

MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #90 Tuesday March 8, 2022

On-line Via ZOOM due to COVID-19 Pandemic (approximately 70 participants)

Hosted by Neal Colgrass, Chief Technical Officer

Chaired by Angelo Bertolas, Co-chair

1. Angelo introduced the meeting with an acknowledgement of International Women's Day

2. Neal welcomed the participants and outlined the technical details of the Zoom event. All were muted except the chair and current speaker. Questions were posed by typing in the chat box or using the "raise your hand" key.

3. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Chippewa, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. We pay tribute to their legacy and the legacy of all First Peoples of Canada. Today the traditional meeting place of Toronto is still home to many Indigenous People from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the communities that have grown in the treaty lands.

4. City Councillor - Joe Cressy

Public Health

- Torontonians should feel proud that the City of Toronto has one of the highest rates of vaccination in the world. The City built an accessible and multi-lingual distribution program that is now being used in other jurisdictions around the world.
- The city, and the country are now moving towards an endemic phase. The layers of protection that have been put in place mean that we can now gather again.

Toronto Island Master Plan

Objective - to set forth a vision for the Toronto Islands for the next century. In the near term the goals of the Master Plan are to:

- Improve the visitor experience
- Create more dynamic environments
- Improve connectivity and access
- Uncover Indigenous places as a core hallmark of the park

Concepts will be presented this spring. A master plan will be presented in August with short, medium and long-term goals.

East Bayfront LRT

The proposed 30% design and business case will be presented to City Council in May, allowing the City to secure the intergovernmental funding.

Neighbourhoods, including East Bayfront, the Portlands, Quayside and the West Don Lands, have been built based on the assumption that transit would be available.

Quayside

The Quayside reset is positive. A partnership has been struck between Dream Unlimited, Great Gulf, the Bentway, George Brown, Woodgreen, and the Mississauga's of the New Credit.

The Quayside vision is to build a liveable, sustainable and affordable community for the 21st century. It will include 30% affordable housing (1000 units) to be owned and operated by the city in perpetuity.

Quayside will be the first carbon free neighbourhood based on the use of Tall Timber construction. A 3-acre parkland and an urban forest will be part of the design.

Waterfront Reconnect

The city has been working with the Waterfront and the Downtown BIA to improve connections under the Gardiner. A project was tested at Rees St. in the summer of 2021.

The partners chosen to transform York and Simcoe St. have just been announced. These projects will be installed in 2022. The installations will cost a \$1million, to be shared between the City, the BIA's and the Bentway.

These are demonstration projects to showcase the possibility for future development to turn the barrier, which is the Gardiner, into something more dynamic.

Lower Yonge Community Centre

- Scheduled to open in Summer 2022
- 51,000 square foot centre which includes a pool
- 72 new childcare spaces

East Bayfront Community Centre is scheduled to open in 2023 with over 70 daycare spaces.

Lower Yonge School - Province will fund the plan for the Lower Yonge School. The city secured the space in the Menkes building. It is scheduled for completion in the next 5 years. TDSB is commissioning the design.

Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Plan

- Repair and re-paving of the dock wall is complete
- New Public Square will be under construction this fall (2022.) This area will be used for markets and events.
- The Executive Building is being refurbished. The City is partnering with the Canada Ireland Foundation to transform the building into the Corlick Building, a centre dedicated to Irish arts, culture, migration and history. This will open in 2023
- The Canada Malting Silos are being rehabilitated. This is a \$10 million project to bring the silos up to a state of good repair and to make them possible for short-term animation. OCAD University is partnering with the City of Toronto to launch the Global Centre for Climate Resilience through Art and Design in the silos.

The proposed Global Centre plans to facilitate critical dialogues on climate resilience from the lens of art and design and will include activities such as public arts programming, program exhibitions, installations and symposiums, done in collaboration with Indigenous, local, national and international partners.

Love Park is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2022

Island Airport - in 2022, 2050 and 2070 the question that needs to be asked is 'how do we use public land in the core of the city.' We should not assume that what is there now should always be there. Now is the time for a big public discussion about City Building.

Rail Deck Park is the source of an ongoing dispute between the city and the owners of part of the air rights. Eleven buildings have been proposed for the site.

Air Rights

Between Bathurst and Blue Jays Way...

