

**(Draft) MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #88 Tuesday November 16, 2021**

*On-line Via ZOOM due to COVID-19 Pandemic (approximately 111 participants)*

*Hosted by Neal Colgrass, Chief Technical Officer*

*Chaired by Angelo Bertolas, Co-chair*

**1. Angelo** acknowledged the difficulty of the times and reminded participants that YQNA is a volunteer association that does not charge a membership fee and relies on people's financial support. He directed participants to the YQNA website at yqna.ca if they wished to donate.

He moved for the adoption of minutes of the May 17, 2021 meeting, and seeing no objections, declared the motion approved.

**2. Neal** welcomed the participants and outlined the technical details of the Zoom event. All were muted except the chair and current speaker. Questions were posed by typing in the chat box or using the "raise your hand" key.

**3. Treasurers Report- Carolyn Johnson, Treasurer YQNA**

York Quay Neighbourhood Association Treasurer's Report November 2021

Opening Balance October 31, 2020	\$1297.08
Closing Balance October 31, 2021	\$1353.26
Net increase	\$56.18
Income from Donations	\$970.89 (Square charges a small fee)
Expenses	\$914.71
<b>Noteworthy Payments</b>	
Zoom and Protonmail	\$534.99
Website	\$230.34
Donations to FoSTRA and TNC	\$125.00

**4. Provincial - Chris Glover MPP – Ontario Update**

- **Ontario Place** - The provincial government has offered 3 different private companies the key contracts for Ontario Place. None of the companies are from Ontario. Originally, Ontario Place was created and developed by Ontario based companies. For some it fledged successful long-term businesses. Even the steel used in construction was from Ontario as were the original employees who represented all parts of Ontario. The private-for-profit model being currently pursued has walked away from that concept.
- **Ontario Line** is an essential part of transit infra-structure for the riding. The Province has passed a piece of legislation that will allow them to override municipal planning processes for development along the transit corridor and potentially sell-off land in the transit corridor to private interests. The city would have no control or power over what get's built. It is hoped that FoSTRA will be able to intervene on behalf of the areas affected.
- **Rule 13 of the Environmental Assessment Act** will give the Minister regulatory power to over-ride environmental assessment requirements. This is a concern given the province's use of MZO's.

- **Homelessness** is the number one crisis that we are facing in the city. A Fentanyl Town Hall was hosted last week to build awareness about the size and nature of the issue. A YouTube video of the event is available.
- **Condos** - Private members motion being presented re condos likely on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Condos need to be more transparent. There are a number of issues. For example, they don't always deliver the amenities promised during pre-sale. Some sign on to long-term telecommunications contracts that restrict residents' choices.

**Comment** - Waterfront Toronto should have a leadership role in Ontario Place and there is potential for meaningful cancellation penalties if the decision is made soon re the current supplier.

**Response**- Chris is in agreement with this concern and supports the notion of Waterfront Toronto taking a leadership role on the Ontario Place initiative.

#### 5. Federal – Kevin Vuong MP - Independent

- **Canada Lands** - outside of 200 QQ, they have no active land holdings in Spadina Fort York. Nor do they have any land currently deemed as surplus. Canada Lands also owns the Rogers Centre site. They indicated that they have no information about changes at the Rogers Centre.
- **Renovation of the CN Tower is ongoing.** There have been no noise or other issues to date.
- Minimizing disruption for traffic has been a priority for construction projects generally. Greater focus needs to be on the disruption to residents.
- **'Fly-over Canada,'** a theatre attraction that simulates flying with state-of-the-art technology, is scheduled to open in 2023 next to the Rogers Centre. There needs to be a construction plan to ensure that the disruption in the neighbourhood is minimal.
- The priority at **Billy Bishop Airport** is to ensure that there is as much transparency as possible with Ports Toronto.
- **Green Space** is a priority. In the north end of YQNA, the ORCA project is proceeding. With the Rail Deck Park project not currently active, priority needs to be given to ensuring more green space is available in the core.
- **Ontario Place** must be preserved as an accessible and affordable venue for everyone.
- **Toronto harbour** needs to be dredged and there is DFO (Departments and Fisheries and Oceans) funding for that use that we might be able to access. Kevin is pursuing this opportunity.

