

**MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #67, Wednesday, June 7, 2017, Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249
Queens Quay West
Chaired by Laura Cooper**

Residents (who signed in) attending:

39 Queens Quay East – Shan Dilver
10 Yonge Street. – Ed Hore
18 Yonge Street – Laura Dauphine
10 Queens Quay West – Ralph Reda
1 York Quay –
33 Harbour Square – Marlies Burkhard, Mary Ann Arthur, Helen Skwavok
55 Harbour Square – Ulla Colgrass, Leah Lambert
65 Harbour Square – Bob & Celia Rasmussen, Penny Smith, Friedel & Klaus Hatje,
77 Harbour Square – Laura Cooper, Mary Lake, Dave Scott
99 Harbour Square – L. Wong
8 York Street - Peter Augruso
208 Queens Quay West – Estelle Weynman
211 Queens Quay West –
218 Queens Quay West – Ann Mayer, Patrick & Diana Walton, Steve & Karen Gellner
228 Queens Quay West – Carolyn Johnson, Dave & Lynn Secor, Karin Milne, Ian Campbell,
Gordon & Elaine Moores, Dan Zinman
230 Queens Quay West – Rita LeCours, Romanna Yakivchyk
250 Queens Quay West – Claire Sparks,
251 Queens Quay West – Angie & Allan Rivers
260 Queens Quay West – Marcia Boyd, Carol McCanse,
270 Queens Quay West – Neal Colgrass, Heather Flannery, Louise Wallace
280 Queens Quay West –
350 Queens Quay West –
401 Queens Quay West – David Neden, G. Daniell, Steve Hawkins
34 Little Norway – Hal Beck

Guests:

Councillor Joe Cressy – Guest Speaker
Han Dong MPP – Guest Speaker
Peter Maragos – Assist. to Han Dong
Lenita Lopes – Office of MP Adam Vaughan
Tom Davidson – Assist. to Councillor Pam McConnell
Brent Gilliard – Assist. to Joe Cressy
Heather Waddell – Harbourfront Centre
Bryan Bowen – Waterfront Secretariat, City of Toronto
Bois Kennedy – 650 Queens Quay West

1. Adoption of the agenda.

On a motion from Carolyn Johnson, seconded by Claire Sparks, the agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of Minutes from February 1, 2017 meeting.

Estelle Weynman noted that her name was not listed as attending. On a motion from Neal Colgrass, seconded by Carol McCause, the minutes were adopted as amended.

3. Chair Laura Cooper invited Heather Waddell from Harbourfront Centre to speak.

Heather introduced her colleagues Laura McLeod, Festivals, and Mary Landreff, Marketing. She also high-lighted the current programme brochure which was delivered to the area. The musical theme this year is “Sounds of Home” featuring the Jerry Cans from Iqaluit. On June 27 Multiculturalism Day will be marked with a full day about Here in the 6ix, starting with a 7 am sunrise ceremony by the Natrel Pond, followed by a free breakfast hosted by Nish Dish at the World Café. School groups will have events all day, and Kardinal Offishal will finish off the day with an evening concert.

On Thursdays from 2 to 8 pm there will be a local food market in the North Orchard with 10 vendors in black tents. Canada Day will be marked by fireworks on the CN Tower at 10:30 followed by Harbourfront’s show set to music at 10:45. Heather stated that Ports Toronto has agreed to close the airport early to accommodate the fireworks.

It was confirmed that Pawsway will close after Labour Day. There is some interest in leasing the space, but nothing firm as yet.

Claire Sparks remarked that a night-club would not be welcome. Estelle Weynman noted that last year the fireworks show created traffic chaos and asked for better management. Heather replied that with more locations this year across the City there would be lower demand at Harbourfront. There is liaison with the TTC. On-site security staff are tasked with crowd control. Other points noted by YQNA members included the lack of lights on the pedestrian bridge at the marina, and the need for washrooms at the Music Garden.

4. Chair Laura Cooper invited guest speaker Joe Cressy to address the meeting.

Joe advised that Ward 20 runs from the lake to Dupont and from Bathurst to York Street/University Avenue. He is assisted by Brent and other staff along with 16 Residents’ Associations.

City-wide, Toronto doing well on many levels of grading: diverse, livable, intelligent, with the most high-rises under construction. However it has poor scores on inequality, which is increasing; the infrastructure gap, with 40 year old housing and lack of TTC maintenance; child poverty of 29% (40% in some areas); not caring for the weakest citizens. There is a general lack of investment in City properties such as parks, housing and the TTC.

