

## MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #71, Tuesday, March 13, 2018,

**Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West**  
**Chaired by Angelo Bertolas**

### **Guests:**

**Adam Vaughan** MP

**Meg Davis**, Chief Development Officer, Waterfront Toronto

**Joseph Sirefman**, Head of development, Sidewalk Labs

**Bryan Bowen** – City of Toronto Waterfront Secretariat

**Chair Angelo Bertolas** opened the meeting and welcomed all those attending.

### **1. Adoption of the agenda.**

On a motion from Estelle Weynman, seconded by Allan Rivers, the agenda was adopted.

### **2. Adoption of Minutes** from January 16, 2018 meeting.

On a motion from Ed Hore, seconded by Laura Cooper, the minutes were adopted.

**3.** While waiting for MP Adam Vaughan to arrive as a surprise guest speaker, **Treasurer Angie Rivers** gave an update on YQNA funds. We have a reserve of \$1,200 thanks to the donations dropped in a box after each meeting. It enabled us to buy a PA system costing \$535. Angelo thanked people for their contributions, which are our only income.

**4. Chair Angelo Bertolas** reported on the meeting hosted by MLSE regarding Restaurant E11even on York St. and Bremner Ave. and its sidewalk patio. The 30-meter long patio is used on a 3-year temporary permit that runs out soon. The Restaurant again requested permanent use of the sidewalk as their first step towards getting permission to enclose the patio in glass in a separate application that involves zoning. Four YQNA members, councillor Lucy Troisi and Tom Davidson, MLSE and their lawyers were present.

YQNA has objected to permanent patio use of this sidewalk, which was planned 10 years ago as the important York Steet Promenade. The area is not yet built out or fully occupied, and until the maximum use of this sidewalk is known, YQNA opposes handing over this public realm. YNQA does not favour the glass enclosure, whereas Councillor Troisi agreed to all of the Restaurant's demands. MLSE offered YQNA a say in where and how to use a donation of \$100,000, apparently related to this patio. Toronto Public Art officer, Jane Perdue, says the overhang along the sidewalk is an official work of art that must not be covered by a glass enclosure. MLSE gave us till the end of March to reply.

**Allan Rivers** asked if there is any point in opposing this patio plan. Chair **Angelo Bertolas** said that we can oppose it at the Committee of Adjustment, to which the Restaurant will have to apply. The application is expected in the Fall. **Chair Angelo Bertolas** asked for a show of hands for or against MLSE's patio proposal, and all voted against it.

5. **Ed Hore** gave an update on the Licensing Appeals Tribunal (LAT) hearings regarding the Rebel Nightclub, also known as the Powerhouse company co-owned by Charles Kabouth. They have lasted for 17 days stretched over a year. Ed was YQNA's pro-bono lawyer. He summarized the changes this huge club wants through a new liquor licence, such as larger crowds partying outdoors and hours extended from 11 pm. to 2 am. Ed's extensive submissions are now with the tribunal, awaiting the decision. The Toronto Island Noise Committee is equally involved with their lawyer Robert Tanner.

6. **Adam Vaughan, MP**, arrived to give a quick update on the Waterfront issue he deals with in Ottawa. The proposed Bird Sanctuary on the Islands has moved through bureaucratic channels and is now in the hands of the Federal Department of Natural Resources, where it is expected to be approved. Minister McKenna is dedicated to finding funds to protect the aquatic and bird life on the Waterfront. That includes the Spit, the Islands and the wetlands at the re-directed Don River.

A Port Review is underway with the aim to direct Toronto's Port Authority (TPA) to change the composition of the Board, introduce transparency, and review the TPA's expansion into real estate deals and developments.

Affordable housing funding is included in the new Federal budget, as discussions are happening around securing a minimum income for those in need. In response to a question, Adam explained that income splitting under age 65 is taken away, but not for those over 65. Transit in Toronto is getting funded, and universal pharma care is in the works.

On the possible election of Doug Ford as Premier of Ontario, Adam said, "Imagine Doug running hospitals and schools? Complacency and cynicism are the only reasons for Ford to win... I defy you to find anything Doug Ford did in Council. Doug is Harris on drugs. So get engaged in this campaign." **Chair Angelo Bertolas** thanked Adam and encouraged him to speak his mind 😊

7. **Meg Davis from Waterfront Toronto (WT) and Joseph Sirefman from Sidewalk Labs** presented an outline of the first experimental urban development planned for Quayside, the 12-acre site at Parliament and Queens Quay East. The land is owned by WT. The collaboration will invite the private sector and try out technically advanced developments that can be replicated here and around the world. Of several possible partners, WT chose Sidewalk Labs (SL), a subsidiary of Alphabet Inc. and sibling company to Google.