#### 5. Reptilia Presentation - Kim Wright, Travis Small

##### The Concept

- Reptilia Zoo is a collection of Canada's largest reptile zoos and conservation centers. They focus on animal representation, conservation, and education. Reptilia does not sell animals.

- Their facilities host over 250 species of reptiles, amphibians, and arachnids from all around the world, representing animals that cannot be found in other Canadian Zoos. 75% of the animals are rescues. 15% are from other Zoos and 10% are born at Reptilia. They are never taken out of their wild habitat.

#### **Safety and Animal Welfare**

- Reptilia is a CAZA-accredited facility (Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums) that meets rigorous standards in the areas of operations, animal management, and veterinary medicine.
- CAZA accreditation is recognized at all levels of government in Canada as the gold standard in animal care and safety. A growing number of jurisdictions are making it a requirement for licensing. It is also recognized by many other accredited institutions and zoological organizations as a requirement for participating in animal loan and exchange programs, including the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP).
- Reptilia prioritizes locking mechanisms and monitoring to ensure that all reptiles are safe in their enclosures.

#### **Accessibility**

- Reptilia is committed to ensuring broad access with low entrance fees
- Bus parking and student loading and unloading will be conducted safely and with minimum disruption to the neighbourhood.

#### **Next Steps**

1. By-law review. Reptilia is applying for an exemption to the animal bylaws in order to allow it to operate at Harbourfront. A similar exemption was extended to Ripley's Aquarium. This review is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.
2. The changes to the existing structure (the former Paws Way building) will be internal. There is no plan to change the footprint of the building.

### **6. Waterfront Toronto - Pina Malozzi, Adam Novak – Parliament Slip Proposals**

#### **Planning Context**

The Parliament St. Slip proposal is aligned with the:

- Central Waterfront Secondary Plan
- East Bayfront Precinct Plan
- Keating Channel Precinct Plan
- Marine Use Strategy

The preliminary proposals take into account:

- The defining attributes of the Top 10 Waterfronts around the world
- Three public consultations conducted between 2018 and February 2021

- Quayside Public Realm

### **Goals**

In 2020, Waterfront Toronto led a Functional Study. Building on the established policy context, WT developed concept ideas based on the following goals:

- Balance motorized and non-motorized uses
- Encourage public access and active engagement with the water
- Create a neighbourhood and regional draw
- Create synergies with neighbouring amenities
- Allow for year-round activation
- Create opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation

### **Parliament Slip Project Components**

1. Harbour Pools
2. WaveDeck and Canoe/Kayak Launch
3. Fixed Water Transportation Pier
4. Floating Dock

Year-round activation is a key component of the plan and could include converting the swimming pool to a skating rink in winter, heating the swimming pool using waste heat sources or covering the pool in winter.

Aquatic habitat could be integrated into the slip in the following areas:

- Smooth rock-like textures and/or habitat shelves against the west dock wall
- Rock revetment on the east dockwall, surfaced with smooth river rock and anchored logs
- Anchored logs and root fans underneath the floating pier and WaveDeck structure

The feasibility of floating wetlands is being reviewed. Floating wetlands could provide many benefits, like:

- Improved water quality
- Aquatic habitat
- Terrestrial habitat for birds
- Visible green infrastructure and education value
- Stewardship opportunities, for example, through collaborating with TRCA for periodic species counts
- Unique experience for visitors

### **Status**

- Approval granted to take the project to 30% design.
- Funding proposal has been submitted to federal and provincial governments. Funding would be matching revenue from Waterfront Toronto.
- The anticipated completion timing would be 2025.

**7. MaRS Waterfront Innovation Centre - Carmen Douville**

- MaRS Discovery District is North America's largest urban innovation centre. The district includes 1.5 million square feet of space and houses emerging ventures and tenants, who are most often pursuing leading technologies.
- The MaRS Waterfront Innovation Centre is being developed by Menkes. It is 475,000 square feet and it will house tenants like WPP, Hill and Knowlton, The Score and other 'creative industry' companies.
- Two key spaces are planned
  1. Mars Workspace - 55,000 square feet of co-working space open to all tenants and members of the space. This space innovation is being led by U of T.
  2. Nexus - 15,000 square feet of event space. Variety of different board rooms etc.
- Waterfront chosen because of the innovation and tech activity in the neighbourhood. MaRS goal is to create energy, synergy and co-operation with the neighbourhood.
- MaRS is a leader in helping companies scale and grow. Successful programming is available to help companies grow and scale in place.
- The project is funded by MaRS, U of T and Menkes.