- The city owns the pedestrian bridge and the air above it.
- The city owns the land on the North and South of the rail lines including Front St. and the Northern Linear Park.
- Metrolinx owns some air rights at Spadina and Front.
- The consortium bidding on building rights over the railway lines, owns the bulk of the rest of the air rights.
- The City owns the air above the Gardiner.

In the 21st century, we need to be creative about the use of public spaces. The population in the downtown core will grow from 170,000 today to 500,000 twenty years from now. We need to build neighbourhoods, not just housing.

Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report

- Affordable housing means different things to different people. Basic affordability is important in the middle market amongst groups like working professionals and front-line workers, looking to buy or rent. We need an increase in supply for this growing population.
- We also need deeply affordable housing. 20% of adults in Toronto are living below the poverty line. They need affordable housing that is subsidized.
- There are pieces of the report that are exciting to see. There are pieces that are concerning. The report focussed on the supply side of the mid-market demand. Deeply affordable housing has to be a critical part of any plan for increased housing.

5. Provincial Update - Chris Glover

Ukrainian crisis is uprooting people and we will see many refugees in Toronto. The NDP is pushing the government to take stronger action.

OHIP Card renewal deadline has been extended to September 30th.

Small business loan application period has been extended to March. Chris has a small business working group. People who would like to join should send an e-mail to Chris' office at <Chris.Glover@ontariondp.ca>

New School - incredibly innovative idea. Really interesting concept. Some challenges because the school playground will be across the street.

Electric Ferry has been launched at BBCTA. There are plans for the new City Ferries to be electrified as well.

George Brown College is poised to transform Toronto's skyline with the construction of a tall-wood, mass-timber, net-zero carbon emissions building called Limberlost Place. The 10-storey structure, an addition to Waterfront Campus, will be the first institutional building of its kind in Ontario.

3 Wheel Electric Cars - Frank Stronach, founder of Magna International, now plans to build three-wheeled, single seat electric vehicles in the Greater Toronto Area.

The new facility could create as many as 200 jobs. The plant would have the capacity to produce and assemble 30,000 units annually. The production cost of a single vehicle would be \$2,500 and retail for \$4,000.

The vehicle looks somewhat like a golf cart. It can travel 100 kilometres on a single charge.

Due to technical difficulties, Chris contributed the following information to the notes:

‘Ontario needs to do more to attract EV manufacturing. This Government took us backward. They cut the EV car rebate, took charging stations out of GO stations and cut out the mandate for roughing in charging station capacity for ‘new builds.’ We have the talent to attract EV and green tech, but we need government support.’

6. Federal Update - Kevin Vuong

Emergencies Act - rule of law is vital to who we are, and Kevin supported the government invoking the Emergencies Act. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Toronto Police and their management of the protests in Toronto.

\$1million will be coming to this riding- \$300,000 will be coming from New Horizons to engage with seniors on programs including social inclusion, to aging in place, to art and dance.

\$650,000 will be coming from the tourism relief fund.

Canada Summer Jobs will provide jobs to youth that impact our local community. Jobs that help small business and support environmental initiatives will receive priority funding.

Private Members bill to permanently eliminate interest on student loans including loans to mature students who are returning to school for re-training is being supported by M.P. Vuong.

Combating hate and anti-Semitism is a priority. Toronto Police are investigating hate crimes. Kevin is sponsoring action in Ottawa to strengthen the federal position on hate crimes and specifically anti-Semitism.

Supporting arts community - There are 97% more arts organizations in our riding, Ward 10, than in any other community in Canada. We need to have a clear strategy. During COVID, Arts venues such as the ballet and opera were subject to the same regulations as sports facilities. Exposure is arguably different in the two types of venues and this needs to be addressed.

Census has identified that 136,000 more people are living in our community than in 2016. We need to ensure that infrastructure is there to support that growth.

Rail Deck Park - Kevin has asked for a meeting with the developer to relay the ridings concerns.

Re-opening the Keystone Excel Pipeline has been discussed vigorously. The government is not currently pre-disposed.

Ukraine - Kevin has asked the government to look into supporting any country that is supporting Ukraine.

Honouring Ulla Colgrass - Special platinum jubilee pins have been created to honour exceptional volunteers. Ulla was selected as one of the recipients for her long standing commitment to civic activism and volunteerism. Ulla was a founder of the York Quay Neighbourhood Association. She has been a vocal supporter of initiatives that ensure that the Waterfront is a place for all.

