

(Draft) MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #86 Tuesday March 9, 2021

On-line Via ZOOM due to COVID-19 Pandemic (approximately 108 participants)

Hosted by Neal Colgrass, Chief Technical Officer

Chaired by Angelo Bertolas, Co-chair

1. Angelo acknowledged the contribution that Angie Rivers had made as YQNA's treasurer and announced that she is stepping down. Consequently, YQNA is looking for a treasurer. The position will start in December 2021. Angelo also 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 January 13, 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 will be muted except the chair and current speaker. Questions can be posed by typing in the chat box or using the "raise your hand" key.

3. City of Toronto –Councillor Joe Cressy

Covid/Vaccination Roll Out

Joe Cressy commented that Toronto has passed the peak of the 2nd wave. More transmissible variants currently make up 30 to 40% of cases and will be the dominant strain by the end of month. A third wave can be prevented if the vaccines are distributed quickly enough.

The federal government is responsible for approving and procuring the supply of vaccines, the provincial government is responsible for setting vaccination priorities, distribution and registration and data base management, and the City is responsible for the vaccination sites and injection administration. In Toronto about 206,000 doses have been administered.

The status of vaccination sites in the City was identified as follows:

- 18 clinics open using the provincial framework
- 9 city mass immunization sites are ready to open as soon as vaccine supply allows – capacity 1 million vaccines per month running 24/7. 1400 staff hired.
- 350 clinics run by hospitals, community health clinics and pharmacies are open
- Family physicians will receive supply as available

Registration will include:

- Provincial site – March 15th
- vaccineto.ca where 'Interim priority' recipients can register

Parks and social infrastructure

- Love Park will start in 2021 and finish in 2022.

- New Marine Use Strategy has just been released – comprehensive strategy to guide overall marine use and to manage the waterfront including a mooring strategy and a mobility strategy
- The Parliament slip has been acquired for new dynamic public space including amenities for swimming, kayaking, boating, entertainment, and dining. Waterfront Toronto will announce when the project will move into public consultation.

Schools

3 sites for elementary schools have been secured:

1. West Donlands
2. Keating Channel
3. Foot of Yonge in the Menkes development

The TDSB is ready to build pending Provincial funding. A formal request is being presented by the City in March 2021.

Transit

East Bay Front, West Donlands, Portlands and Quayside are predicated on the development of the East LRT. The City, Waterfront Toronto and the TTC are currently approaching the 30% design threshold. That will trigger intergovernmental funding. Work on the portal is important from both a transit access and egress perspective, but also from a waterfront revitalization design perspective.

Development

The City has created a Construction Hub pilot project to ensure that development projects are co-ordinated to optimize efficiency and minimize disruption. Co-ordination of all of the projects at Bay / Queens Quay need a comprehensive construction plan. A stakeholder advisory committee has been established with the first meeting planned on March 15, 2021.

11 Bay St.

Project is on hold, until further assessment is complete.

Short-term rentals

The City passed a policy on short-term rentals a couple of years ago. A licensing system was put in place in December 2020. People can rent a room in their house. They cannot hold multiple dwellings for the purpose of short-term rentals. The city is scaling up enforcement and the management of complaints.

Exhibition Place

City Planning needs to review the recommended proposal on the site that was designated for a second hotel when Hotel X was built. It will be coming to the Exhibition Place Board of Governors for consideration. There will be a public consultation. The proposal needs to comply with the Master Plan for Exhibition Place which calls for complementary design. The current proposal is considered preliminary.

Mask Enforcement in Condo's

Pro-active enforcement will be pursued where there are buildings with complaints of repeated and consistent concern. 200 buildings have currently been identified.

Q: Is a Rail Deck park still in the offing?

A: The proposal is for a 24.5-acre park from Bathurst to Blue Jays Way. The Waterfront community is the most park deficient area of the City. The area is also the fastest growing neighbourhood in North America. The City passed an official plan amendment to zone the corridor above the rail deck as parks and open space. The structural assessment and engineering study work is about to be presented in council. The City have begun to expropriate the first 5 to 6 acres on the eastern edge of the parcel. Councillor Cressey will provide an e-mail update with more specifics.

Q: What is planned for the Parliament St. spit? Are wetlands similar to those at the foot of Spadina likely to be incorporated?

A: As part of the Lower Don flood protection project there are 300 acres that incorporate wetlands. Conservation is the priority for that project.

Q: What does a 'post-Covid world' look like?

A: Our job globally is to make sure that we prevent the next virus from becoming a pandemic. Prevention is the priority. Prevention will occur when we have the surveillance infrastructure to respond, sequence and contain viruses that emerge in the future. Investment in prevention is mandatory because the economic cost is unacceptably severe.

4. Update from the Province – MPP Chris Glover

Covid

The Provincial registration link will be live on Monday March 15th. An on-line webinar at noon that day hosted by Chris Glover, Joe Cressey, and Adam Vaughan is planned. Questions re the vaccine roll-out can be sent in advance.

