



Minutes – CRBA Public Meeting

September 4, 2012
The Dominion on Queen,
500 Queen St. E., back room

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 PM

Adjourned At: 9:00 PM more or less

Attendees

CRBA Board Present:

From CRBA Board: Larry Webb (LW), Alex Bartlett (AB), Arthur Sinclair (AS), Kara Isert (KI), Sandra Iskandar (SI)

CRBA Board Regrets:

Adam Holmes (AH), Donna Keravica (DK), Jon Goode (JG), Laurence Lui (LL), Mike Kapil (MK), Philip Stoop (PS) - Past President, ex-officio

Public Attendance:

Approximately 20 people including Tom Davidson, Councillor McConnell's representative (excluding Board)

Minutes

General Introduction

- **Opening Remarks.**
- LW welcomed everyone and went over the meeting "code of conduct". No discussion.

Mission Statement

The Corktown Residents and Business Association exists to enhance the quality of Corktown's residential and business life, to promote and market Corktown, and to act as a voice for the Community..

Meeting Code of Conduct

Very simply, to avoid negative attitudes but not to avoid difficult topics, we **ask** all those who bring a problem to the CRBA, whether monthly meetings or through e-mails, to also suggest a possible solution and to be respectful of others, whether present or not, and to leave anger at the door.

This will benefit everyone and actually lead to a much broader discourse and likely a better range of possible solutions to problems we face in the community.

- **Membership request** (LW). No discussion.
- **Board Changes.**

LW announced that two CRBA Board members resigned for personal reasons. Marien Breen and Julie vanderLugt were thanked for their contribution and Julie was congratulated on the birth of her new child. Kara Isert and Sandra Iskander were introduced as new Board members, joining for the balance of this term.

Guest Speakers

None today.

- **October 2 is Business Night.**

Local businesses are invited to speak for a few minutes about their business. If your business is not on the agenda and you would like to participate, please email info@corktown.ca and ask to be included.

- **November 6th meet Councillor Pam McConnell.**

Please see corktown.ca for information on meetings in December and beyond.

Committee Updates

Projects: Mural Project 2012

(LW) The 2012 Mural is proceeding well. The artist has been selected, this year's theme is "children", a site at 406 King St. E. has been identified that overlooks Sackville Park. The lead sponsor is the City of Toronto. Additional sponsors are being sought. Please email info@corktown.ca if you would like to support this project.

Newsletter: *Corktown*

There was some discussion of the *Corktown* delivery. It appears that delivery was better for the September issue than in recent memory. We learned that the *Corktown* is not classified as a "community newspaper" by Canada Post, because it is not printed on newsprint or in a traditional newspaper format. As a result, Canada Post will not deliver to homes that have a "no flyers" sign.

The deadline for articles for the next issue is mid-October. Please send articles (or ideas for topics) to info@corktown.ca.

Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC)

There were no CPLC meetings during the summer. Mike Kapil is the CRBA's representative to the CPLC and will attend the next meeting on September 12. If you have any concerns or issues you would like Mike to raise with the police, please email to info@corktown.ca

Treasury

LW updated us on the CRBA's finances, in AW's absence. The CRBA has almost \$9000 in its bank accounts. Less than \$1000 of this is earmarked for some upcoming expenses and projects leaving the CRBA in solid financial shape.

West Don Lands Committee (WDLC)

JG and LL were absent so LW reported on progress for the West Don Lands. The WDL Construction Liaison Committee (CLC) met on July 31st and the WDLC met on August 27th.

- River Street is now open between King and Queen streets.

- Cherry Street will be closed longer than originally thought, likely until the end of 2013. The good news is that it will possibly reopen for a while over the winter, then will be closed again in the spring.
- The CRBA is working to get better information on the plans and construction status for LRT and streetcars servicing the West Don Lands. To be updated in a future CRBA meeting.

Port Lands Acceleration Initiative

An update on the Port Lands Acceleration initiative reported that community recommendations are going to the City Executive Committee on Sept 10th. LW noted that the plan being proposed for the mouth of the Don River is very similar to what was proposed by the environmental assessment.