**8. Waterfront BIA Update - Tim Kocur**

- Waterfront ReConnect is a project to connect the City to the waterfront under the Gardiner. Lead by the Bentway, professional Canadian artists and designers are engaged in the development of creative interventions that re-imagine the experience of the intersections for pedestrians and cyclists at grade at two key intersections under the Gardiner – York Street and Simcoe Street.
- A collaboration with the City of Toronto, the Waterfront Business Improvement Area, the Toronto Downtown West Business Improvement Area, and The Bentway, the Waterfront ReConnect Design Competition explores the potential for this obstacle to be reimaged as a vital point of connection.

**9. Harbourfront Centre Update - Martin Kenneally**

- Harbourfront is replacing its rink. The new rink will be brought up to grade and several improvements will be made to the mechanics and engineering of the rink including a sustainable chiller system. It will move from design to the next phase in 2022.
- A temporary skating rink will open Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> in the Concert Stage. A loop has also been included. New seats will be added back into the Concert Stage in 2022.
- Photo Voltaic Cells are being installed on top of the Power Plant and the Art Port building. This is Phase 2 of longer-term sustainability strategy. HC is hoping to go to zero or close to zero carbon emissions. A sustainable HVAC retrofit will be added as part of this project.
- The concert stage will be improved in terms of sun protection and access to the back of stage.
- Marina 4 closed last winter for some renovations and updates. Half of the boardwalk has been rebuilt. Most of the finger docks were upgraded. There are 10 'live aboards'

at Marina 4 and 28 'live aboards' at Marina Quay West, a fewer number at both locations versus pre-pandemic marina use. 'Live aboards' help keep the area active in winter. Some charter boats relocate in a way that protects the marinas and the other boats.

- The Bridge at Marina 4 was weather damaged last year. Discussions are underway with the city to fund the repairs.
- The tall ship Empire Sandy will be selling Christmas Trees to help the United Way.
- Nordic Bridges festival will begin in January as part of an international festival. Lists of activities are noted on the website.
- Junior, Toronto's International Children's festival, will be the first Harbourfront programming to return in Spring 2022.
- Merchant of York will be occupying the shop space.

## 10. Annual General Meeting

Election of the YQNA Executive

The following incumbents have indicated that they will step down:

Co-Chair - Carolyn Johnson

Treasurer – Angie Rivers

Nominations:

Co-Chair – nomination pending. Volunteers welcome.

Treasurer– Carolyn Johnson

Positions:

- Co-Chair – Angelo Bertolas
- Chief Technical Officer – Neil Colgrass
- Treasurer – Carolyn Johnson
- Secretary – Mary Hirst
- Billy Bishop Liaison Committee – Hal Beck
- Police Liaison Committee – Mary Hirst
- Planning Committee - Directed by the Board

## 11. Billy Bishop Airport Update - Hal Beck

- Billy Bishop Airport experienced a year over year decline of 86% in airport traffic versus an industry average of 72%.
- Billy Bishop is slowly hiring back staff.
- Porter purchased up to 80 jets to be flown out of Pearson. Porter has announced that this acquisition will strengthen their business at BB.
- Air Canada started 5 trips a day out of Billy Bishop to Montreal on September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Porter started up both domestic and international flights over the month of September.

- Safety has been a priority - Safe Travels program is in place.
- Air Canada added 4 return flights to Ottawa in October all within the currently approved 202 BB flight slots.
- Gene Cabral, Ports Toronto, will be reviewing the number of allowed maximum slots in the coming months and will possibly look at a process to add slots. Discussions re this initiative with the CLC are planned for November 2021. BQNA has sent a number of questions re the rationale for the new slots. Currently, of the 384 itinerant movements - 202 are commercial slots. Plan to increase to 246 commercial slots by 2033.
- U.S. customs at Billy Bishop is also being reviewed. This could cost the travelling public up to \$10 million per year if implemented.
- Massachusetts-based charter operator Waltzing Matilda Aviation is looking for approval to start scheduled passenger services from Billy Bishop with the launch of Connect Airlines. Subject to regulatory approvals, the new airline will connect Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport with business centres in the US Northeast and Midwest using two Q400s.

12. Next Meeting Date: **Tentatively set for Tuesday January 18, 2022. To be Confirmed.**