

MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #84 Tuesday November 17, 2020

On-line Via ZOOM due to COVID-19 Pandemic (100 participants)

Hosted by Neal Colgrass, Chief Technical Officer

Chaired by Angelo Bertolas, Co-chair

1. Neal welcomed the participants and outlined the technical details of the Zoom event. All will be muted except the chair and current speaker. Questions can be posed by typing in the chat box or using the “raise your hand” key.

2. Angelo introduced the meeting outline. He moved the adoption of minutes of the September 17 meeting, and seeing no objections, declared the motion approved.

3. Treasurers Report - Angie Rivers

Angie thanked everyone for their generous ongoing support. She provided the annual summary of the Associations current account balance and expenses as follows:

Account Balance 11/18/2020	\$1297.08
Expenses 2020	
Bank Service Charges	\$1.95 / mos.
Web Hosting	\$121.90
Web and Back-up Storage	\$67.74
Radisson room donation	Free
Radisson employee gratuity	\$25

Angie noted that the YQNA has funded in the past the All-Candidates Forum and the Flood Forum as well as discretionary items that include a projector and cart.

4. City of Toronto - Tom Davidson for Councillor Joe Cressy

Status of E-scooter pilot project

In 2019 the provincial government authorized municipalities to undertake a pilot project for the use of e-scooters, defined as stand-up, 2 wheeled, motorized platforms. As of January 1st, 2020, municipalities were allowed to undertake a pilot project within a 5-year period. City Council authorized the city staff to create a framework for a potential pilot project. Those recommendations came forward in the summer of 2020. Significant public commentary and review underlined the safety challenges associated with e-scooters. Insurance was an important issue, as was the creation of a framework for monitoring usage and safety of e-scooters.

Toronto Parking Authority was charged with administering a contract for the pilot study ensuring that safety outcomes, insurance issues and general usage trends were tracked.

The Accessibility Sub-Committee recommended that the pilot not take place. However, if the pilot were to take place it should be in compliance with strict safety and insurance standards.

The city sent the Accessibility Sub-committee recommendation back to Transportation for review. The City's position is that there is a need for 'last mile' transportation. The staff report is expected in early 2021.

Q&A

Q - What is the legal status of electric bikes on bike paths?

A - There are different categories of motorized bicycles. Tom will submit a response re where they are permitted on bike trails vs the roads.

Other Key Projects

Significant projects are coming up in different forums.

1. Updated Planning Design for East Bayfront LRT
2. The application at 11 Bay
3. Road Reconfiguration around Harbour St. which is part of the Lower Yonge master plan

YQNA suggested establishing a working group of relevant parties so that input can be shared about:

- The status of each project
- How these projects will be integrated with one another and with the neighbourhood
- The construction plan to ensure co-ordination and minimize disruption to Queens Quay, given that these projects could go on for 10-15 years.

The city is in the process of setting up this working group.

Bushra Mir for Councillor Joe Cressy

Homelessness Initiatives

The city's Shelter Support Housing Administration are continuing their efforts to provide supports for people living in encampments.

- Since March they have moved 3500 people throughout the emergency shelter system to achieve physical distancing
- 30 temporary shelters have opened with more that 2000 beds through the use of hotels, community centers etc.
- Through a combination of housing allowances and 'rent geared to income' units more than 1500 people have been permanently housed
- More than 800 people from 30 encampments have been moved to safe housing through the use of hotels etc.

Encampments still exist. The city is working with people living in these encampments, offering them the necessary supports to move to safer living situations.

The City of Toronto is on track to spend \$200 million more than last year on emergency homelessness. The Federal Government is providing an additional \$203 million through the Rapid Housing Initiative. This initiative serves the city's most vulnerable – women and children

fleeing violence, seniors, indigenous people, people from the LGBTQ community, among others. Housing must be built within 12 months and the funds must be used to create a minimum of 417 affordable units.

The City also approved \$59 million for Open Door initiatives for up to 800 affordable rental units.

Short-term Rental Enforcement

Short term rental enforcement is coming into effect in January 2021. Current operators have to be registered by December 1. On-line registration has been launched. As of January 1, enforcement will have full authority to enforce the new by-laws.

Q&A

Q: Is the city hiring more by-law officers?

A: Bushra will find out and report back.