Ward 20 has 100,000 residents and a quarter of all proposed development in the City, more that Scarborough and Etobicoke combined. There are 17 million annual visitors to the waterfront. The Provincial Places to Grow policy encourages intensification in the downtown. Some vital City infrastructure like the Gardiner is local here.

The downtown is expected to grow to 500,000 over the next 25 years. A neighbourhood starts with parkland for the vertical homes of children and dogs. St Andrews Playground has been enlarged by adding a former parking lot. The Honest Ed’s development will include a park. 28 Bathurst at Front has been designated for a new park. \$10 million will be spent on the Mouth of

the Creek Park next to the Fort York library. As for the rail deck park between Bathurst and Blue Jays Way, it could provide 21 acres and become a City-wide destination like the New York Highline. In the Fall staff will be reporting on the technical analysis and costs. To meet the parkland standard for the local population, 639 acres of parkland are required.

With regard to Community Centres, in City Place construction is about to begin on a combined community centre, child care and two elementary schools next to Canoe Landing Park that will open in Fall 2019. There will be an indoor playroom and sports use of the rooftop to support the 18,000 units in the community. In King-Spadina the population is targeted to grow from 30,000 to 50,000 residents. The City is partnering with the YMCA for a community centre, and 4 daycares are planned.

Phase 1 of The Bentway below the Gardiner is due to open between Strachan and Bathurst in 2017 in the winter, where skating in the shade will be more viable than in sunny spots.

In terms of poverty and equity, affordable housing is a big issue with 188,000 on the waiting list. Social housing is being renewed at Alexandra Park and 250 Davenport. A site next to the Fort York library is slated for 80 units in an 8 storey building run by Open Door as a rent-geared-to-income rental. Drug overdoses on opioids like fentanyl is now a big public health issue. 3 locations are planned for safe injection sites.

With respect to movement, with one million more residents in the City in 25 years the only way to cope will be with transit and active movement. Today the downtown grows to 900,000 people each workday with the influx of workers. The King Street pilot project will put transit first. GO Transit will be building a new station at Front and Spadina under the RER (Regional Express Rail) network. More bike lanes are planned as well.

Locally, Bathurst Quay is home to 2700 residents in mixed income buildings, the silos, the airport and two schools. The community's vision plan is going to Community Council next week. The City keeps getting unsolicited proposals for the use of its land, including a floating parking garage! Some features of the vision include an aquatic centre, arts and cultural animation for the silos, an underground pick-up and drop-off for the airport, and community space. The schools are staying. The City will be conducting a heritage review of the silos which date from two different eras.

The Simcoe Ramp project must not maximize the impact on residents in order to minimize the inconvenience to drivers. Complaints about the overnight work at Simcoe Street led to a halt to future overnight working. At the Peter Street Slip, Scadding Court and the BIA are working on a floating garden. At 318 Queens Quay West plans are under way for a park and signature space as well as a source of revenue for Harbourfront Centre to replace the parking fees. The focus is on promoting east-west movement along the street, and having a winter destination. Some ideas include market space, a dog run, tourist bus drop-off, and activities for older children. \$6 million in funding is available. Waterfront Toronto (WT) is taking the lead, with design being based on principles developed by the community.

In terms of development proposals, Maple Leaf Quay's application for intensification is going to an OMB hearing in 2018. The Rogers Communications building has been sold to a developer. 30 Bay Street was sold by Ports Toronto for \$96 million with no public input. On June 13 there will be a public meeting about a condo proposal on the rail deck site. The BIA is running a market at HTO Park, and WT has funding and an approved design for a deck at the Martin Goodman Trail pinch-point near Dan Leckie Way.

Chair Laura Cooper opened the floor for questions:

Q. At 318 Queens Quay West there are 17 spots needed for the nearby building's visitor parking. Where will they be replaced? Is underground parking possible?

A. Possibly under the public space. At Marina Quay the parking garage (currently partially flooded) is the subject of a joint study between the City and the BIA to look at a replacement.

Q. Adam Vaughan is keen on a bird sanctuary on the islands. What is the status?

A. The City is in discussions with the conservation authority. To set it up will take more than a simple motion at Council.

Q. The developments along Queens Quay East appear very dense. Is there any co-ordination?

A. In the Fall the Transit Reset report will be presented. The BIA is looking at expanding eastward with its retail strategy. Tom Davidson has more information on park provision.

Q. What about the police vehicles parking on Robertson Crescent? Also the traffic light time is too short on Robertson east leg.

