

(Draft) MINUTES OF YQNA MEETING #100 Tuesday May 14, 2024

On-line Via ZOOM with approximately 84 participants

Hosted by Neal Colgrass, Chief Technical Officer

Chaired by Angelo Bertolas, Chair

1. Land Acknowledgement

Angelo provided the land acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Anishinaabeg, 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 live and work in the communities that have grown in the treaty lands.

2. Angelo Bertolas Personal Announcement

Tonight is YQNA's 100th meeting. YQNA started in 2003 and has influenced many major developments on the Waterfront over the years. Angelo provided a personal announcement that this will be his last meeting as chair. Due to family circumstances, he is unable to dedicate the time that is necessary to do a proper job as chair. Angelo thanked all the folks at YQNA for their tremendous help and support, and thanked Ryan Singh, who has graciously accepted to assume the role of chair.

3. City Hall Update – Tom Davidson on behalf of Councillor and Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

- **Short Term Rental Bylaw** – An updated report was presented to City Council on short-term rentals. In April, City Council approved recommendations to strengthen enforcement and examine options for regulating rental brokerage management companies, that had been advising hosts on how to skirt city bylaws. This is in addition to resources that were approved through the city budget earlier this year.
- **E-Scooter and Micro-mobility Report** – This month an E-scooter and micromobility report is going through the system. A decision has been made not to go forward with the Micromobility pilot for kick scooters for safety reasons. The report does allow for additional introduction of a pilot for low-speed vehicles — micro-sized one-unit vehicles that can still move enough cargo around to be helpful for certain purposes. A framework needs to be developed to define where each of these vehicles are allowed. Tom confirmed that the Province has the authority to regulate (allow) e-scooters on the road, but they introduced legislation to let municipalities participate in a pilot project, which the City of Toronto has declined. But enforcement falls on the Toronto police force.

- **Rees Street Park** – Feedback from YQNA and other stakeholders is still under review by Waterfront Toronto and the City, and will be considered in a new open request for designs. This will go through a broader public consultation process and include YQNA.
- **Waterfront LRT** – Late last year, the City got new funding to continue the detailed LRT design. This is on track for completion in 2025. The stage of updating and reporting to City Council is set for late 2024. Tom confirmed that funding is approved for design work for the above-surface connection from Queens Quay to the Portlands. The funding does not currently include the connection to Union Station, but it can be approved in a future phase.
- **Future of the Island Airport** – Discussions are ongoing about the possibility of implementing runway safety regulations and extending the Tripartite Agreement between the City, Ports Toronto and Transportation Canada. Current talks are focused on what approvals are required and what the public process should be.
- **Harbourfront Centre** – The search for a new CEO continues.

4. Provincial Update — MPP Chris Glover

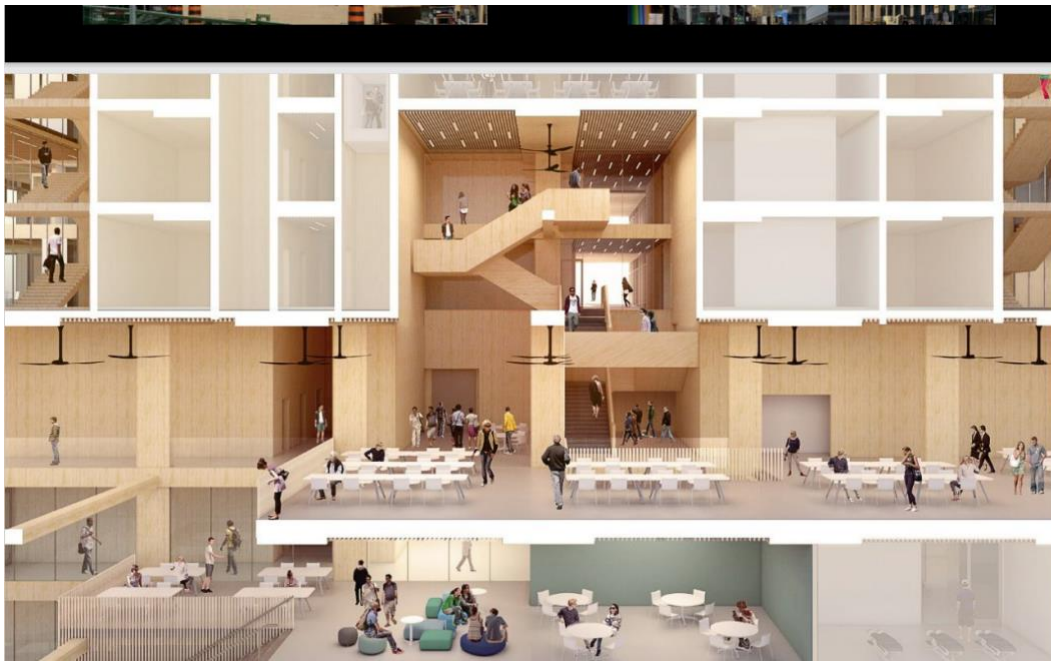
- **Thank you to Angelo** – Chris thanked Angelo for all his great work for YQNA in addition to the work he has done for the toy drive, food program, and the creation of the Federation of South Toronto Residents Association (FoSTRA). “Our community is much stronger than when Angelo first took this position,” he said.
- **Ontario Place** – The Ontario Superior Court heard the Ontario Place for All submission calling for an environmental assessment for the Therme project at Ontario Place. The government has tried to override this requirement with Bill 154. Chris said that Norm di Pasquale, of Ontario Place for All, told him the judges seem to be considering whether the government can retroactively violate provincial laws.
- **Bird-Safe Windows** – Chris has been putting forward motions and bills to mandate safe window construction in the province, but they have not passed. A [video from Margaret Atwood](#) endorses Chris’s bill.
- **Anti-Dooring Device** – Chris plans to present a motion unveiling a new sensor device developed by U of T engineering students to detect bicycles and other vehicles, aiming to reduce doorings in the city. The mandate includes having these sensors on rideshare vehicles within three years, with the cost covered by rideshare companies rather than drivers.
- **Cell Phones in Schools** – The government is banning cell phones in schools, a move that’s receiving wide support. But it’s also a way for the government not to tackle head-on the impact of social media and the exposure of social media and mental health impacts on children. Four Ontario school boards are taking the social media giants to court, seeking reparations for the negative mental health impacts of their platforms on children.