LPAT / MZO Proposed Bills

Chris Glover commented that the Ford government has been overriding communities' abilities to be involved in the planning of their neighbourhoods. 18 neighbourhood associations in our area alongside other groups are organizing under an umbrella organization called FOSTRA (Federation of South Toronto Neighbourhoods) to amplify our voices at the provincial level.

The handling of The Foundry site requires a robust response. As do two bills working through the legislature right now that further reduce the rights of residents and municipalities to participate in planning decisions. The more urgent is Bill 245, schedule 6 which combines LPAT with 4 other tribunals. This undermines the purpose of the tribunals which is to provide low-cost hearings with adjudicators who are experts in their fields. The idea is that this is cheaper than going to court. Under this legislation, LPAT planning hearings may be heard by an adjudicator from the mining sector.

Bill 257 Schedule 3 changes the law retroactively to make MZO that allow the destruction of environmentally sensitive wetlands legal. Chris is investigating to see if this will govern the government's violation of the Heritage Act.

Rick Green, the interim chair of FOSTRA and Geoff Kettel from FONTRA, will be presenting at the provincial committee on these two bills.

Homelessness

Chris Glover commented that the province has reduced the funding to build housing by \$160 million during the growing homelessness crisis. The city has stepped up, and with the Federal government will build 2000 supportive housing units. However, that is not enough. The City of Toronto, up until 1996, was building 15,000 affordable housing units a year. Since 1996 there have been almost none built. The pressing need is for supportive housing units for people with mental health and addiction challenges.

Chris Glover has a working group that is striving to address issues of homelessness that people can join. People who are interested can send an e-mail to Chris' office.

Condo Gyms

Chris commented that based on his research he has concluded that It is up to condo boards whether they open their gyms. It is important to follow all recommended hygiene protocols.

St. Patrick's Day – March 15th.

Anyone with a penchant to put some St. Patrick's Day art in Chris Glover's constituency office window can drop them off in the mailbox at his constituency office at 226 Bathurst St A, Toronto, ON M5T 2R9 or Chris' office will pick them up.

Speakers Book Award

People can nominate their favourite book by an Ontario author on the Speakers Book Award website <https://www.ola.org/en/visit-learn/programs/speakers-book-award>

The Speaker's Book Award recognizes non-fiction works by Ontario authors reflecting the diverse culture and rich history of the province and of its residents. Topics include the history of the province and its many communities; prominent figures in Ontario from various fields including, but not limited to, politics, culture, arts, education and business; the history and achievements of women and minorities in Ontario; and the development of Ontario's parliamentary system. Special consideration is given to works focusing on Ontario's parliamentary heritage and on provincial political discourse.

5. Love Park Update – Adam Novak, Pina Mallozzi

(Presentation is available on the YQNA website)

Adam Novak, Design Project Manager, Waterfront Toronto, commented that Claude Cormier presented the winning design for Love Park. There has been broad public consultation on the design. 1500 participants have provided feedback.

The park has been designed with short and long-term flexibility in mind. It is intended to grow and change with the needs of users over time

- Park paths have been sized intentionally to provide space for pop-up markets and event staging.
- A dog off-leash area will be located at the north east portion of the park
- The design of the mechanical building has been updated and includes a basement to reduce the building footprint
- Bikeshare has been incorporated into the north side of the park.
- The open space has been re-worked to make it larger
- The pond edge is going to include deterrents to skate boarders. The pavement immediately adjacent to the bench is going to be ‘bumpy’ and there are also raised portions in the mosaic that will make it less attractive to slide on.
- An iconic trellis has been included in the park.
- A dense shrub layer will border the park. 37 trees will be planted with consideration to soil, irrigation and appropriate aeration.
- Designated diseased trees and some invasive species will be taken down prior to the April bird migration
- The BIA will contribute tables and chairs for park users enjoyment

When complete, a myriad of open-ended activities could be accommodated within the park including passive activities like dog walking, people-watching, and outdoor picnics, as well as small gatherings to meet the needs of local residents, office workers, and waterfront visitors.

Washrooms in the food court in the adjacent building will be used if necessary.

Construction noise will be hopefully mitigated. A construction liaison committee will provide oversight.

Current Status

The project is currently in the tendering and bidding process. Construction will start May 2021. The park will be open in June 2022.

Q: - What will winter use of the park include?

A: - Skating would be informal – it is possible to leave a few inches of water in the pond that would freeze over. No one has agreed to manage that process.

Q: Can you comment on the existing trees?

A: Most of the trees being removed are not healthy. Some are considered to be invasive species. The Catalpa tree in the middle of the pond will be retained. There are 5 other trees that are being retained and they have been pro-actively conditioned for the past 5 years to ensure that they will withstand the construction.

6. Lake Ontario Flood Watch - Lynn Robinson, TICA

IJC projects an 8% flood risk for Lake Ontario in summer 2021. The Lake floods when the Upper Lakes and the Ottawa River Flood. Right now, the Lake is in very good shape:

- Water levels are 8 inches below average
- They are 2 feet below where we were in 2020 and
- 3 feet below flood level

We need to pick up the work that Sarah Delicate has done with United Shorelines Ontario. YQNA might consider supporting the important aspects of the work that should be retained. Fortunately, there is no urgency right now. However, it is important.

