



Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 9, 2024
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
In person and via Zoom
Next Meeting Wednesday, November 13, @ 7 pm

Present: Marisa Diaz, Ingrid van der Zande, Jacqueline McLaughlin, Maureen Callaghan, Dawn Cormier, Carolyn Sealfon, Joan Prowse, Brian Gottheil, Holly Watson, Hanna Sherrett, Bev Thorpe, Max Moore
Guests: Tom Davidson, Director, Waterfront Revitalization Initiatives; Marouan Malaeb-Proulx

1. Agenda Approved – moved Marisa; Seconded Carolyn
2. Review of September meeting minutes. Bev will do edits before posting online.
3. Ports Toronto. Sept 18 CLC report back.

At this meeting, BQNA reps asked Ports Toronto to supply the references and data to substantiate their claims in their latest Environmental, Social and Governance report that the airport has no impact on air pollution in the community. See blog by Bev Thorpe posted at <https://www.bqna.ca/post/ports-toronto-downplays-university-of-toronto-air-quality-study>

There have been a lot of Ports Toronto advisories sent to Joan and Bev about more overnight work; cement pouring – (Sunday/Monday night very noisy; Max measured 90 decibels); ferry ramp repairs beginning at 5.30 am (loud noises) permanent repairs required Oct 18, 19 and 20 and the following weekend Oct 25, 26, 27.

Ports Toronto and BBTCA relies on the BQNA reps to disseminate these updates to the community. We should not have to do this job. PT needs to have a mailing list or ways to directly contact each building in the community.

Action: Jacqueline will discuss with Ports Toronto how they need to directly disseminate this material. Bev to put LURA meeting facilitator in touch with Jacqueline.

At this same CLC meeting, Ports Toronto presented the Runway Extension Safety Area (RESA) options. This included the EMAS option – but this was dropped during the Sept 18th public meeting. Joan sent a written BQNA submission focusing on Air quality impacts from the airport into the community, which was circulated to the BQNA board. She also noted that contrary to Ports Toronto claim that an environmental assessment is voluntary, an environmental assessment is required by the city in its Official Plan; and that the EA will not test for UFPs or airport activity – only construction impacts. Input

from University of Toronto researcher, Dr Greg Evans, reiterates that air emissions need to be comprehensively measured and any claims that RESA Option 2 and 3 have air emission benefits requires actual background data to measure against. Ports Toronto will hold two information sessions on RESA Oct 15th from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm. Important that people attend.

Air Quality remains a priority health concern in our community. CBC National News contacted Joan to investigate this subject more; Joan will give journalist's contact info to a couple of people in the community. Any outreach needs to be a one on one request.

4. RESA Discussion and vote in Council

Tom Davidson gave an update and reiterated that the AQ study is an important piece of info that should inform future policy decisions around the airport, particularly the Master Plan next year.

The City's Executive committee recommended RESA Option 1 – the least expensive and quickest solution - with no automatic expansion of the Tripartite Agreement (TPA) which ends in 2033. Some councilors, including PT, pushed for a 40-year extension of the TPA, with no due process.

A compromise position was reached: the mayor supported an amendment that would allow a time period of up to 12 years, beyond 2033, to allow for any necessary additional financing for Option 1. But there will be no change to current aircraft types, or runway lengths. Any future changes to the current TPA lease would have to be negotiated first with full public consultation. According to the city, this is not a blanket approval, and the Chief financial officer will monitor progress.

In conclusion: No changes to the TPA except for modifications to allow RESA 1 and no extension past 12 years. PT can build RESA 1 and try to build on Option 2 and 3 at a later time – but would still need council approval to do so.

See coverage in The Toronto Star for more details.

4. BQNA AGM and Public Meeting on Encampments November 6th.

We agreed to make the encampments in Little Norway Park the main issue for the BQNA AGM on November 6th. This will allow the community to better understand the work of the BQNA, and get new members involved. We will keep the introductions and overview of our work in 2023/24 to ten minutes in order to allow full discussion and Q&A about the growing problem of the encampment in Little Norway Park.

Planning Subcommittee of Jacqueline, Maureen, Carolyn, Marissa, Maxine and Helga are sorting logistics.

Action: Bev and Joan to draft BQNA year in review.

Our AGM and Public Meeting will take place on Nov 6th @ 6 – 8 in the Dance Studio. Chris Glover will come at 7.30 pm

Marouan will talk with the planning subcommittee on Tuesday Oct 15 and will send round a zoom.

To discuss:

Format of meeting; what questions will come up; ensure appropriate staff will need to be there. Carolyn proposes having small group table discussions. People that come to the meeting will vary: want solutions, want to vent, want info about housing.

Important to have people that can speak for the shelter, and safety teams.

Solutions and information sharing will be the focus of the meeting including what the city has been doing, trends and options to solve the problem.

Over 400 encampments are in the city right now.

But people want to know where the tents will go and when they will be taken down.

Ryan from 545 Homes First should be there; staff from community safety teams, Toronto fire, Toronto police presence in Little Norway Park are also key speakers.

We need to understand what are the City's priorities for addressing encampments?

Petition to remove the tents now started in the Atrium based on security concerns, noise, assaults.

Marouan: The City defines priority by amount of contact, proximity to playgrounds and schools.

Currently, 23 tents in Little Norway Park, and this is increasing

Better Living Centre last winter provided 300 beds and will probably come back this year and a Winter service plan will be unlocked.

Since August we've had 48 people reduced from Little Norway. No one is declining health support at little Norway Park

Canada Ontario Housing Benefit exists but more people need to pressure the Ontario Minister for Housing to release \$60 million.

Would be good to get the media involved.

We don't want to advance NIMBYism – but we need to hear what concrete solutions will be implemented.

Action: Need postcards for printing and distribution; need a 'Save the Date' notice for posting asap.

Action: City will cover cost of booking and equipment. Marouan to check if we can get city to supply some snacks. Kevin Young, and Chris Glover will be approached for financial help.

3. Emergency Preparation Planning.

This is a follow on from the Public Meeting BQNA hosted December 2022 about the bomb scare.

Meeting planned for Nov 12th from 6.30 to 8.30.

Need representation from condos in the community at this meeting. Joan to send more info by email.

4 AOB.

We need to make better use of Google groups for all the information that is circulated. Need better option to replace all the multiple emails sent out by Joan.

5. Meeting adjourned at 9 pm. Maureen moved; Bev seconded.

Next Meeting November 13, 2024.