



Minutes – CRBA Public Meeting

April 2, 2013

The Dominion on Queen, 500 Queen St. E., back room

Meeting Start Time: 7:09 p.m.

Adjourned At: 9:03 p.m.

Attendees

CRBA Board Present:

Alex Bartlett (AB), Arthur Sinclair (AS), John MacEwen (JM), Kara Isert (KI), Matt Elliott (ME), Mike Kapil (MK), Peter Coish (PC), Sandra Iskandar (SI)

CRBA Board Regrets:

Adam Holmes (AH), Laurence Lui (LL), Larry Webb (LW) - Past President, ex-officio,

Guest Speaker(s):

Mohammad Alam & Anthony Sotomayor, Masters of Urban Planning Students at York University and interns working in Corktown in partnership with the Toronto Public Space Initiative

Public Attendance:

Approximately 30 (excluding Board)

Minutes

Introduction

- **Opening Remarks.**

President KI welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- Tom Ostler, Professor of Urban Planning at Ryerson University, spoke briefly about the work a group of his students had done on a Corktown Heritage Study. Their final presentation was delivered on April 10 with CRBA board members in attendance.

Guest Speakers

- Representatives from the Toronto Public Space Initiative introduced Mohammad and Anthony and spoke about their work.
- Mohammad Alam gave a presentation on **Walkability in Corktown – past, present & future**. He presented a vision that could link public greenspaces in the neighbourhood surrounding the Richmond/Adelaide corridor
- Mohammad's presentation will be made available at corktown.ca.
- Anthony Sotomayor presented his project, which looked at **513 King Street East** – the space under the overpass on the southwest corner of King Street East & Sumach Street. Anthony emphasized current and future changes to Corktown, and presented a series of possible uses for the space at 513 King East, including recreation space, animation space (e.g. farmers' market) or Green P parking.
- Anthony's presentation is available online at <http://prezi.com/h7lmx8v2jkng/re-claiming-513-king-st-e/>

Parks & Open Spaces Discussion

- Board members AB and AS led a public open house discussion regarding Corktown park improvements and the application of some parks-in-lieu money that will become available to the neighbourhood.
- AB suggested that attendees and other interested community members could also email their suggestions for possible parks and open space improvements to info@corktown.ca. He then gave a brief presentation providing an overview of existing parks in Corktown.
- Regarding the Bright Street Playground, attendee comments suggested that there needed to be better separation between the playground area and the rest of the park and street. Other suggestions included improved planting and a better strategy to deal with graffiti vandalism on the house adjacent to the park.
- On Sackville Park, there was a similar sentiment about separation between the playground area and the rest of the park, to keep dogs separated. A lack of lighting was also brought up as a concern, as all as the popular water feature that is not always operational as it requires supervision from City staff.
- For Sumach-Shuter Park, comments again emphasized the need for some kind of separation between the playground and the rest of the park and a general lack of amenities in the park, including lighting, pathways and seating.
- Attendees noted that Power Street Dog Park has deteriorated a bit since it was first opened, with the park becoming excessively muddy and with a general lack of maintenance.
- Attendees also made general comments about parks and open spaces in Corktown, emphasizing things like:
 - a need for welcoming spaces for neighbours to gather that include tables and other furniture;
 - features for dogs that ensure a balance between children and dogs;
 - better upkeep and maintenance;
 - better neighbourhood branding including public art, memorial trees, etc.
 - recreation facilities like a Tennis Court
 - a cohesive strategy for all parks.
- Discussion concluded with conversation on next steps. Tom Davidson from Councillor Pam McConnell's office noted that once feedback was assembled, the community could work with City Parks staff to specifically map out future plans.

Other Updates

- KI emphasized the Community Clean-Up Day on April 20, which was advertised to the community via corktown.ca and the email list.
- Ki introduced Edward Nixon, Chair of the South East Downtown Network Alliance, who informed the meeting about his new resource via EN Consulting, a map of development accessible at enconsulting.ca. A link was made available at corktown.ca.

- KI provided an update on the issue of federal electoral boundaries. The current proposal for boundary changes would split Corktown into two ridings, with a border along Mill Street. The CRBA has taken an official position against the proposal, arguing that the boundary makes more sense at Lake Shore and the Gardiner Expressway. The CRBA has written a letter supporting this view, which is available on corktown.ca, and communicated our concerns with MP Bob Rae.
- KI highlighted photographer Eric Morse's coming exhibition at Gallery 402. Further information was provided via corktown.ca.
- Tom Davidson from Councillor Pam McConnell's office gave a brief update on the First Parliament Site, noting that some contamination had been found on the adjacent construction site for the Data Centre on the southeast corner of Front Street East & Parliament Street. He mentioned that the developer has a plan in place to rehab the soil and that the land will be cleaned up, but cautioned that there may be some strange smells as they address the issue. None of this will be dangerous, he promised.
- KI reminded people that the next CRBA Public Meeting on Tuesday, May 7 will be the second-ever Arts & Culture Night, with a great line-up of presentations and performances from local organizations.

Coming Events

Date	Event
April 10	Final Presentation of the Ryerson Planning Group's Corktown Heritage Study
April 22	West Don Lands Committee Public Meeting – 7 to 9 p.m. 39 Parliament Street, 11th Floor Amenity Room
May 7	CRBA Public Meeting at 7 p.m. – Dominion on Queen Arts & Culture Night – performances and presentations from Corktown's artistic and cultural enterprises.
June 4	CRBA Public Meeting at 7 p.m. – Dominion on Queen Guest Speaker TBA