200 Queens Quay

City planning continues to work with the applicant. Consultations with buildings in the area have been pursued. An open, on-line consultation is planned for early 2021.

Q: How did council vote on vacant unit taxes?

A: Rebate for vacant units has been removed. No information about a tax coming before council

5. Update from the Province – MPP Chris Glover

Homelessness Crisis

The NDP has asked the province to reverse its \$160 million cut to the MOH budget. The city is not getting any direct money from the Province to deal with the homelessness crisis.

Through Homes First Society, Strachan House has converted 90 units to 24/7 supportive care. They are committed to helping with the ‘hardest to house’ people in the community. Chris indicated that this level of supportive care costs around \$26,000 per resident per unit – a cost well-below shelters and hotels. Homes First want to expand to 300 units. Chris will be advocating for this initiative. Meetings are being held weekly to advance the plan.

Chris mentioned that it is important to keep the homeless in their own neighbourhoods to preserve their dealer relationships, thereby mitigating some risk of purchasing fentanyl laced substances.

Chris, alongside Seeds of Hope, deliver 400 meals and care packages every Sunday to people who are experiencing homelessness. The group, which includes 100 volunteers, has delivered over 10,000 meals. They also have delivered warm clothing.

As Toronto faces winter, there needs to be strong advocacy for the homeless. There is no shortage of buildings, food and clothing. There is a compelling need to co-ordinate these supports across all levels of government.

Covid

Chris stated that Covid numbers are spiking. Positivity rates are over 4 percent. By the end of December, the province could be seeing 6500 cases per day. Five to six regions are currently in the red zone. Chris noted that the new colour coded system is under attack.

Chris also noted that Health Care Professionals including the Chief Medical Officer of Health, have been asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement to participate at the provincial table that is charged with mitigation / risk assessment. Chris feels that this is unacceptable.

Ministry Zoning Orders

MZO's have been applied to three Provincial properties in the West Don Lands. The City was actively involved in the development of two of them. They were negotiating affordable housing units and section 37 community benefits. The third property, the Foundry is currently inactive.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs stepped in and approved the developer's proposal. Chris suggested that this represents a gross over-reach in that it negates a community's ability to have a say in the development of their neighbourhoods.

There is a group of resident associations coming together, 'The Federation of South Toronto Associations' to advocate on behalf of the city against this provincial over-reach. A meeting will be announced shortly.

Budget

Chris shared the following perspectives regarding the most recent provincial budget.

- In the most recent budget, *Hospitals* were underfunded by \$350 million
- *Conservation Authorities* have had their power reduced over flood plains. Chris considered this a potentially damaging over-reach.
- There was not enough money for *business* in the budget. There are several storefronts in the neighbourhood that are shutting down – 72 business have shut down since the beginning of the pandemic on Queen St. between Ossington and Bathurst.

Note: Chris sends out an update on a regular basis. CGlover-CO@ndp.on.ca

6. Lake Ontario Flood Watch - Lynn Robinson, TICA

As of November 2020, the upper lakes are still sending a large volume of water into Lake Ontario. There was record flow on November 15th. There is an ongoing need to lower the level of Lake Ontario to create a buffer, ideally implemented in the fall, to mitigate the risks of high-water levels in the spring. This suggestion was presented to the IJC and was rejected.

It was noted that IJC is balancing shipping, hydro and other uses and that Cressey is committed to working with IJC to encourage officials to take further measures as required.

YQNA suggests that there is a need for more political pressure.

Tom Davidson stated that flood maps were developed and put into a public portal. They did not have the level of detail required. Angelo suggested that it is important to have the mapping information because water levels have meaningful implications for Billy Bishop Airport, sewage treatment sites etc.

7. Special Report Nadir Khadri, Planner City of Toronto 11 Bay St.

A development proposal was received in September for this City owned site. The current plan calls for a 54-storey tower over top of a Conference Centre on 3rd and 4th floor which connects with the convention centre and the PATH via a bridge.

CreateTO is still undertaking lease negotiations with the Applicant. A preliminary report will be submitted to council in early 2021. The City will be undertaking public consultation via a separate process where representatives from other departments (including CreateTO, WaterfrontTO, Design, and Parks) in addition to the proponent team will be available to provide a thorough overview of the project submitted to the City.

