

YQNA FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING #73, Tuesday, September 11, 2018, Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queens Quay West

Chaired by Angelo Bertolas

1. Adoption of the agenda.

On a motion from Claire Sparks, seconded by Ulla Colgrass, the agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of Minutes from May 15, 2018 meeting

The Minutes were not available.

3. Update from Ward 20 Councillor Joe Cressy

Joe opened by commenting on the **election upset** caused by the Ford Government passing Bill 5 to reduce the number of Councillors from 47 to 25. The City had conducted a comprehensive Ward Boundary Review which resulted in the recommendation for 47 Wards for this 2018 election. A court Decision on the appeal based on freedom of expression issues stayed the Bill. The Ford Government then moved to use the notwithstanding clause in Bill 31 to overturn the Court ruling. This clause in the Constitution has only been used three times, to deal with emergencies. But unless the PC party caucus objects, Bill 31 will be passed in the Legislature. Under 25 wards, Joe will run in Spadina-Fort York.

On Parks matters;

- The Bentway is open from Strachan to the Fort York Visitor Centre. Next year the pedestrian bridge over Fort York Boulevard will be built. Phase II to Spadina will follow.
- At City Place on Block 31 the schools and community centre are under construction along with a food market. The building is due to open in Fall 2019.
- The Bathurst Quay Plan implementation includes \$5 million in dock wall reconstruction. A new square in Ireland Park is due in Spring 2019. Council expanded the park to include the old building formerly leased to Ports Toronto, for an Arts and Culture Centre under the Ireland Park Foundation.
- At 318 QYW the park is coming soon. There have been 5 design entries. A Stakeholder Advisory Committee has been struck. There is \$11 million in funding for both Rees and York Street parks. A jury will select the winning entries, today and tomorrow, with an announcement to follow soon from Waterfront Toronto.

Community Safety;

- There was a shooting in Coronation Park recently; it was targeted, at a BBQ event. The Crisis Response Team is helping. Call Joe if you need help.
- Gun violence is concerning, it causes collective trauma and upsets the neighbourhoods; it has spilled out onto the busy streets. We need gun control, investment in neighbourhoods and youth. Fewer guns=fewer shootings. 50% of guns are local but stolen or smuggled. Montreal also wants a ban on hand guns. Adam Vaughan is talking about it in the Liberal caucus. Gun violence stems from alienation and poverty, so we should invest in youth and mental health programs. The July \$30 million in funding for community-based youth policing will help.

- Regarding shelters, a temporary respite shelter in the old Rogers building at 545 Lakeshore will open in early November for women and couples. There are 8,000 on the waiting list for shelter beds, and 181,000 on the list for housing. We need space for shelter seekers, and we need housing for transitional and permanent homes. There 8 respites for over-crowded shelters. The City has leased the building for a year. A developer wanted 29 storeys, which was rejected in favour of an 8-12 storey mid-rise. There are growing camps under the Gardiner, leading to help from Fred Victor, providing referral staff and 24/7 security.

The Airport;

- Federal consultations are coming in the Fall about Port Authorities. Ports Toronto is working on a Master Plan, not with an expansion but possibly a new entrance through the Island.

Q & A

Q. Under Section 33 of the Charter, can there be a challenge to Bill 5/31? Is Council seeking advice?

A. The Government cannot over-ride democratic rights. Lawyer Goldblatt is looking at it. The issue will be at Council on Thursday. The Federal Government could use Disallowance, which was used in 1933 or 1943.

Q. Regarding shelters, we should have addiction specialists and bring back TAVIS carding.

A. Toronto Public Health is helping, with 10 staff hired for 7,000 homeless under Provincial funding. The best answer is community trust. Carding erodes trust. We need intelligent solutions.

4. Update from Chris Glover MPP

The job is very challenging. The Bentway is near his home and is very nice, so is the Bill Davis Trail at Ontario Place. An RFP was issued for the West Island but Ford has his own plans. The group “Excluded” is working on ideas for Ontario Place and the Exhibition Grounds, to develop an alternative proposal and look for support from the PC’s. The ONDP wants the lands to remain public.

On **gun violence**, he has 8 years of experience, and attending funerals of young men shot, including his son’s friend. The Board of Health approach is one of understanding the reasons. Dr Stetnick finds that it spreads like an epidemic, like ebola, like a virus. It’s not just gang members. 3 guys who have done 10 years in jail for drug and gun offences are now reformed. The issue is isolation in ghettos, lack of access to jobs and poor transit service. The new Finch LRT will help. They need an alternative way of life. The Harris government cut welfare, so it’s \$710 per month when it should be \$1050. People went from poverty to destitution. Under the previous government a 3% increase of \$22 was planned but Ford has cut it back to \$11. Youth are alienated, looking for new friends, respect, money and love (in gangs).

