

## GWNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 39 Parliament Street 11<sup>th</sup> Fl. Collins Room

Directors Present:

Michael Brewer, Jane Robinson, Corinne Bryer, Keith Viera, Parrish Offer, Phylis Coles, Alan Coles, George Hume

Regrets:

Claudia Pardo, Jose Castillo, Sheila Iseman, Samantha Anderson, John Tran, Salim Jamal, Hamida Jamal

Guests:

Candace Shaw, (Distillery District), Pam McConnell (Deputy Mayor, Ward 28 Councillor).  
Claudia Calabro (Councillor McConnell's office)

Michael Brewer, Vice-president, opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. George Hume volunteered to take notes and prepare the minutes.

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Moved: Jane Robinson           Seconded: Parrish Offer

It was suggested that the agenda be revised to add the dates of future meetings and correct the locations.

The motion was approved as amended.

Michael Brewer introduced Candace Shaw, Outdoor Events Co-ordinator, Distillery Historic District. Ms. Shaw outlined the preparations for the upcoming Christmas Market, November 18 to December 22:

- the Christmas Market is operated by a non-profit corporation; excess revenue after expenses are donated to Plan Canada, Daily Bread Food Bank and Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund. The introduction of an entrance fee has resulted in a self-sustaining event; i.e. no requirement for sponsorship and therefore no advertising such as the Walmart elf.
- tree-lighting ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 18. The Toronto Children's Choir will perform.
- market will be open for the five weeks, six days per week (Tuesday to Sunday).
- entrance fee: \$6 after 5 p.m. on Friday and all day on Saturday and Sunday. There will also be a \$20 express pass which will allow the purchaser to access the site directly, bypassing any line-up. People with proof of dinner reservations or theatre tickets will also gain quick, free entry.
- parking off-site at Trinity/Front and Mill east of Cherry for \$15 flat rate. The parking lot lights will be turned off at 11 p.m.
- a surprise display will be mounted on the platform on Gristmill Lane near Parliament Street. A fence has been installed to keep people off the platform at night due to resident complaints.
- any comments or complaints should be sent to Ms. Shaw at <[cls@thedistillerydistrict.com](mailto:cls@thedistillerydistrict.com)>

Michael Brewer introduced Pam McConnell, Deputy Mayor and Councillor for our Ward 28.

- she is working on poverty reduction schemes for the City:
  - employment requirements in City contracts to include local hiring and hard-to-hire clauses; in contracts such as cleaning of City buildings and especially applying to large projects such as the 10-year \$1B “Big Pipe” project on the Don.
  - no reduction to poverty reduction budget in 2017-18 City budget.
  - waive dental fees in City clinics for persons on assistance.
  - fare equity on TTC for low-income people.
- new ward boundaries accepted. Ward 28 will be divided as part of move to add 3 more councillors. Our Ward will stretch from Shuter Street to the Lake and Yonge Street to Don River. It will keep neighbourhoods together: Corktown, Canary District, GWNA, St. Lawrence.
- City is seeking a master planner for the First Parliament Site. Funding in addition to the \$18M for the Library and \$3M from Sec. 37 not designated but will be sought.
- North St. Lawrence Market is being demolished. Excavation will take about 6 months. When built, it will include a seniors centre on the second floor.
- Lucie and Thornton Blackburn Conference Centre opened last week in The George, George Brown student residence.
- Metrolinx is adding tracks and will be adding to the underpasses such as Cherry and Parliament. They have agreed to public consultations with GWNA, SLNA, WDLC, etc.
- City Traffic Services have agreed to revise the median on Cherry Street to facilitate exit from the parking garage of 390 Cherry and 70 Distillery Lane. The Metrolinx work may include some improvement to the traffic at that point on Cherry Street.
- Mill Street watermain work is scheduled to be completed by November 18 to remove the impediment to Christmas Market traffic, but there is some scepticism that the date will be met. The streetscape improvements will start in the spring of 2017.
- The noise problem of turning streetcars at Sumach and King and at the loop south of Mill Street is still being studied. There will be a public meeting at the Cooper Koo Cherry Street YMCA on November 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The line will be serviced by the new streetcars exclusively after May 2017.
  
- Infrastructure Ontario (IO) have stated their lands on Trinity Street to be surplus. They have been reminded that any change in ownership should include the commitment to affordable housing in the area.
- Deputy Mayor McConnell is meeting with Premier Wynne on November 15. On the agenda will be infrastructure spending plans and the IO lands in the West Don Lands.
- the Don Mouth Renaturalization Plan was approved at Community Council. Funding the project is still in doubt. Future plans for East Harbour development depend on the completion of the Don Mouth changes.
- Historic Conservation District proposal for the Distillery was presented at a public meeting and was generally met with approval. It will take at least a year to draft the legislation to put it into effect.
- the proposal for a high-rise residential building at 31 Parliament Street is the subject of a public meeting at the Blackburn Conference Centre on November 30. The developer, Brett Smith is scheduled to speak at the GWNA meeting in December.
- a moratorium on permit parking in West Don Lands is in effect while the overall situation is being studied.
- the proposal for the 57-storey building on Distillery Lane is the subject of a report by planner,

Henry Tang. His task is to make a proposal that will be acceptable to both council and the developer so that the decision will not be left to the OMB.

