy from Quebec. The plant's accident zone affects Toronto. Also it makes no sense financially. Decommissioning would create jobs and reduce hydro prices.

The Greens support small business with low payroll taxes but higher corporate tax rates. 365 acres of farmland are being lost daily. We must protect the water and store carbon as well as support mental health. There is no Planet B.

### **Chris Glover – ONDP**

Chris noted that the TDSB has adopted a land acknowledgement, which is very important historically. There are 12,000 year old footprints in the harbour clay. We need to preserve the 10 blocks of Fort York and the first parliament. Under Mayor David Crombie in the 1970's there was a fight to preserve old buildings on Front Street.

Chris is a teacher by training, educated at Ryerson, Central Tech, U of T and Centennial College. He is part of Toronto Schools Advocacy. Every year the Province has cut programs. For full day kindergarten there were cuts to grades 1 to 12. Chris has 8 years' experience as a TDSB Trustee in Etobicoke Centre. He knows that if you are not at the table you may be on the menu, so he will advocate for students and education through a special education forum.

The government has started closing sheltered workshops for the disabled. By way of comparison, in Washington State among the intellectually disabled 87% have paid employment, while in Ontario it's only 26%. The TDSB needs to partner with employers.

Chris also serves on the Toronto Board of Health. He was doored on the Bloor Viaduct by an Uber driver. The police downplayed the accident to an incident. Insurance does not cover it. The Board is asking for 50,000 Uber drivers in Toronto to get proper training on the Dutch Reach which forces passengers to look behind before opening a door. It is a public safety issue, which the CAA needs to promote as well.

Shootings in Toronto doubled last year, but there was not much in this ward. We need a public health approach to family and victims who suffer trauma.

As our MPP he will use the same advocacy skills. OMB hearings undermine City planning, where residents usually lose. NoJets has done great work on the airport issue. The fumes and noise are important concerns.

There was a 10K run last week around Fort York. At 7:15 am loud speakers on the finish line were annoying for residents. His condo is 10 years old, made of cheap materials to minimum code. The brass P trap on the kitchen sink leaks, there is damage to the floor, the Kitek pipes throughout the building have to be replaced at a cost of \$7,000 per unit. There is another \$18,000 levy per unit for roof replacement. The Tarion warranty only lasts for 2 years. It needs better regulation.

### **Han Dong – Liberal Party of Ontario**

Han is the sitting MPP for the old Riding of Trinity Spadina.

Han agreed that respect for the indigenous people is important. We are all immigrants. Trillium Park at Ontario Place recognizes this.

He said he can be nervous, it's a hard thing to run for public office. When you represent a party you are the brand.

Toronto is his home, he came with his family at the age of 13. He is happy to live in Trinity Spadina where he and his wife Sophie are raising two children. He was elected to Trinity Spadina in 2014, and takes input to the caucus, the House, Ministers and MPP's.

On transit, growth in Toronto has outstripped capacity. His government has an aggressive transit investment program of \$34 Billion over 10 years, including two new GO stations at Liberty Village and at Front & Spadina. A new bus terminal is coming near Bay and Lakeshore in an office development that will provide 20,000 jobs in the South Core and a POPS over the rail corridor. On East Bayfront the government announced funding for the Waterfront LRT and the Relief Line, along with a Federal contribution.

Regarding health care, many hospitals received funding. CAMH is getting a third phase of funding. Many Toronto hospitals serve the entire Province, and even the rest of Canada like Sick Kids. \$2-4 billion is pegged for a new hospital. There is a lack of care for youth, and we need a medical clinic locally.

About parks and culture, green spaces are important. The Trillium Park and Celebration Commons opened at Ontario Place. Resident input will be sought over the Summer and Fall for the rest of the lands. At 401 Richmond the MPAC assessment increased taxes to an unaffordable level. Han worked with Joe Cressy, Adam Vaughan and others to create a new property tax class for arts and culture hubs that reduced the rate by 50%. This was retained in the budget, signed and sealed before the election was called.

Regarding education, full day kindergarten has made a huge difference for families by avoiding day care costs. Free universal pre-school is coming after the election, which will allow trained parents to return to work, reflecting a civilised society. This is different from the NDP mistake in Quebec. Increased capacity is needed for 100,000 more spaces for universal day care. Han has visited every school in the Riding and all have received capital funding. He is working with the Catholic board to get operating funds for the City Place schools. The TDSB has assets worth billions of dollars. The government is providing \$27 million to expand OCADU studio space.

Han has sponsored a private members' bill regarding elevator repairs. It passed on May 7 and will impose regulations for timeframes for repairs.

Andrea Horwath can complain, but can she lead? Tax payers' money has to be well used.

## Q & A

Q. What about deficit financing?

**HD.** He would spend \$180 billion over the next 10 years for infrastructure, following poor investment in the past. Debt is incurred to build infrastructure in times of low interest rates, paid back over 30 years. In the last 40 years there have been only 8 balanced budgets by Liberal governments and 3 by Conservatives.

**CG.** He expects a bigger deficit. There's a \$16 billion backlog in school funding, it needs to increase by \$7 billion a year because children need good buildings. Education Development Charges are only available for Catholic schools and can only be used for land. Both boards need to have access to DC's. There is \$400 million missing for two schools along the Waterfront. See the petition. On Pharmacare, bulk drug purchases could save \$4.2 billion. The NDP would increase the corporate tax rate from 11.5% to 14%. The NDP have also passed balanced budgets. At present 10% of tax revenue goes to debt servicing.

**RB.** Ontario has the largest sub-national debt in the world, it is huge. The Greens want to merge the two school systems. A good example is the two schools and community centre at Canoe Landing that save money on hydro etc. The Fair Hydro Plan is fake, we will scrap it because it only benefits the rich. We will also scrap the nuclear station rebuilds as they always go over budget. Greens will support small businesses and increase the royalty rates on natural resources.

Q. We live in vertical communities. How will your party help us?

**CG.** We need to change the Tarion board because developers stack the board. We should set up a condo authority. Bills were pushed by MPP Marchese in the past to create a tribunal. The Liberal finally passed a bill but it only relates to documents. The Liberal did not take on developers.

**RB.** Condo communities have lots of dogs. The Greens will address issues of transit funding through road tolls.

**HD.** We did fix Tarion. It has been split into two parts, one for warranty issues and one for regulations and the Building Code. OMB abolition would lead to court cases which is only good for lawyers. We reformed the OMB to the LPAT so the City can take care of it (*He is confusing this with the TLAB –Ed*). Condo Act amendments created a condo authority at arms' length to licence property managers. The levy is only \$1 per month to run the condo authority, which had a soft launch in November. Elevators are the condo transit, and are useless without rules about breakdowns. This Bill met with strong opposition in the House.

Q. At 77 Harbour Square with a carbon tax and hydro bills, energy is costly compared to elsewhere.

**RB.** On the Hydro file we will not extend the nuclear plants at Pickering and Darlington. Excess water power is available from Quebec at 2/3 less than current rates. Ontario is dumping power to the US at 2cents per kW

**HD.** It is a complex idea to buy power from Quebec. Do the transmission lines have the capacity? Nuclear energy is cheap but we should look at all options. We did close the coal stations, which has led to a 25% saving on health care costs. In the remote north it is expensive, we need to reduce the bills up north. Infrastructure has not been upgraded for years. Electric GO trains are coming. Our high tech industry relies on reliable power.

**CG.** He teaches a course at U of T on this issue. Adam Beck nationalised Hydro in 1900 when it cost 10 cents per Kwhr. By 1910 it cost only 4 cents. Then it went up to 16 cents following privatization by the then PC government.