Regarding the **Sex Ed curriculum**, the Government has rolled it back to an era before the Internet. The old one does not deal with bullying, LGBTQ issues, sexting dangers; they have even set up a snitch line to report teachers.

On the removal of the **Cap and Trade plan**, Tesla sued and their subsidy was restored. The green economy is growing and Toronto and Canada were leading this, along with film, IT and start-ups, leading the world along with Silicon Valley.

The Election is a real mess and the Court Decision was really shocking. Joe Cressy has 50 LPAT cases in his Ward alone. It's about democratic rights but the Charter Section 3 is silent on municipal elections. Judge Belobaba said we do have those rights. Now Bill 31 repeats Bill 5 with the notwithstanding clause, and Ford says he will use it again. There's a protest at 9:30 and Question Period at 10:30 so come to the public gallery, or the members' gallery if you can behave. Read Hansard about the rushed vote. The Bill will be introduced at 3 pm.

Q & A

Q. In a small community the recreation centre was really busy catering to two millionaires and the poor. It had low fees, but now it costs a lot.

A. Yes it just costs so much now so it reduces participation.

Q. What about the PC's who disagree; will they be disciplined?

A. Yes, the Whip will watch their votes and they will get no plums. Chris will ask when they will revolt. Are they OK with this action?

Q. Concerning affordable housing, businesses are having issues hiring staff.

A. It's so challenging. This is a wonderful group (YQNA) and there are many others Chris will be working with.

Laura Cooper handed out cards from Excluded, and also advised that tomorrow there will be a Defend Democracy meeting at Trinity Church with lawyers for the applicants, John Sewell and others.

5. Update from Nicole Waldron for Adam Vaughan, MP

Ports Toronto Modernization study – sign up on the email list for information. Adam has been talking to the caucus in the West about this issue.

Gun control is being discussed

There is a **poverty reduction strategy**, 100,000 affordable housing units are being funded over 10 years.

Over the Summer Adam was at **community events** including his picnic. He was at City Place recently and can meet more with residents. What do people want from the Federal Government? On his website Adam has a long essay on Constitutional issues. He is excited about engagement by mature people to help and mentor younger people. Updates are posted on his Facebook page.

6. Update from Jeremy Smith for Harbourfront Centre (HC)

Jeremy opened by noting that Chris Hutchinson and Heather Waddell send regrets.

Some highlights of **this year's programme** were:

May – inaugural Junior International Festival aimed at 4 to 14 year olds, which attracted 50,000 children; Canada day – Brave, a programme about Risk and Failure with three keynote speakers – John Walters, a filmmaker, Biff Naked, and Dr Bassum Yousseff, a former doctor in Egypt with a new career as a stand-up comedian. There were 18 concerts in the Music Garden, along with many of the usual summer events. On September 22-23 HC will host Word on the Street, at which 60,000 guests are expected, and the International Festival of Authors will follow in late October. Other events are highlighted on the website.

Regarding the **former Pawsway**, HC is still looking for a long-term tenant that fits the culture and is financially supportive. In the short term there will be an art installation called Happy Project in November and December. The project is touring in the US at present.

Q & A.

Q. Why not break up the large space for multiple tenants? What happened with earlier responses to the RFP?

A. Some responses were acceptable but fell through because the rent offered was too low.

Q. Are there any printed programmes anymore? Dancing on the Pier was moved to a poorer area.

A. Using tents, a dance floor and beverages was an experiment. We hope to make it better next year. As for printed materials, they tend to lag behind changing events and are expensive to produce. Free WiFi and digital signs are coming.

7. Report from Police Liaison Committee and Local Crime Prevention

Representative **Wayne Christian** outlined some statistics: across Toronto up to September 10 there were 75 homicides; shootings, stabbings or other causes up over 200%; 4 murders occurred in 52 Division, the highest since 1995.

Toronto Police representatives spoke about the Waterfront area. The main issues being reported locally are homelessness, AirBnB, and cannabis smoke.

For homelessness – on private property call the Police, Community Response Unit. They can issue a Trespass Notice and have authority to remove people if need be. On City property like parks, or under the Gardiner, Police can be called by staff or the Councillor to move people along. For tent cities, they get 14 days' notice to leave, but they just shift from one side of Spadina to the other. TPS keeps the peace.

Q & A

Q. It is good to see TPS presence. The traffic on QQW can be chaotic.

A. It is very safe, and doesn't need a constant presence apart from a few bike rides. Cars do come through occasionally on the wrong part of the street.

