

Minutes – CRBA Public Meeting

December 3, 2013
Dominion on Queen (500 Queen Street East)

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 p.m. **Adjourned At:** 9:00 p.m.

Attendees

CRBA Board Present:

Kara Isert (KI), Sandra Iskandar (SI), Matt Elliott (ME), Arthur Sinclair (AS), Michele Cummings (MC), Mike Kapil (MK), Larry Webb (LW) - Past President, ex-officio

CRBA Board Regrets:

Alex Bartlett (AB), Adam Holmes (AH), Peter Coish (PC), John MacEwen (JM),

Guest Speaker(s):

Steve Lowden, President, St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

Maureen Walsh, Vice President of Community Partnerships, St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

Public Attendance:

Approximately 20 (excluding Board)

Minutes

Opening Remarks

- President KI welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced the board of directors members in attendance and went over the CRBA's mission statement.
- KI noted changes to the meeting format and raised the possibility of continuing to try alternative venues. The November meeting was held at the Dixon Hall Employment Centre. Looking for feedback from residents.

Community Events

- Christmas party is scheduled for Dec. 7 at Dominion on Queen. John Libby will serve as the auctioneer. He urged residents to contribute auction items.
- AS provided a follow-up update to the Toronto Centre By-Election Debate, which was organized by the CRBA and an alliance of neighbourhood associations in the riding. Very successful with a strong turn-out. Hoping to use same organizational model for future debates at municipal, provincial and federal levels.

Parks and Public Spaces

- Friends of Corktown Common has been made a full member of the West Don Lands Committee.

- The 519 Church Street Community Centre has proposed a community recreation centre for the Wheel & Foundry Building in the West Don Lands. Facility would be open to all with a focus on serving the LGBTQ community. Still in preliminary stages – CRBA will monitor and bring updates as project progresses.
- Tom Davidson (TD) from Councillor Pam McConnell's office gave an update on plans for Corktown Parks Improvements. AS and AB took the lead with the community consultation and putting together a list of needed improvement to local parks. The next step will be a city-hired consultant who will look at the list and draft a master plan. Money has been set aside in the Toronto 2014 capital project. Quick improvements will take place this year, while bigger improvements (new equipment, landscaping, etc.) are set for 2015.
- The congregation at Little Trinity is working to raise funds for new playground equipment at Little Trinity Park. AS and AB are working with representatives from the church to coordinate our efforts.
- Residents are concerned about professional dog walkers dominating the use of the dog park on Power Street. TD has asked bylaw enforcement to review. He will also look into installing signage.

Business Updates

- The Healthy Road is open for business at 518 King Street East, offering a variety of healthy food products and supplements.
- MK announced that he and his business partners have just opened a new restaurant in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood called Bindia Indian Bistro.
- KI has launched a new business, Sparkplug Coffee, providing fresh-roasted coffee delivered anywhere in Canada. Corktowners can get a Corktown discount on their first order. Website is sparkplugcoffee.com

Business Introduction: Aluvion Law

- Peter MacDonald from Aluvion Law introduced their business. Formerly Monica Goyal Legal Services, Aluvion has spent six months in the neighbourhood at 495 King Street East. They have a staff of about 6 people and offer a wide variety of legal services, with transparent pricing and fixed-rates available. They have a website at aluvionlaw.com

Guest Speakers: St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

- Steve Lowden and Maureen Walsh from the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association gave a rundown of their organization, its structure and the work they do in the community.
- Their membership is made up of delegates from housing associations and buildings. These groups pay annual dues of \$2.70 per unit, up to a maximum of \$325 per building. There are approximately 45,000 residents in the neighbourhood.
- They have a strong partnership with their BIA. BIA focuses on streetscape work and maintenance, along with commercial issues and large-scale events. SLNA focuses more on green space and community events. Big focus on heritage issues.


- Upcoming events they're planning for include World Pride in the summer of 2014, Toronto marathons (cheering sections), the Pan Am Games and more. There is lots of opportunity for neighbourhood associations to work together on these events and others. KI was a guest speaker at the SLNA November meeting.

Miscellaneous

- New group known as Residents Associations Neighbourhood Associations Community Associations (RANACA) has formed, with organization reps working on strategies to effectively drive community participation. CRBA is involved.
- James Caldwell talked about the Corktown and the need for volunteers and content. Email info@corktown.ca to get involved.
- Discussion of the need for a signalized crossing at Richmond Street East and Power Street, to get to the dog park. TD explained that Traffic Services has looked at the crossing and indicated they don't believe there's enough pedestrian demand to justify one. CRBA will discuss making a more formal request.

Coming Events

Date	Event Info
Jan 7	CRBA Public Meeting – 7-9PM at Dominion on Queen, 500 Queen St E
Feb 4	CRBA Public Meeting AGM — 7-9PM at Dominion on Queen, 500 Queen St E

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