



## Minutes – CRBA Public Meeting

January 7, 2014  
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), Alex Bartlett (AB), Peter Coish (PC), Larry Webb (LW) - Past President, ex-officio

#### CRBA Board Regrets:

John MacEwen (JM), Adam Holmes (AH)

#### Guest Speaker(s):

Ole Calderone, Percy Street resident and transit expert

#### Public Attendance:

Approximately 25 (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 wished everybody a Happy New Year.

### Community Events

- AB gave debrief on December 7 Corktown Christmas Party. About 80 people in attendance. Lots of great gifts donated from local merchants for the auction. Helped raise money for the CRBA. Always looking for further feedback and ideas for next year – email [info@corktown.ca](mailto:info@corktown.ca).

### Parks and Public Spaces

- Councillor Pam McConnell's newsletter included mention of the Corktown parks improvement plans. CRBA has been working on these plans. AB discussed the process of collecting feedback. Next steps: city will hire a consultant to review Corktown "wish list" of parks improvements. Will be another public meeting to discuss recommendations. Repairs and updates will be allocated through the 2015 capital budget.
- Regent Park Athletic Grounds are a big part of Regent Park Phase 3. Design is still being refined. Beth Baskin is attending a meeting of the Regent Park Construction Liaison Committee next week and will provide an update and notes from the meeting. CRBA will look at possibility of having a representative come and speak to us about the project.

- BIXI expansion is happening as part of the Pan Am Games Legacy. Representatives from the city inquired about possibility of installing a station in the parkette outside 51 Division. Amanda Smith is crafting a response on behalf of the CRBA. General feedback is that we support any expansion of BIXI into Corktown but have strong preference for locations located close to Sumach and River Street. Attendees highlighted King/River corner and Shuter-Sumach Park as in-demand locations for BIXI.

### **New Business Introduction: 89 Sackville Recording Studio**

- Leon Taheny is one of three partners hoping to open a new recording studio at 89 Sackville Street. They've applied for a minor zoning variance to convert the building from a design studio to a recording studio. They are hoping the variance comes in by the end of January.
- Recording studio will have mandate to help produce local, Canadian music. They're excited to be part of Corktown.
- Plan would call for minor exterior modifications to building, along with interior modifications to accommodate soundproofing and the provision of recording space.
- Name for the studio is still TBD – they prefer something local. Goal is a June opening for test sessions, followed by an official opening in August. They're supportive of murals on the walls of the building.

### **Development & Public Realm**

- CRBA is looking for people to submit locations of Bell Boxes and other utility boxes as the city has a program in place to allow artists to paint murals on the boxes. Anyone with a good location should email [info@corktown.ca](mailto:info@corktown.ca). Also note if the box is covered with graffiti – send photos if possible.
- The proposed 519 Community Recreation Centre in the West Don Lands was approved in principle at the December meeting of Toronto City Council. CRBA is monitoring.
- The King Street connection to the Queen Street bridge will remain closed. New target for re-opening is August. Backflow preventer beneath the bridge is the key issue. Ole Calderone raised the idea of scheduling the streetcar track construction planned for King & Sumach to coincide with the bridge work, so streetcars won't need to be diverted again.
- ME noted that the Queen & Broadview intersection is scheduled for reconstruction this year, which will impact transit service through Corktown. Tom Davidson from Councillor Pam McConnell's office said he would inquire with the TTC on scheduling.
- Sandra Schneider inquired about development plans for 90 Eastern Ave and Old Sumach Street, noting that some residents have received unsolicited offers on their homes. No public plans at this time.
- There is a restaurant permit application for 501 King East – the old Lenscape building. No details yet on ownership or plans. CRBA is monitoring.

### **Public Safety**

- A Corktown resident shared his story of a recent assault and raised concerns about criminal activity around the Good Shepherd shelter on Queen East. Meetings between the Good

Shepherd, Police, our Councillor, City Social Services, and the CRBA have taken place, but there are concerns that egress/entrance and loitering remain serious issues and significantly impact public safety. CRBA will invite representatives from Good Shepherd to a future meeting. LW also looking at asking for another meeting with shelter reps and Councillor McConnell, with the potential for involving MPP Glen Murray's office. People were reminded to report all criminal activity. Police non-emergency number is 416-808-2222 (or 416-808-5100 for 51 Division).

- Joe Harmatiuk, Corktown's rep on the Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) gave an update. 51 Division has a new superintendent, which has led to changes happening high up in 51 Division. Our Community Liaison Officer has not changed.

### Public Meetings & Governance

- Tuesday, February 4 is the CRBA Annual General Meeting. It will take place at the Dominion on Queen at 7 p.m. A new board of directors will be elected. There will be vacancies due to terms expiring. Anyone interested in holding a position should email [info@corktown.ca](mailto:info@corktown.ca). There are also lots of opportunities to volunteer for committees.
- There is a new editor in place at the Corktown. Domini Clark is a Corktown resident and also Travel editor at the Globe & Mail. She's working to get meetings and emails going for the next issue in March. Always looking for content and advertisers. Her email is [editor@corktown.ca](mailto:editor@corktown.ca).

### Discussion: Transit in Corktown and the Downtown Relief Line

- Percy Street resident Ole Calderone led a group discussion on future transit planning in Corktown, with a focus on the Downtown Relief Line, which will likely run through the neighbourhood.
- CRBA submitted a question on the relief line to the candidates at the federal by-election debate. The subway has been identified as a priority at provincial and municipal levels. There is no funding in place currently, but studies are underway. Line would likely not be complete before 2030.
- The subway line could take many different alignments, but will likely go from Pape Station through Riverdale, then along Queen or Eastern to downtown. Corktown needs to be ready to engage on alignment and station construction, as well as questions about the future of streetcar service, vibration concerns, transit-oriented development and potential GO Train connectivity.
- CRBA will put together a transit section on corktown.ca to follow plans and developments of a Relief Line and will do its best to keep people informed.

### Coming Events

Date	Event Info
Feb 4	<b>CRBA Public Meeting AGM</b> — 7-9PM at Dominion on Queen, 500 Queen St E

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