There was some discussion about the plan for the Port Lands:

- The plan includes lots of public space
- The port lands area south of the shipping channel is not covered by the plan
- Transit is also not spelled out; it has been left to the end of the plan to work out how transit will connect to other areas of the city such as the West Don Lands
- Barbara mentioned a recent newspaper article that discusses cuts by the Federal Government to environmental assessments including the Don River. [Tories have cancelled almost 600 environmental assessments in Ontario](#)
- More information about plans for the Port Lands is available at www.portlandsconsultation.ca

Development

- **Underpass Park**

Underpass Park is now open. Everyone in attendance except one person had visited the new park. There was discussion of the new park, with most people approving of it. Discussion included:

- The use by people with dogs (an off-leash dog park will be located very nearby once the development is complete).
- It was suggested there should be a crosswalk or something similar so that people can safely cross River St. from one part of Underpass Park to the other.
- Underpass Park will eventually continue west under St. Lawrence St. and to Eastern Ave. but does not continue east.
- City plans on adding sanctioned graffiti. Initial undesirable graffiti has been painted over and has not recurred.
- City is also dealing with an issue around garbage receptacles. The garbage bins designed for the park do not fit with City collection standards that require them to be accessible by garbage trucks. The City is working on finding a more attractive and non-vehicle solution.

- **First Parliament Site**

Development is moving ahead for Canada's First Parliament site at Front and Parliament streets. A deal has been made with the current owner of the land at the SW corner where they will swap for land on the east side of Parliament.

A data centre is going in on Front Street between Mill St. and Eastern Ave.

A regional public library will be located on the First Parliament site, replacing a small branch library near St. Lawrence Market.

- **Concept for CRBA to help start a volunteer activation program in TCHC Seniors' project.**

This idea came out of the Toronto Community Housing presentation at the June CRBA meeting for the building under construction at 589 King St. E. The CRBA appeals for anyone with experience in this type of community outreach to get involved. Please email info@corktown.ca or talk to any CRBA Board members after the meeting.

- **Streetcar Developments – leasing update for 510 King and 569 King.**

It was reported that the retail spaces in the new condos built by Streetcar Developments are being leased. In the short run, a Nissan showroom is going in that will be a showroom only, with no service registration or vehicle servicing available. The owners of the Downtown group of car dealerships are searching for a permanent location for all of their brands in the general area so it is expected that all of these showrooms will relocate out of these buildings within three years.

There are rumours of a Starbucks opening at 510 King St. E. in 2013 as well as a bed and bath shop.

569 King St. E. is fully leased including a drycleaner, a casual / take-out restaurant, and other businesses.

There was some discussion about parking at 450 King St. E. (immediately west of the Church at Bright Street) and issues related to cleanliness of the site and public access across the lot. Tom Davidson (Councillor McConnell's representative) notes that at least two private parties have approached the City to purchase additional space at 450 King St. for parking. The City chooses to maintain ownership to ensure long term community use.

Entertainment

No update.

Membership

No update.

Filming – filming@corktown.ca

No update.

Website

Keep checking the CRBA website www.corktown.ca for information on our community. Matt is doing a fantastic job of updating it with new info.

Miscellaneous items

- **September 22: Help clean the path between Power St. and St. Paul St.**

(AS) The CRBA is planning a cleanup of the alley between St. Paul St. and Power St. south of the School and Church on **Saturday September 22nd between 10AM and noon.**

Everyone is welcome to come and help out! The CRBA is providing garbage bags and work gloves. Toronto Public Health is providing biohazard collection containers. Magic Oven is providing pizza for participants. In case of rain, come on Sunday, September 23rd.

- **Good Shephard Centre update.**

The CRBA is stepping up to try to help the Good Shepherd Centre be a better neighbour. One of the main issues is the behaviour of its clients and residents while outside the GSC building. Appealing to the City, police, GSC residents and other members of the community to work together to make improvements.

