

**MINUTES OF MEETING #59, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015, Radisson Admiral Hotel,
249 Queens Quay West
Chaired by Laura Cooper**

Residents (who signed in) attending:

10 Yonge St. – Ed Hore
1 York Quay –
33 Harbour Square –
55 Harbour Square –Ulla Colgrass, Braz Menezes, Norma Starkie
65 Harbour Square –Klaus Hatje, Friedel Hatje
77 Harbour Square – Laura Cooper, Nan Cooper, Dave Scott
99 Harbour Square – Irene Phillips
208 Queens Quay West – Estelle Weynman,
218 Queens Quay West –
228 Queens Quay West – Carolyn Johnson
230 Queens Quay West – Sarah Hsieh
250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks
251 Queens Quay West – Allan Rivers, Angie Rivers, Fran Pileggi
260 Queens Quay West – Carol McCanse, Marcia Boyd, Wayne Christian
270 Queens Quay West – Norman Di Pasquale
350 Queens Quay West –
34 Little Norway Crescent – Hal Beck

Guests:

Adam Vaughan - MP
Joe Cressy – City Councillor
Tom Davidson, Assist. to Councillor Pam McConnell
Pina Mallozzi – guest speaker from Waterfront Toronto
Mira Shenker -- “ “ “ “
Heather Wadell – from Harbourfront Centre
Carol Jolly – from Waterfront BIA
Kimberly Spice, The Bulletin newspaper
Lois Schklar – Euclid Ave.
Brian Campanotti

1. Adoption of Minutes from Sept. 16, 2015 meeting

On a motion from Claire, seconded by Estelle, the minutes were adopted.

2. Adoption of the agenda. On a motion by Allan, seconded by Nan, the agenda was adopted.

3. Chair Laura Cooper introduced newly re-elected MP Adam Vaughan, who thanked residents for their support and outlined his position on the waterfront:

- The Tri-Partite Agreement needs watching.
- It's not just about the airport, the Federal Government is serious about the waterfront as shown by its participation in Waterfront Toronto. We need smarter cities for the next century, building complete communities with a balance of residential uses with shops and services - a different kind of development.
- The Toronto Islands also need protection for their environment, not just as green space but as important areas on migration routes for birds and butterflies.
- He will continue to work in the riding and in Parliament to keep the jets away and constrain Ports Toronto. Port authority reform is on its way.
- With respect to a recent comment about his position in the House: "A backseat in Parliament is a lot closer to Trudeau than a seat in a Porter plane is to Deluce." Justin Trudeau looks at Toronto from a waterfront perspective and his opinion matters.

Chair Laura Cooper then opened the floor to questions.

Q from Allan: Will Ports Toronto include new directors and citizens on their board?

AV. There are vacancies on its Board so the City has a chance for representation. Not sure who will be involved in Ottawa. The Authority needs reform and public involvement, with local people on the Board rather than political hacks and cronies. It has to end the secrecy. Some members have broken the rules. We need to make sure the Tri-Partite Agreement continues, with the Port Authority as a signatory.

Q. When will the Government's position on the jets be official?

AV. Transport Minister Garneau sent out a tweet so far stating that the Government will not open the Agreement to permit jets. Cabinet is not yet fully structured and staffed, but more funding needs to be voted towards Waterfront Toronto. The airport expansion idea is like the Spadina Expressway of our time and will have to be fought against when it comes back.

Q from Wayne: How does it feel to be part of a majority Government?

AV. We will have to set up a National Housing Policy so that vulnerable people have shelter. This is my main goal.

Chair Laura Cooper asked for comments from representatives of NoJetsTO.

Norman Di Pasquale thanked the new government for its position and stated that the news is good.

4. Returning to the agenda, Chair Laura Cooper introduced Pina and Mira, the guest speakers from Waterfront Toronto, who gave a slide-show presentation.