A. There have been several meetings with transportation services and the police, to ensure two clear traffic lanes all the way. There is a solution which involves removing two bump-outs. Joe will circulate the drawings. Also he has asked for a longer time for the signal.

Q. What is being done to get rid of parked vehicles beside the Amsterdam Brew-house?

A. Joe is pushing for more enforcement.

5. Chair Laura Cooper introduced guest speaker Han Dong MPP.

Han stated that OMB reform legislation will be introduced very soon. There is likely to be lively debate on the Bill. With regard to transition, he does not know yet whether the Act will be retro-active. He feels that lately the OMB has been more supportive of Council and community.

Han commented that he is parliamentary secretary to two ministers and also serves on the Finance Committee, which has entailed travel around the Province in connection with the budget and the minimum wage plans. Now the House has risen he will be spending more time in the Riding. Recent announcements include free tuition, pharmacare for those under 25, and rent control for units built after 1971. Ontario is doing well with unemployment at 5.8%, but there are food security issues across the Province and concerns with affordable nutritious food in the North.

With regard to Ontario Place, the new urban park is due to open this month, after a tree-planting delay due to the weather. Bill 27, the Burden Reduction Act, proclaimed on March 22, 2017, widens the permitted uses at Ontario Place. No land is being sold off. The goal is to improve public access with a welcoming entrance, event space in the pods, a live music venue and a renovated cinesphere with state of the art IMAX equipment.

There is a schedule of events this summer for Ontario 150 with a focus on the Canada Day weekend. On the west island partners are being sought through an RFP for a centre of culture and innovation.

Chair Laura Cooper opened the floor for questions.

Q. What is happening about the water-land interface with the high lake levels?

A. It is being looked after for the urban park.

Q. What is the status of the elevator legislation?

A. The private member's bill passed second reading. The ministry has issued an RFP for a study on elevator reliability. Han is hopeful the bill will soon pass.

Q. What about the Rebel nightclub hearing? What about the island flooding? What about more newsletters?

A. The high cost of rent and telephone eats up the office budget. The annual calendar and the summer newsletter uses up 70% of communications budget. An update is coming on the new Condominium Act and the regulations which have been more complicated than expected.

With regard to the flooding, Han has been following up with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. They can ask if the City needs help and support. However, the criteria for Provincial funding is that a municipality has to spend over 3% of its annual budget on infrastructure repairs, so in the case of Toronto this is unlikely to be met. Han is meeting with Mayor Tory on the issue, but does not want to make the matter more complicated. He has also directly offered help to the residents.

As for the Rebel nightclub, he has voiced his concerns but cannot direct the AGCO.

6. Chair Laura Cooper introduced Tom Davidson, from Pam McConnell's office.

Simcoe Ramp

Tom noted that a new park will be designed by WT and City Parks with high quality consultation. A meeting will be held in September after the technical assessment is completed. Some issues to be addressed are an off-leash dog run, children's spaces and the needs of the lunch-time crowd. It will be like the process for Berczy Park.

Jack Layton Ferry Terminal Master Plan implementation

Tom said that Phase 1, which will feature a promenade to WT standards, signage, a gateway feature and a small play structure, will start after the summer season this year.

Development News

At 45 Bay Street opposite the ACC, construction is beginning for an office building and a new GO bus depot. The project will include a small rail deck park, privately owned but open to the public, linking to another office building on the site of the current bus depot.

The EA Study for the Lower Yonge Precinct transportation network is under way. Some ideas include a Harbour Street extension into the area and the realignment of the intersection at Yonge Street. Also under consideration is the removal of the Jarvis off-ramp and the addition of a new ramp at Yonge Street. There are access issues for the existing condos in this area. The Pinnacle buildings will provide a community centre and a school.

On Queens Quay East WT is looking at revitalization as a complete community year round. It will be anchored by public investment in infrastructure, planning, and a promenade along the water's edge together with a string of parks. There is to be a focus on a technical and innovation hub near Sugar Beach.

7. Powerhouse Nightclub Liquor Licence Application.

Co-Chair Ed Hore advised that the hearing will resume on June 12 with evidence from the islanders. For the City Councillor McConnell gave good evidence earlier.

8. Treasurer's Report – Angie Rivers

Angie stated that the balance now stands at \$1865.12. Donations at the last meeting amounted to \$173. Payments outstanding are \$120 for the hotel staff who set up the room, and about \$67 for the website.

9. New City Noise By-law Update

Ulla requested that item be deferred until the next meeting so that action on the Board of Health report could be included.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

The next meeting will tentatively be on Wednesday September 13, 2017