Discussion around the GSC included discussion of Annie's Bar. It was suggested that any problems noticed about Annie's be reported to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. From the AGCO's [website](#), complaints can be sent to: *AGCO Customer Service at 416-326-8700, or toll free in Ontario at 1-800-522-2876, or by email to customer.service@agco.ca*

- **Shuter St. Parking Permits**

Parking permits proposal on Shuter St. going to Community Council September 11th.

- **King East Design District Exhibition – September 29 & 30**

(SI) The King East Design District is having an exhibition to promote the design stores in the area. A passport to the stores is available for \$10 with proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity. About 20 stores are participating. There was some discussion about related businesses in Corktown and how to get involved.

Public Comments/Questions/Issues

- **Is Corktown / the CRBA on Facebook?**

Sean from The Dominion suggests that the CRBA have a Facebook fan page. The Dominion has one and has found it very helpful to communicate to its audience. Great tool for getting the word out about events or issues, and can create "Events".

- **Queen & River Secondary Plan**

Arthur Sinclair notes that the City is working on a Queen & River Secondary Plan, an updated and more detailed addition to the Community Plan.

(General discussion) The Secondary Plan is not finalized but the City has proposed some changes to the zoning for the area south of Dundas between River St. and the Don River. A resident from Old York Village noted that the Old York Village Homeowners Association has some issues with the proposed Plan and is raising them with the City.

There was some discussion about the various community, resident and homeowners groups around Corktown and the CRBA's role in representing the local residents. It seems that the City Planning Department erred by not consulting with the OYVHA about the Queen & River Secondary Plan. The CRBA members and Board expressed a desire to have more members from all parts of Corktown and to be an ally and advocate for all Corktown residents and their various groups.

- **(Joanne) Update on ItallInteriors building on King St. near Gilead?**

(KI) The new building is being constructed for ItallInteriors Contract, a separate company from ItallInteriors at King and Berkeley but owned by members of the same family. It provides interior design services and products for offices and other large projects and is not a retail furniture provider.

- **(James C) Dust and dirt on Shuter St.**

James notes that there is still a lot of mess on Shuter St. resulting from the Regent Park redevelopment that is also tracked onto the side streets like Sackville. Is there anything that can be done to get it cleaned up?

(LW) The CRBA can send another note to TCHC to try to get them to take action.

- **(Georgia) Suggestion to beautify Queen St. between Berkeley and River Streets.**

(General discussion) Similar to Queen St. through Leslieville with flower boxes. Discussion around this being very desirable but surprisingly expensive. These projects are usually driven by BIAs and Corktown does not have an active BIA to pay for it. Note that the CRBA has a project on the go to beautify in front of the Allied Parking lot just west of Vistek so is working on improving a small part of Queen St.

- **(Rick) Break-ins and vandalism on Trinity St.**

There have been a number of recent break-ins to cars on Trinity St. over the summer. Fingers are pointed at the methadone clinic. Is there anything we can do?

(LW) This issue will be communicated to MK for him to raise at the next police liaison meeting.

(James) Suggests that the *Corktown* could list all the useful / helpful phone numbers around the City for different services so it is easier for us to know who to call in future.

- **(James) What can be done to slow traffic on Richmond near Power St. to make it safer?**

(General discussion) CRBA and our Councillor will continue to work on this.

Coming Events

Date	Event
Sept. 6	Old Town Toronto (OTTN - soon to be renamed South East Downtown Network Alliance) meeting (closed)
Sept. 10	City Executive Committee – Port Lands Submissions – 9:30am (check City website)

Sept. 11	WDL CLC meeting (closed)
Sept. 24	WDLC meeting – 7:00pm (open) – 39 Parliament Street
Oct. 2	CRBA public meeting (open) – Business Evening – details TBA
Nov. 6	CRBA public meeting (open) – Councillor Pam McConnell
Dec. 4	CRBA public meeting (open) – Division 51 Police Services – not confirmed