Sirefman said that Sidewalk Labs will bring in people from diverse backgrounds, and that their planning will be holistic. They will not introduce technology for technology's sake, and they are a separate company with no obligations to Google. They hope to take away ideas that can help solve universal challenges, such as poverty, housing, transit etc. There is no model yet for this, but lots of potential. He said we chose Toronto when WT showed up and they have a great track record. SL will fund all preliminary work for Quayside up to \$50 million.

Every step will include extensive public engagement, which started with the townhall meeting in November, 2017.

The aim is to lower the cost of living in a technically advanced and healthy environment that will rethink infrastructure, public realm and built form, and create platforms of connectivity. The collection of data will drive many of these goals, and SL can create a model for urban development to be used around the world.

**Friedel Hatje** asked if SL intends to buy the land. Sirefman first said it was possible, then said “no”. Other questions concerned protection against cyber attacks of Hydro and water supplies; new ways to use public and private resources; a mandate broader than Quayside (yes); timelines (start in 3 years); anxiety around the amount of information that Google has on everyone and about privacy – will we be guinea pigs? We can work with WT, but how about working with City Hall?

Sirefman said that the collected data will not be monetized, and its ownership it is still being worked out. Privacy will be protected. This will not be a sprint, but a long deliberate process. The final agreement between WT and SL has not yet been published.

**8. Heather Waddell** reported on Harbourfront Centre’s (HC) summer program. It includes “Big thought for growing minds” for ages 4 to 14. It is new and includes comedy, puppetry, dance and other arts from many centuries to activate young minds, but can be enjoyed by all ages.

There will be no fireworks this year, because funding has not been secured. Among many offerings are Small World Music’s programming of music from many countries for three days in August, and the Ashkenaz Festival returns on Labour Day weekend. Dancing on the Pier will continue in a new location, on a new dance floor next to the Stage in the Round.

The former PawsWay building has not yet found a new tenant. The large building had six site visits and three offers were presented, but fell through. HC is now exploring alternative solutions. **Co-Chair Wayne Christian** asked if HC could beautify the area around the PawsWay building, now that the animal sculptures are gone. Heather will take it back to the board. Ulla asked if they would consider a mundane retail tenant, and Heather said no, it would be one that’s in the spirit of Harbourfront. She also said that music for Dancing at the Round Stage would be contained to the site and not annoy people across the street.

**9. Laura Cooper** reported on the OMB hearing regarding the proposed expansion of the Coal Harbour rental building (350-370-390 Queens Quay W.) She spent 4 days at the hearing and presented on behalf of YQNA along with **Secretary Carolyn Johnson**. **Co-chair Wayne Christian** gave his professional report on noise issues that would occur with an additional building. Laura showed an image of the unsightly addition, with 55 rental apartments, that would block the view of Rogers Centre from that part of Queens Quay. An OMB decision will be made soon.

**10. Norman Di Pasquale** reported on the progress of Waterfront for All (WfA), the new umbrella organization for the Waterfront of which YQNA is a member. The steering committee is mapping out the focus and direction for WfA. Among their issues are the Bird Sanctuary on the Islands, developments at Quayside, and keeping the Rebel Nightclub under control.

**11. Hal Beck** reported on the Masterplan meeting presented by the Toronto Port Authority on the Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (BBCTA). Hal attends all airport meetings on behalf of YQNA. He said a Masterplan normally is focused on infrastructure demands to meet forecast ridership growth, but the airport's noise reports and request for expansion have been approved, although not certified by professional engineers. He found that highly irregular.

The airport is not receiving enough noise or other complaints from residents, and listed only two complaints from YQNA last year. That's considered a whitewash, because Wayne alone sent 14 complaints. People were encouraged to lodge justified complaints on the airport's website.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting came to a close at 9 pm.

**The next meeting will tentatively be on May 15, 2018.**

Recorded by Ulla Colgrass in the absence due to vacation of **Secretary Carolyn Johnson**