Comment – the partnership between the Island Community and YQNA has really paid off. The IJC response has been encouraging – tangible evidence that organizations working together can make a difference.

7. Waterfront BIA – Tim Kokur

- The recently showcased light installation was a success. The BIA is working on other ‘Covid friendly’ ways to activate Queens Quay including the hoarding on Love Park
- The LRT east extension is not currently funded. We need to keep apprised of the situation and ensure that this project continues to be prioritized
- A brand refresh and logo treatment are underway at the BIA.
- YQNA and Waterfront Toronto BIA are working to ensure that the Tree Report continues. Maintaining the trees along Queens Quay is a priority.
- The BIA will continue to try to remediate some of the uneven pavers on Queens Quay.

8. Harbourfront Centre Update - Martin Keneally

- Rink RFP proposals received. They will be reviewed in March. Construction to be complete by December 2021.
- Nordic Bridges – a national project exploring the relationship between Nordic nations and Canada will be showcased at Harbourfront. Nordic Bridges is a year-long initiative taking place from coast to coast to coast that aims to foster cultural exchange among the Nordic countries and Canada. Harbourfront Centre, will curate and lead the programming for Nordic Bridges in January 2022
- Rees St. construction hoarding has been used for an art installation. It is currently being repaired

- Sonic Runway and Iceberg outdoor installations were jointly supported by the BIA and Harbourfront over the winter of 2021
- Festival of Cool – Northern Ontario Diaries has also been installed.
- Portraits in Covid Times is currently being showcased
- Kuumba, a digital festival for Black History Month continues
- A digital on-line black authors festival will be presented in March
- Body and Soul dance film will be presented alongside Jean-Pierre Perreault's film Joe
- In the spring, visual art will be installed around the site outdoors
- No March break camp. Reviewing whether Harbourfront can run summer camps this year.
- Working on a rebranding strategy
- Working on failing docks and piers in Marina 4
- Amsterdam bridge has some structural damage that needs to be repaired. An engineers assessment is underway
- Participated in the marine use strategy with Waterfront Toronto.
- Many applications have been received for the marinas for the summer
- Negotiations continue over the PawsWay site.

9. Update from the Federal Government - Adam Vaughan

Housing

Overachieved on unit count for homelessness as part of the Rapid Housing Initiative
A joint town hall on Covid vaccine will be held on March 15 at noon as noted by Chris Glover.

Rogers Centre / Sky Dome

The City will have final say on this project. The Federal government's role and influence will be limited based on the federal government's current limited land holdings around the site and the current contract which allows for the use of the site as a sports stadium.

It is a very complex project involving phased construction that leaves part of the existing structure in use while the new structure is being built. It has large environmental consequences and involves the displacement of a road.

Embedded energy is an emerging important consideration. The embedded energy already in the Rogers centre, the embedded energy to take it down and replace it are noteworthy. Adam's position is that the federal government should be prioritizing projects with limited carbon footprints.

Budget

The Federal government is in conversation with Waterfront Toronto re the financing for key projects including the LRT and the Parliament St. slip.

Port Authority

Tri-partite agreement is holding and is unlikely to change in any meaningful way.

Regional airlines are going to be important, but Pearson should be the priority over Billy Bishop given the predicted slow recovery of international flights and the need to support the significant capacity that exists at Pearson.

10. 200 Queens Quay Update - Carolyn Johnson

TE23.43 report presented on Feb. 24 that said that City staff do not support the development project for 200 Queens Quay as presented. They will continue to work with the applicant to address their issues. Further consultations are planned.

YQNA has provided a submission voicing concerns relating to how the demolition is addressed, the separation from Waterclub, and the need to honour existing parking agreements.

YQNA is working with 250 and 270 Queens Quay who have 100 parking spots at 200 Queens Quay. The proposed development has only 200 parking spots. There are several demands on those spots including Waterclub daycare and visitor parking alongside arrangements with the Queens Quay Terminal offices. The traffic study submitted by the applicants suggest that all of these demands could be accommodated because people will use the parking at different times of the day.

YQNA is working closely with City Planning to ensure that these concerns will be addressed.

YQNA has also asked that the Path extension connect with the waterfront. Finally, YQNA has further raised concerns about the shadowing of the building on Roundhouse Park.

11. Waterfront LRT – East Extension Update - Ulla Colgrass

- YQNA has asked the TTC, Waterfront Toronto and the City for a new large transit hub at 11 Bay St. That request is now being addressed.
- The TTC is considering a design improvement in the portal between York and Bay St.
- Wider sidewalks, wider bike lanes will be incorporated east of Bay
- Fill-in at the bottom of Yonge St. is still being worked on. The City and the hotel will have input.
- YQNA is working closely with the TTC, Waterfront Toronto and the City on the new LRT infrastructure.

Next Meeting – May 11, 2021