Q&A

Q: Why is the City not supportive of a PATH connection?

A: Staff are encouraging the proponents to work with the TTC to find a below-grade solution for the proposed PATH network expansion.

Q: The TTC connection has to be improved especially from the ferry terminal

A: There is some work being done and the hope is that there will be an efficient connection

Q: Is there going to be demand for a new office tower?

A: CreateTO started discussions re this site pre-pandemic. The official plan supports office and a convention centre on the site, so the city is proceeding on that basis.

Q: What amenities are being planned?

A: The biggest part of the Design Excellence process is to focus on the public amenities. They are looking at what was approved at 30 Bay alongside other initiatives.

Q: Where is the connection to Harbour Castle?

A: A new above grade bridge is part of the development application.

Q: Is there any parking?

A: Substantial parking below grade is planned.

Q: The hope was that the ground floor would be open to the public with washrooms, café, retail. Right now, the space prioritizes a very big staircase with inadequate access to the subway.

A: All of these built form concerns are still under review. It will be important for the public to weigh in on these plans. Concerns should be directed to Nader.Kadri.@toronto.ca

8. Waterfront BIA News - Tim Kokur

A vote to expand the BIA was successful. As of 2021 the BIA will include businesses from Bathurst to Cherry St. This proposal still needs to be approved by Council.

Project Update

- BIA did the projections on the malting silos. They will continue to work with the city to optimize the use of this underutilized quay.
- Existing trees inventory status to be shared with YQNA
- 200 Queens Quay – priorities and advocacy for the site is on pedestrian access
- Bentway taking the lead on the ‘under the Gardiner’ plan
- Parking engineering firm advised that there is a lot of below surface parking in the neighbourhood under buildings at Waterpark place, one York St etc. There is a need for a co-ordinated parking management system.

Queens Quay ‘Pavers’

Waterfront Toronto has a 5-year service agreement to service and replace the pavers along Queens Quay. Consequently, they are only responsible for the pavers for one more year. A co-ordinate plan with the city, to ensure that the pavers are maintained, is required.

Note: Construction mitigation is going to be a large issue on Eastern Waterfront

9. Harbourfront Centre Update - Martin Keneally

Project Update

- Rees St. Installation going up the 21st of November – continuation of ‘Portraits in COVID Times’
- Festival of Cool – Jan 16 to Feb 7 on West Common
- ‘Material Sampling’ – November 14 - 21
- Schools Digital Program continues
- Sailing Program has gone on-line

Harbourfront is trying to offer support to tenants as needed. However:

- Amsterdam, Box Car Social closed for the season
- Lavazza is going to try to stay open with outdoor space.
- The Ice Rink will not be operational during the winter of 2021. The rink headers failed – This is a bespoke rink, so everything has to be customized.
- Marina 4 – far fewer ‘onboards’ this winter around 40 down from 60.

- Pawsway site – Negotiation is underway with a potential tenant. Lease under review by the city.
- Office staff are working from home. Outside staff working under strict protocols

Of note...The Harbourfront Security team saved many lives as someone tried to drive on the Queens Quay pedestrian way, hitting two pedestrians.

10. AGM Election

Ed Hoare moderated an election of the YQNA executive. All positions held by incumbents will continue. Mary Hirst was elected to Secretary and volunteered to be the Police Liaison. YQNA positions and officers are as follows:

- Co-chair - Angelo Bertolas
- Co-chair - Carolyn Johnson
- Treasurer - Angie Rivers
- Secretary - Mary Hirst
- Chief Technical officer - Neal Colgrass
- Billy Bishop Liaison - Hal Beck
- Police Liaison - Mary Hirst
- Planning Committee - info@YQNA

11. Other Items

Billy Bishop Airport

Hal Beck discussed the noise at Billy Bishop airport. Porter is testing a model for predicting noise from the airport. They are using 'run-up' noise to create the model.

Hal suggested that people should log noise complaints as close to the time that it happens as possible on the Toronto Port Authority website.

<https://www.porttoronto.com/porttoronto/contact-us/submit-a-noise-complaint.aspx#:~:text=To%20make%20a%20noise%20report,%3A30AM%20to%204%3A30PM.>

Rebel Night Club licensing is being contested by the club.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday January 12, 2021