Q. What is the situation with police officers at the ACC or Rogers Centre?

A. These are paid duty officers covered by the promoters.

Q. What is the relationship with the Marine Unit?

A. We look after the Island but not the water.

Q. There is traffic chaos daily from 4 to 6. Drivers break the rules, like using the right turn lane to jump the queue. We need enforcement and cameras.

A. Police would make it worse, but we do deal with complaints. Bremner, Blue Jays Way and Spadina are enforced.

Q Can we have traffic wardens?

A. The City is paying for Police and hiring more bylaw officers to limit the blocking of intersections. Pedestrians don't help, they need to be held from crossing late.

Q. What about the shooting on Peter Street recently?

A. The case goes from 52 Division to the Homicide Unit. We don't know more. More police are being hired.

Q. There are always cars on the streetcar tracks.

A. The Police know. Drivers are ignorant and unobservant.

Q. What about loud exhaust pipes?

A. There are fines if they get caught. It is a police issue. The Mayor wants better bylaws and audio monitoring.

Q. What about AirBnB?

A. Condo corporation rules are being broken concerning short term leases, but it is not a police matter. Condo corporations need to enforce rules and levy fines. Even an agreement from owners

cannot allow police to remove people. It is hard to track down. Boards and management need to do the enforcement.

Q. Can owners install camera?

A. TPS has no position yet.

A. The City has regulated short term rentals to only apply to a room in a private residence. This has been challenged in court. The hearing moved to LPAT has been delayed a year, so the bylaw can't be enforced by MLS.

8. Report on the Trees on Queens Quay – Netami Stuart of Waterfront Toronto (WT).

Netami noted that there has been a lack of information from WT about its action in this regard. She is a landscape architect and arborist. She travels along the bike trail daily between Bathurst and York Streets and is well aware of the state of the trees.

The trees were planted in 2015 and were under a two year warranty by Aldershot Landscape Contractors (ALC) to maintain them in accordance with the specifications. All across Toronto trees need water. In 2017 the warranty expired and a review found that about 50% needed replacement. The warranty was extended to 2018. ALC thought that some looked alright. In March 2018 they did a field review. In June they discussed the findings with various experts and got recommendations. WT did not want to remove trees that would survive. In July WT agreed that quite a few trees looked like survivors.

Today ALC removed three trees near Rees to do a post mortem on them. The tree species were carefully chosen, mostly planes and sycamores. Toronto is at the northern edge of their range, being cold and damp especially lately. A single genus was a bad idea, the trees should have been mixed up and diversified. Two varieties of each were chosen. WT took a risk that didn't work out. The silva cells worked very well at Dockside Drive.

There was also a fungus attack in 2017 and 2018; this may reoccur and the sycamores may suffer in the Spring of 2019.

Q & A.

Q. Were bikes tied to trees a problem?

A. Not an issue. The black plastic cages around the trunks help.

Q. Please replace the dead and missing trees. In June there was a maximum of 44% of the trees that were good.

A. Should we replace all the trees on the south side? We are making a plan to use species that work in Toronto. Urban Forestry permits maples, honey locusts, elms and Tilia. She walked the route today with Urban Forestry and received preliminary approval. Trees are available for planting, which should happen in the next two weeks.

Q. Who pays?

A. The trees are under warranty from ALC. WT may pay for some. A contract will be settled in a few days.

Q. What kind of maples?

A. Silver and Red maples, soft varieties that can live for 60-100 years.

Q. Why not elms?

A. Yes, we can use elms. They should be in the ground by October 30 if possible, maybe a bit later if the weather is suitable. Trees at the nursery will be tagged. Information will be shared through Co-Chair Angelo Bertolas.

Q. Could the community adopt a tree to care for?

A. That is a good idea.

Q. We will monitor the trees. Who looks after the boardwalk trees?

A. Urban Forestry should do it. WT and Sidewalk Labs are doing workshops next week.

9. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Angie Rivers reported that the current bank balance is \$1121.25. She noted that the room is free, but expenses include the website, payment to the man who sets up the meeting room and new equipment. She asked for donations.

10. Update on New Parks Designs

Co-Chair Angelo Bertolas and **Planning Committee Chair Ulla Colgrass** attended the SAC meeting today to speak to the jury. They emphasised that no bents should be retained at York Street. The design for York will be finalised later this year, for Rees in 2020.

11. Update from Ward 28 – Tom Davidson

Tom advised that Harbour Street will be finished in the next two weeks, with traffic signal timings based on detector loops in the roadway. The Sundial Folly in Harbour Square West is being repaired this Fall.

12. Other Business

With the permission of the Chair, future Ward 10 election candidate Carlene Nation addressed the meeting.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

The next meeting is tentatively set for November 13, 2018.