5. Guest Speaker - Nerys Rau, Project Director of Limberlost Place Development at George Brown College

- Nerys spoke about the history of George Brown College on the Waterfront and innovations in buildings at the college.
 - Daphne Cockwell Centre for Health Sciences at 51 Dockside Drive, which began construction in 2009 and opened in 2012. It exceeded the Waterfront sustainability framework by redeveloping previously abandoned sites, reducing energy consumption through technology and building automation, using durable building materials, and installing bird-safe windows. The building includes spaces that are publicly accessible, a public dental clinic, a hearing instrument program, and food services that are open to the public.
 - School of Design at Daniels Waterfront – City of the Arts - In 2018, the college took over 100,000 square feet in the building at 1 Lower Jarvis Street. Here George Brown forms partnerships in which students do projects for industry. It currently houses the Brookfield Sustainability Institute, which is focused on climate change solutions. The institute will be moving to the new Limberlost building when it opens.
 - In April 2024 George Brown purchased the Corus Building at 25 Dockside Drive, which over the long term will be a consolidated with the waterfront campus.
 - Limberlost Place is the newest building at 180 Queens Quay. Construction started in August 2021 and is scheduled to open in January 2025. It is a ten-story mass timber building and will be the tallest institutional mass timber building in Canada. Having a mass timber construction was a key requirement of the college’s move toward sustainability and decarbonization.



- Limberlost Place also provides an abundance of social spaces called breathing rooms for the students on every floor, where they can study together, work on projects or relax:



6. Harbourfront Centre – Massimo DeMaria

- **Harbourfront Centre (HfC) 50th Anniversary** – HfC is celebrating with anniversary events: a Block party on June 1, Free Flicks from August 25-August 27, and Dancing on the Square from July 10 - August 28. For details on their other events, go to [Summer 2024 - Harbourfront Centre](#) or see below:

