



Minutes – CRBA Public Meeting

June 4, 2013

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

Meeting Start Time: 7:06 p.m.

Adjourned At: 8:55 p.m.

Attendees

CRBA Board Present:

John MacEwen (JM), Kara Isert (KI), Matt Elliott (ME), Mike Kapil (MK), Peter Coish (PC), Sandra Iskandar (SI)

CRBA Board Regrets:

Alex Bartlett (AB), Arthur Sinclair (AS), Adam Holmes (AH), Larry Webb (LW) - Past President, ex-officio

Guest Speaker(s):

None.

Public Attendance:

Approximately 25 (excluding Board)

Minutes

Opening Remarks

- President KI welcomed everyone to the meeting, and went over the CRBA's mission statement.
- KI explained that tonight's agenda would focus on various community and board updates.

Development Update

- JM gave an update on various developments in and around Corktown.
- In the West Don Lands, projects being built in advance of the Pan Am /ParaPan Am Games in 2015 are officially 50% complete.
- Work continues on the River City condo project, though occupancy has been delayed due to separate labour disputes involving the drywallers' union and elevator repair union.
- A development plan for 333 King Street East (the Sun building) has been approved. A commercial project will be built atop the parking lot on the east side of the property, with a pedestrian walkway connecting King Street East and Front Street East through the project.
- Tom Davidson from Councillor Pam McConnell's office gave an overview of plans for streetscaping on Front Street East from Parliament Street to Jarvis Street. Work will include road resurfacing plus additional improvements including the burial of Hydro wires, the replacement of street lamps with heritage lighting, wider sidewalk and new planters. Work will begin in July.
- JM mentioned that the corner retail unit at the King East condo building has been leased to Floorworks, a flooring company.

- JM asked attendees for feedback on development-related issues so that he could provide updates at a future meeting. Residents raised a number of issues, including:
 - Issues related to empty retail spaces
 - The triangle of land that replaced the old Bayview extension entrance
 - The possibility of public contribution moneys related to the Italinteriors project at King Street East & Gilead Place (concern that they built over a public laneway.)
 - The “Home Depot Lands” at Lake Shore Boulevard East and Cherry Street, and any plans for that area
 - The former Sing Tao building, which is intended to be a condo development
 - Future plans for the Staples property at Front Street East & Parliament
 - The derelict property on Parliament Street just north of Queen on the East side – ownership, future plans

Parks Update

- KI gave an update on behalf of AB and AS, following up the April 2013 CRBA Parks Open House.
- Work is ongoing among board members. Plan is to work with Councillor Pam McConnell to get a process in place to hire a consultant who would create a plan for all parks in Corktown.
- Feedback has been compiled, with major issue identified being that parks should be more welcoming with better lighting, seating, etc.
- Residents can email info@corktown.ca with any further feedback they have on Corktown parks.
- A question was asked about the underpass area on the southwestern corner of King Street East and Sumach Street. Tom Davidson indicated that space has been leased to Infrastructure Ontario for the duration of construction related to the Pan Am Games, but that there is potential for it to become a Green P parking lot after the Games.
- KI formally announced Corktown Common as the winner of Waterfront Toronto’s park naming contest for the great big park in the West Don Lands.

Arts & Culture

- SI gave an update, following up on the successful Arts & Culture night held in May.
- SI went over future plans for a Corktown Arts & Culture Soiree, which would be held at a local dance studio with performances by local artists. It would be about highlighting local talent in art, culture and music. Further details to come.
- Regular notices about arts and culture events in the neighbourhood are posted to corktown.ca.

Heritage Update

- SI gave an update on the Ryerson Heritage Study, which was formally presented by the study group to a panel of Corktown residents in April. The report is currently undergoing some final tweaks, after which it will be found on corktown.ca.
- Members of the Ryerson Study Group will make a full presentation of their study as part of a CRBA meeting in the fall.

- KI pointed out that many surrounding communities have looked at Heritage Conservation Districts and that may be something valuable to Corktown.

Communication Updates

- PC talked about the CRBA's outreach efforts through Facebook. Has increased our number of Facebook likes from 55 to more than 500 in just a few weeks. Residents can like the Corktown page at <http://facebook.com/CorktownTO>. The page now reaches 50,000 people.
- ME spoke about website updates, which cover local news and events.
- Residents were encouraged to send information about local news, events and neighbourhood photos to website@corktown.ca for use on the website and on Facebook.
- SI mentioned that the CRBA has developed a welcome postcard for new residents – includes information about the neighbourhood.
- KI announced that the next issue of the Corktown newsletter would be out shortly. A new feature is the Corktown Classifieds, where community members can place classified ads for just \$15. KI also announced the winner of the first **Café Haiku** contest as Martin Gagné. A new contest will appear in the newsletter. Residents were reminded to email editor@corktown.ca if they have contributions for the newsletter.

Other Updates

- KI welcomed new business members to the CRBA: 360 Health and Imaginus Marketing.
- Pam McConnell is putting together a working group to discuss future plans for the First Parliament Site at Front Street East and Parliament Street. SI will be the CRBA representative on the working group.
- Cycle Toronto's Ward 28 Advocacy Group is looking to connect with Corktown residents on local initiatives, including the Richmond/Adelaide cycle tracks, BIXI expansion and accessibility to the Lower Don Trail. A Cycle the Community event is upcoming on June 15.
- Discussion of incidents related to King Street methadone clinic and the Good Shepherd Centre on Queen Street East. Attendees were reminded to make police reports after any incidents.
- Tom Davidson announced that an official naming ceremony for the new Corktown Common park will be held sometime in the last week of June. The official opening is currently set for June 28. Residents will be able to get an early preview of the park on June 27 as part of Councillor Pam McConnell's neighbourhood walkabout.

Coming Events

Date	Event
Wednesday	Regent Park Farmers' Market – Every Wednesday starting June 5th 3PM – 8PM Regent Park Blvd. on the South side of Dundas St. next to Daniels Spectrum
June 10	Regent Park Community Consultation – 7PM at Daniels Spectrum, 585 Dundas St. East This meeting is hosted by the City of Toronto's Planning Department.
June 24	West Don Lands Committee Meeting – 7PM at 39 Parliament St., 11th Floor Entry Code 182
July 2	CRBA public meeting at 7PM – Dominion on Queen. Check Corktown.ca for speakers & agenda. Note: NO MEETING in AUGUST. See you in September!
July 7	Sunday in the Park – Regent Park's 22nd (!!) Annual Sunday in the Park festival. Taking place noon – 5PM on Corktown's doorstep. Contact the Regent Park Neighbourhood Initiative to volunteer or for more info (647) 775-8145 ext 7041