Queens Quay West Revitalization

The re-vamped street was officially opened on June 19, 2015. WT has been conducting assessments and monitoring of operations since then. A report has been posted on the website since the public meetings in September or October. Some highlights include a 10-times increase in bicycle traffic over the same time of year before the construction work began. They are currently working on clearer signage at Simcoe and clearer road markings at Spadina to guide motorists over the concrete area around the TTC tracks. The traffic signals are controlled by cameras that "see" the queues and some tweaking has been required.

Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

The annual ferry ridership is 1.3 million passengers. A design has been chosen. The winning bid was Harbour Landing by KPMB and West 8, announced on April 10, 2015. The competition design is being developed after receiving feedback from the jury and stakeholder input. There will be public involvement in January. So far comments have included a suggestion for more children's play space closer to the queues for the turnstiles, and more room for waiting passengers inside the terminal. Allowing for 1 sq. m. per person, there was originally room for 1,000 passengers. Now there will be room for 2,000 under the roof. There will also be a better linkage between the park and the terminal. Funding is in place for Phase 1 and construction is planned for 2016.

East Bayfront

The interim Martin-Goodman bike trail is complete. WT wants development to proceed but it needs the costly LRT line. The \$500 million costs is mostly for the new tunnel, and alterations at Union Station to accommodate the extra line. City staff have been directed to look at ways of accelerating the project.

Lower Yonge Precinct Plan

This is a vital area, needing more North-South connections as well as Yonge Street. Studies have been completed for Community Services and Facilities, Transportation and Servicing. Some key recommendations are a new Harbour Street, laneways, privately-owned publicly-accessible spaces (POPS), a new central park and a space for programmable local and district functions at the foot of Yonge Street. The LCBO site is for sale. The Pinnacle application is still under review; a height study, urban design guidelines and a transportation master plan Environmental Assessment have been completed. The precinct plan will go to the Community Council soon and there will be more public consultation.

Q from Lois: Have the heights been decided?

A. Not yet. The public is mostly concerned about density and height.

Q from Ed: YQNA wrote to WT about congestion on Queens Quay at the ferry. What about using the former Rochester Ferry terminal over at the Eastern Gap?

A. We received the letter, but right now the design work is focused on the Jack Layton terminal. City staff, such as the head of Ferries and Waterfront Parks, James Dann could be involved.

Q from Joe: 1-7 Yonge Street is a monstrous proposal. Under the Precinct Plan, what powers does the City have if there is an appeal to the OMB?

A. WT and the City are working with the developer but, yes, they can go to the OMB.

Q. With respect to new signage on Queens Quay, what will be done when the new ramp from the Gardiner is built to Simcoe?

A. WT is not looking at that. Bigger signs have been erected at QQ and Simcoe, but there are still problems with traffic.

Q from Hal: There are not many turns to reach lands south of Queens Quay.

A. Each intersection offers one turn to the south.

Q from Angie: If more condos are built to the east, what will happen to traffic on Lakeshore?

A. There will be mixed-use development. We need good transit to support it.

5. Ward 20 Councillor Joe Cressy provided an update on local matters.

He has been talking to his colleagues about the **airport**. The issue will not be coming back to Council as the decision about jets has already been made by the Federal Government. The **Bathurst Quay** study with the existing airport will go ahead, studying a neighbourhood plan with Community Services and Facilities and Traffic work. So far there have been 46 meetings

involving 2,700 residents over 9 months. A working group has been set up. In early December there will be an open house, followed by a public meeting in late January. The Plan will go to the Federal Government. **Waterfront Toronto** needs more money for transit and public spaces, and the Don River flood protection work. **Under Gardiner** Phase 1 will go to Spadina, then further east. A dogs off-leash area is going in near Dan Leckie Way at Canoe Landing.