MAY		JUL		JUL		AUG		SEP	
3	THE POWER PLANT Summer 2024 Exhibitions through Aug 11	1	CANADA DAY LONG WEEKEND Celebrate on the waterfront with live music, comedy, food and family-friendly fun	28	FUN PHILIPPINES TORONTO FOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL A three-day festival showcasing the best of Filipino culture with street food, music and culture	28	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Opa Yahah/Middle Eastern Balkan & North African	14	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate
11	CRAFT & DESIGN EXHIBITIONS: Hansen Made Stuff, Thirty-Six Brooches, Mitch Adams: Reworking	2	FREE FLICKS Free outdoor screenings all summer by the lake, from popular films to old-school classics	1	ISLAND SOUL FESTIVAL Celebrate the culture of the Caribbean with music, comedy, film and food	3	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Papa Noel/Tango	15	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Nicol Robertson's Country All Stars /Country
18	JUNIOR A three-day festival for families and children with music, theatre, dance and workshops	4	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Tasty Bits and Andrew Penness/Alternative Folk	28	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Duo Holz/Western Classical, includes commission by Matthias McIntire	4	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN National Youth Orchestra of Canada/Western Classical	16	TORONTO INTERNATIONAL TAP DANCE FESTIVAL Presenting leading global artists and Canadian excellence in tap
20		7	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Free outdoor screenings all summer by the lake, from popular films to old-school classics	30	FREE FLICKS Free outdoor screenings all summer by the lake, from popular films to old-school classics	7	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Free outdoor screenings all summer by the lake, from popular films to old-school classics	18	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Matisse Davis and Friends/Classical, Inspirational
		9	FREE FLICKS Free outdoor screenings all summer by the lake, from popular films to old-school classics	31	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate	9	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate	20	FREE FLICKS Free outdoor screenings all summer by the lake, from popular films to old-school classics
		10	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate			10	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate	21	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate
		11	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Tardisbook Persian Trio/Iranian Classical			11	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Tardisbook Persian Trio/Iranian Classical	22	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Ori Shalva/ Georgian Polyphony
		14	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Menezet/Early Music & Traditional			14	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Menezet/Early Music & Traditional	23	TAIWANFEST Discover Taiwanese food, art and programming inspired by a cultural dialogue with Spain and the world
		16	FREE FLICKS Free outdoor screenings all summer by the lake, from popular films to old-school classics			16	FREE FLICKS Free outdoor screenings all summer by the lake, from popular films to old-school classics	25	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN University of Toronto Percussion Ensemble Contemporary Classical
		17	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate			17	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate	28	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate
		20	UNITY FEST A festival with dance battles, live performances, food and vibes for all ages, all day!			20	UNITY FEST A festival with dance battles, live performances, food and vibes for all ages, all day!	29	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Afro-Huaco/Classical
		23	FREE FLICKS Free outdoor screenings all summer by the lake, from popular films to old-school classics			23	FREE FLICKS Free outdoor screenings all summer by the lake, from popular films to old-school classics		
		24	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate			24	DANCING ON THE SQUARE Enjoy free live dance performances where you can watch or participate		
		25	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Toronto Chinese Orchestra Chamber Players /Traditional & Contemporary Chinese			25	SUMMER MUSIC IN THE GARDEN Toronto Chinese Orchestra Chamber Players /Traditional & Contemporary Chinese		
								10	TIFA 11 days of readings, masterclasses and book signings with international best-sellers and Toronto writers

- **Safety and Security** – HfC has seen 367 security incidents this year, while Toronto has experienced a spike in all major crimes and endured a strain on Toronto Police

Services. HfC has responded by educating their staff on risk reduction techniques, reporting any high risks to neighbours when appropriate, and increased security patrols in key areas.

- **Rees Street Parking Lot Update** – Significant amount of damage over the last year, due to standing rainwater not draining, which is caused by a drain issue in the City’s infrastructure. The City has acknowledged the issue and will be looking to repair the issue. In the meantime, HfC is developing a temporary solution to clear water from the site after a heavy rain.
- **Dock Improvements** – There have been improvements to the York Street Slip and Marina Four.
- **Government Funding** – Angelo congratulated Massimo on securing federal funding but noted the importance of sustainable funding for operations and ongoing infrastructure maintenance.

7. **Waterfront BIA – Tim Kocur**, Executive Director of the Waterfront BIA

- **Doors Open** – Doors Open is occurring on May 25-26. Several venues in the Waterfront area, including Redpath, the Island Airport, and the Friends of Hanlan’s group will be unveiling the world’s longest Pride flag on the walkway from the Hanlan’s Ferry to Hanlan’s Beach, as a recognition of the queer history and importance of the Hanlan neighbourhood.
- **The Power Plant** – Tim encouraged people to attend a new exhibit at the gallery.

8. **Treasurer’s Update – Carolyn Johnson**

- Carolyn indicated that YQNA is in good shape with \$2,156 in the bank, but donations are always welcome. Angelo reminded everyone that we are all volunteers, and that many of our guest speakers have spoken on the importance of having a strong association. YQNA needs a bit of a war chest because the association may need to engage lawyers on surprise issues.

9. **Tribute to Angelo and Introduction to New Chair**

- Angelo welcomed the new chair, Ryan Singh, who is taking over Angelo’s role.
- Ryan invited Ulla Colgrass to say a few words. Ulla spoke about how she first met Angelo seven years ago at a YQNA meeting at the Radisson Hotel, where he volunteered to be chair. She said Angelo led YQNA through many meetings, triumphs, and crises with politicians and planners, always with resolve and kindness.
- Ryan thanked Angelo for welcoming him with open arms. “It has been a pleasure working and learning from him,” she said. “Angelo’s work and advocacy have made our community a better place. On behalf of the entire team and Waterfront neighbours, we want to thank Angelo for his hard work, dedication, passion and commitment.”
- Ryan said he grew up in Scarborough and moved to the Waterfront eight years ago. His intention as chair is to build on the foundation created by Angelo, Ulla and the YQNA working team. “Over the summer, we are planning on enhancing the

structure of YQNA, and looking at co-ordinated advocacy on important issues,” he said. “This will include new opportunities for volunteers.” Ryan encouraged people to volunteer by sending an email to info@yqna.ca and if possible, making a small donation by clicking the Make a Donation button at yqna.ca.

- Ulla commented that we particularly need someone to volunteer as Vice-Chair to help out Ryan.

10. Adjournment – Ryan Singh

- **Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024.