

Minutes – CRBA Public Meeting

September 2, 2014

Dixon Hall Employment Centre, 3rd floor, 489 Queen St. E

Meeting Start Time: 7:03 p.m.

Adjourned At: 8:57 p.m.

Attendees

CRBA Board Present:

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

CRBA Board Regrets:

Peter Coish (PC), Mike Kapil (MK), Peter MacDonald (PM)

Public Attendance:

Approximately 30

Minutes

Opening Remarks

- KI welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced the board members in attendance and went over the CRBA's mission statement.

New Business Introduction – Tandem Coffee

- Eugene and Michie from Tandem Coffee introduced their new Corktown business at 368 King East.
- Open on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. and on weekends between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Tandem Coffee, they focus on espresso-based drinks. They have eight years experiencing serving coffee and are available for event catering.

Business Updates

- Thor Espresso Bar and Tim Hortons are both set to open soon on King Street East.
- Dominion on Queen has been closed for renovations. They will be making changes to their concept, with a greater focus on food and beverage. Should re-open in about a month. CRBA will need alternate location for October meeting. (Location later confirmed as Little Trinity Annex.)
- Italian restaurant Il Ponte will be opening at 625 Queen East, just across the bridge.
- The Subway restaurant in 510 King East will open this month.
- Honda Downtown has opened in their new location on Eastern Avenue.
- The CRBA's Business Development Committee is planning to hold a workshop in October on social media strategy for businesses. Details and date TBA.

Construction Updates

- Some safety concerns have been identified with the newly-configured intersection at King East & Sumach Street. LW provided overview on potential danger points, especially for pedestrians/cyclists turning east. Jacqueline White, Director of Toronto & East York Transportation Services has been responsive to community feedback. Additional comments can be directed to info@corktown.ca.
- The King Street Bridge remains closed due to continuing work on the backflow preventer. It was discovered during work that the bridge is sitting on a wooden foundation. Targeted re-opening date is now 2015. TTC is doing trackwork on the bridge during the closure.
- Demolition for Regent Park Phase 3 has begun. Final approval has been given for the funding for the Athletics Ground at the corner of Sumach Street and Shuter Street. Construction will start shortly. Tom Davidson from Councillor Pam McConnell's office will follow up on possibility of installing a traffic signal at Sumach-Shuter intersection.
- Toronto & East York Community Council voted in favour of motion to make Trinity Street north of Eastern a one-way street northbound. Will go into effect once Cherry Street re-opens. The speed limit on Trinity was also reduced and there is a new prohibition on heavy trucks. KI noted that there have been lots of concerns about neighbourhood traffic. CRBA will monitor this change and look at how it impacts other nearby streets.
- There have been reports of late night street racing on Queen Street through Corktown. A recent incident resulted in a fatality. CRBA has raised the issue with the Community Police Liaison Committee and it will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Parks & Public Spaces

- AB gave an update on parks improvements coming to Corktown parks: Sackville, Shuter-Sumach, Little Trinity & Bright Street.
- Working on Bright Street Parkette first. A consultation was held at the July community picnic. Current idea is to finalize a plan this fall and begin construction work in the spring.
- THINC design has been hired as local architects for the project. They'll present on their plans at a coming CRBA public meeting.
- AS gave an update on the Corktown community murals projects. Sketch has completed their mural above Dulux Paints at King East & Sackville. Shalak Attack was selected as the artist for the murals going on the overpass pillars at King East & Sumach. Work will begin soon with completion scheduled for mid-October.
- The CRBA has started conversations with Toronto Parking Authority regarding the possibility of siting a Green P parking lot under the overpass at King & Sumach. Would incorporate green standards and the public art. LW is optimistic about the project moving forward.

Events Update

- Friends of Corktown Common and the CRBA are organizing an official cheer station for the Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon on October 19 in Corktown Common/Underpass. All community members are invited to come out and show some neighbourhood spirit. Details will be at corktown.ca

- The CRBA held a Corktown BBQ at Underpass Park on July 5, with support from local politicians MP Chrystia Freeland, MPP Glen Murray and Councillor Pam McConnell. KI reported that it was a fantastically fun time. Thanks to Socrates Apallas for his work on organization and marketing.
- Waterfront Toronto held a party in Corktown Common to celebrate the official opening of the park on July 10. Friends of Corktown Common held a Potluck Picnic on August 8. Both events were successful.
- Next event will be a Pumpkin Parade in Corktown Common on November 1. Kids and adults alike are encouraged to bring their Halloween pumpkins. Details will be forthcoming.
- The CRBA will be hosting a Christmas Party in December.

Development Update


- Tom Davidson expects the final version of the Queen-River Secondary Plan will come forward in December for approval by Community Council. CRBA is monitoring.
- A public meeting was held for the proposed new development on Berkeley Street. A formal planning report will be released shortly.
- An application has made for a 57-storey tower atop the current parking lot in the Distillery District. The CRBA is monitoring along with the West Don Lands Committee and the Gooderham-Worts Neighbourhood Association.
- The TCHC Seniors Building on King East will see first occupancy on October 1. Retail will be a Tim Hortons and a pharmacy.

Miscellaneous

- CRBA past-president Larry Webb has been appointed co-chair of the West Don Lands Committee. ME will be new CRBA rep to meetings, with Ole Calderone as alternate.
- SI is the CRBA's Heritage Representative. She pointed to the Heritage Study conducted by Ryerson Students, which is available at corktown.ca. The Toronto & East York preservation panel is looking to take a tour of Corktown to get a sense of the history and how the neighbourhood has been impacted by development.
- The fall issue of the Corktowner has been delayed, but PM is working on the current issue and it should go to press soon. Looking for volunteer to serve as Corktowner project manager going forward. Email info@corktown.ca if interested.

Next Meeting

Date	Event Info
Oct 7	CRBA Public Meeting — 7-9PM at Little Trinity Church Annex, 403 King East

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