7. Harbourfront - Laura McLeod, Director of Cultural Engagement

Nordic Bridges 2022 - <https://harbourfrontcentre.com/series/nordic-spotlight/>

- Nordic Bridges explores contemporary Nordic culture from coast-to-coast.
- Nordic region – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Åland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland.
- Objective: to raise the profile of Nordic culture abroad and strengthening the interaction between Nordic cultural sectors and the rest of the world,
- From January through December 2022, Harbourfront Centre is curating a series of unique experiences, 30 in total, that highlight contemporary Nordic arts and culture and that focus on:
 - Artistic Innovation
 - Accessibility and inclusion
 - Indigenous perspectives
 - Resilience and sustainability

8. Guest speakers: Architects Tom Bessai and Maria Denegri - Toronto Island Park

Bessai and Denegri envisioned in 2002, the possibility of an iconic park on the current BBTCA site. Twenty years later they suggest that the idea still has merit. However, the process will probably benefit from a slow considered development approach that decommissions the site with an eye to important environmental considerations, including flood risk and the general ecology of the area.

Toronto is a city of neighbourhoods and there is a rich urban fabric. The waterfront does not weave naturally into that fabric. Consequently, connectivity and diversity were key motivators for Bessai, Denegri's re-imagining of the airport lands. They also wanted to incorporate a diversity of activities that can co-exist seasonally. The design uses 5 usage zones:

1. Beaches and dunes that will be retained and enhanced
2. Marsh wetlands - wooden bridges, habitat for wildlife
3. Active recreation and markets - taking advantage of the hangar buildings
4. Feature site - indigenous centre or museum
5. Accommodation and Restaurants - envisioning a reconstitution of the original Hanlans Point

Their ideas can be viewed at https://yqna.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/New-Waterfront-Park-design_2.pdf

9. Tim Kokur - Waterfront BIA

- Waterfront ReConnect is a project to connect the City to the waterfront under the Gardiner. Led by the Bentway, professional Canadian artists and designers are engaged in the development of creative interventions that re-imagine the experience of the intersections for pedestrians and cyclists at grade at two key intersections under the Gardiner – York Street and Simcoe Street.
- A collaboration with the City of Toronto, the Waterfront Business Improvement Area, the Toronto Downtown West Business Improvement Area, and The Bentway, the Waterfront ReConnect Design Competition explores the potential for this obstacle to be reimagined as a vital point of connection.

For further information Refer to waterfrontreconnect.com

10. 200 Queens Quay - Angelo Bertolas summary

The developers, Diamondcorp and Lifetime Developments, have developed a revised proposal for 200 Queens Quay W.

The design is for one tower on the east end of the site instead of the initially proposed two towers. The height is 59 storeys on a 2-storey podium, yielding 1002 units and 400 sq m of commercial space close to Lower Simcoe Street. 10% of the units are still to be affordable.

The green space at the intersection of Lower Simcoe and Harbour Streets will be increased slightly to 500 sq m and is now intended to be a public park rather than publicly accessible private land.

The access for parking, loading and drop-off is to be from Harbour Street. They are planning for 340 parking spots on 4 levels underground, 150 for the residents and 190 for paying customers. Parking and storage are proposed for 1003 bicycles.

	Previous	Current
Overall no. of stories	71/41	59
Overall height in meters	236.5 / 143.0	197.4
Podium height (stories)	12	5
Podium height (meters)	43	21
Tower floorplate (square meters)	943/781	1011
FSI	19.0	12.1
No. of units		
Market Condo	1,372	918
Affordable rental (10% res GFA)	110	84
Total	1,482	1,002
GFA (square meters)		
Residential	95,526	60,200
Non-Residential	483	400
Total	96,009	60,600

Existing Parking Garage Spaces	1,100
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	Initial Proposal	Revised Proposal
Proposed Underground Parking	444	340
Resident Parking Spaces	223	150
Visitor/Commercial Public Parking Spaces	216	190
Car Share Spaces	5	0
Bicycle Parking Spaces (Long Term)	1,334	902
Bicycle Parking Spaces (Short Term)	149	101

11. Carolyn Johnson - Treasurers Report

Revenue - \$1401

Expenses

\$25 FoSTRA

\$162 for website

\$365 for ZOOM fees

Recent Donations of over \$500.

Carolyn asked people to support the development of a new website which YQNA needs because the current platform will no longer be supported.

Next Meeting May 10th, 2022 - All Candidates Meeting.