- in response to questions from the members, Ms McConnell commented that:

- Richmond Street streetcar track repairs are not scheduled to end anytime soon.
- TO Core planners should be invited to speak to the GWNA about their work on traffic congestion.

- Councillor McConnell was unable to comment on a rumour that there would be cuts to TTC service on routes 504, 514 and 121 or that there would be a fare increase in the new year.

Michael Brewer thanked Councillor McConnell and her assistant, Claudia Calabro.

#### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of October 3, 2016 be approved as circulated.

Moved: Jane Robinson      Seconded: Corinne Bryers      Carried

#### Treasurer's Report

Since Treasurer Sheila Iseman was not in attendance, there was no report.

#### Development Committee Report

Michael Brewer explained that the report had been circulated by email and could be read on the GWNA website.

- He suggested that if members witnessed illegal activities, they should take a picture to document the offence. He had witnessed taxis being driven on the sidewalk and buses parked illegally as examples.
- The OMB preliminary hearing regarding the application for the 57 storey building was scheduled for March 7 and the hearing was scheduled to be in May.
- The developer of the 31 Parliament tower, Brett Smith will speak at the December meeting of GWNA. There will be a public meeting to discuss the proposal on November 30. There is an address to obtain further information: <31Parliament@gmail.com>
- The preliminary report on the HCD for the DHD will be presented to the Preservation Board on December 7. The final report for Council approval will probably take another year.
- The Don Mouth Renaturalization project is scheduled to be implemented from 2017 to 2023 if funding from the senior governments can be secured.
- The future of the OMB is to be discussed at a public meeting at the Convention Centre on November 15.
- The Polson Pier situation, especially their application for relief from the noise by-laws, was deferred to a future meeting.

#### Nominations Committee

The committee is to be comprised of three members: Membership Chair (Jose Castillo), Past-president (Phylis Coles) and another non-executive director (to be determined).

#### Membership Committee Report

Since Membership Committee Chair, Jose Castillo was not in attendance, there was no report.

#### Communications Committee Report

Parrish Offer reported that the GWNA digital operations had been successfully transferred to Google. Two separate communication channels have been established. Posting messages on the official channel will reach only Board members. Messages on the other channel go to the entire membership. A director may move an official message on the open channel.

Keith Viera reported that there is a new issue of District News available on the web site. The proposal to also provide a printed copy for distribution to the whole neighbourhood will be brought to a future meeting for discussion. Submissions and comments should be forwarded to <[districtnews@gwna.ca](mailto:districtnews@gwna.ca)>. He proposed that GWNA extend a complementary membership to all fixed-income seniors in the neighbourhood. He was advised that this idea should be submitted to the committee studying the revised constitution.

Michael Brewer reminded the meeting that the proposed changes to the constitution are being debated by the committee and will be brought to the January meeting for discussion. A vote on the amendments would be held at the AGM in March.

#### Social Committee Report

Since Social Committee Co-chair Claudia Pardo was not in attendance there was no report. The Social Committee has arranged for refreshments by The Beer Hall at the December meeting.

#### Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) Report

Corrine Bryers reported that the Superintendent of 51 Division was retiring. The current Inspector at 51 Division would be the new Superintendent.

Lori Mae Ashe reported that 51 Division would be holding a food drive at the Loblaws at Maple Leaf Gardens on December 10. There will be bins at the 51 Division headquarters for food and toy donations after December 3. She advised that there had been a number of break-ins reported in the Canary District recently. Vigilance should be exercised during the Christmas Market. The Superintendent-designate Molineaux (sp?) will speak at the January GWNA meeting.

#### Roundtable Discussion

The Roundtable group is comprised of building reps, the DHD, the Councillors office and GWNA. All the topics covered at the recent meeting had already been discussed earlier in this meeting.

#### New Business

- Keith Viera reported that the 20-year lease of the Case Goods Building would expire in about five years and we should be supportive of an extension as the artisans add vitality and authenticity to the district. In addition, many of them depend on the affordable space for their livelihood.
- the space recently occupied by Hastens has been leased by a cosmetics manufacturing firm.
- Isobel Collins commented that the area at the bottom of the ramp into 33 Mill Street public parking was dangerous when drivers tried to make left-hand turns to access the exit ramp.
- she also pointed out that the intersections on Mill Street at parliament and Trinity are not well lit. At night, drivers may not notice pedestrians, especially if they are not wearing light coloured clothing.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 390 Cherry Street on December 12. The agenda will include a presentation from the developer of 31 Parliament Street and a holiday party

The January meeting will be at 80 Mill Street on January 9. The agenda will include a discussion regarding constitutional amendments and remarks by the new Superintendent of 51 Division.

### Adjournment

MOTION: At 9:04 p.m. it was moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Parrish Offer                      Seconded: Jane Robinson      Carried

Minutes prepared by George Hume, scribe pro tem