At the **Rees Street Parkette** \$200,000 is available for a children's playground. City staff explained that Victor Ford and Associates have been retained for the design and selection of equipment. Three plans and products were shown. There will be new benches and the play equipment will be installed towards the north-west corner in 2016. The equipment will be suitable for ages 5 to 12, installed on a rubber tile base. Staff are aware of the changes planned to the Gardiner ramp. Existing trees and benches will remain.

Q. from Claire: There was a hydro sub-station on the site in the past. Could there be PCB's in the ground?

A. No, it has already been remediated for park use.

The Harbourfront Parents' Group will be involved in the design. YQNA's Planning Committee will consult with parents of young children before recommending one of the three proposed plans.

6. A History of the YQNA – Ulla Colgrass

It has been 14 years since in 2003 three residents of the area met and wanted a say in the upcoming developments on the Waterfront and connect the many new-comers in the area. The big issue for them was the Bamboo Club, that operated in the building that is now Pawsway. The loud music adversely affected the Radisson. The place was plagued with drugs, crime, guns and prostitution. A liquor licence renewal application was the chance for the YQNA to intervene. At that time there was no BIA and no help from local councillors. With help from former city councillor John Adams the licence was denied at the OLG hearing.

Some other successes include saving the York Ramp park from becoming a sewage plant or getting a wide road, PATH connections, calming the party boats on the harbour and getting playgrounds in the area. They were first to push for removal of the York, Bay, Yonge ramps. Now they are pushing for removal of the Rees Street parking lot. They have contact with 40 agencies and groups as well as the Waterfront BIA. YQNA is now a very active and well-respected association.

7. AGM

Allan Rivers took the chair and asked for volunteers for Officers' positions. Ed Hore and Laura Cooper are prepared to continue as co-Chairs; Angie Rivers is prepared to continue as Treasurer; Carolyn Johnson of 228 offered to act as Secretary; the Planning Committee needs help, it meets monthly or as needed, on Monday afternoons; the Police Liaison Committee needs help, Claire Sparks attends, Wayne Christian offered to assist.

8. Laura Cooper took back the chair and introduced **Tom Davidson** for some comments on Ward 28 matters.

The ramp project continues, which will unlock the park at York St. and QQ. Detailed design is continuing. The demolition will happen in 2017, as well as the park design. Park construction will occur in 2018. It is a joint exercise with Ward 20 across the ward boundary, and various needs are being identified to be met in the park. At the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal work is going

on together with Waterfront Toronto as Phase 1 facilities are being identified. The Yonge Precinct and Pinnacle public meeting is planned for January. The TOCore Study is trying to get ahead of applications and understanding community needs in the future. As for the Gardiner East, Council decided on the hybrid option together with an enhanced environment under the elevated expressway from Cherry to Jarvis. It is an expensive choice. There will be a meeting about it on December 8.

As Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell has good lines of communication to the Mayor, and has championed the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

8a. Harbourfront Centre – Heather Waddell

Heather noted that skating on the Natrel rink will begin as soon as the weather is cold enough. Winter festivals are planned, as shown on the website. There will be a “snow globe” on the Family Day weekend in February.

8b. Waterfront BIA – Carol Jolly

Carol noted that the BIA will hold its AGM next week on Thursday. The Redpath Festival will return next summer with no tall ships, but naval frigates instead. The Music Garden features seasonal lighting. There will be a new display on the “Amsterdam” bridge in January. Next summer’s plans also include the return of the Singing Ambassadors, Gangways Open and the red Muskoka chairs. The BIA is hoping to start up a monthly artisans’ market in HTO Park, hoping to lure some of the sellers to “brick-and-mortar shops” to enhance QQ’s retail. They also want to expand their geographic area to take in Stadium Road to Yonge Street and the Islands to Harbour Street. This is subject to City approval. The Waterfront BIA will move to larger offices at Suite 114, 370 Queens Quay West on December 7.

At this point **Ed Hore** advised the meeting that time had run out, and the balance of the agenda will be held over until January.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday January 13, 2016.