

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee

Meeting 5

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee met on Wednesday, July 14, 2004, in Committee Room 4, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:30 p.m.

Members present: Rita Brooks, Chair
Elizabeth Walker, Older Womens' Network, Co-Chair
Councillor Sylvia Watson
Bill Brown, South Riverdale Community Health Centre
Paul Collier
Deanne Fisher
Peg Lush
Crawford Murphy, Toronto Cycling Committee
J. Richard Nelson
Wayne Scott, Toronto Hoof & Cycle Couriers Coalition
Rhona Swarbrick

Also Present: Tom Fiore, Toronto Trails Festival
Lois James, Community Resource Centre of Scarborough
Nancy MacDonald, Exec. Assistant to Councillor Saundercook
Dylan Reid, *Spacing* Magazine
Helen Riley, "Feet on the Street"
Ian Wheal, Toronto Field Naturalists

Staff Present: Daniel Egan, Manager, Transportation Services
Lisa Ing, Transportation Planner
Joanna Musters, Program Manager, Transportation Planning

Regrets: Councillor Bill Saundercook

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

On a motion by J. Richard Nelson, the minutes of the meeting held on June 16, 2004, were confirmed, subject to adding Ms. Peg Lush's name to the attendance record.

5.2 Toronto Trails Festival

Mr. Tom Fiore attended at the Chair's invitation and briefed Committee on the program for the Toronto Trails Festival which commences with a major launch event in High Park on Sunday, October 3, and continues into 2005 with various promotions, all of which are intended to develop walking programs within the communities of Toronto and to encourage the many health and social benefits of walking and hiking.

The Chair thanked Mr. Fiore for attending, and on behalf of the Members, wished him every success with this year's Festival.

5.3 St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements

Ms. Joanna Musters, Program Manager, Transportation Planning, attended at the Chair's invitation, and briefed Committee on the status of the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvements, Class Environmental Assessment, Phase 3. Ms. Musters provided copies of an overhead presentation given at the Public Meetings held on this matter and, using maps and plans, illustrated to the Members the short-listed alternatives which have been developed. Committee enjoyed a question and answer session with Ms. Musters, and the Chair thanked her for her very comprehensive presentation.

5.4 Communication from William E. Brown to Chief Julian Fantino

Committee had before it a copy of a communication (May 17, 2004) from William E. Brown to Chief Julian Fantino referring to Mr. Brown's observance of three police vehicles and their drivers' "dangerous-to-pedestrians driving and vehicular behaviours".

Mr. Brown advised Committee that he has had no response to his communication from Chief Fantino, and requested that Committee ask for a copy of the Police Service policy, if any, with respect to the obstruction of sidewalk space by police vehicles.

Committee referred this matter to the Chair for follow-up with the Police Services, Traffic Unit, and report back to Committee.

5.5 2004 Toronto Fatal Collision Statistics

The Committee received for information report from Transportation Services, Transportation Systems, Traffic Data Centre and Safety Bureau submitting the 2004 Toronto Fatal Collision Statistics to May 31, 2004, indicating relevant facts and trends.

5.6 Recycling/Litter Bins Program

On a motion by Co-chair Walker, Committee agreed to discuss the matter of the sidewalk installation of 2.3 metre high recycling/litter bins, which proposal will be considered by City Council at its meeting to be held on July 20, 21 and 22, 2004.

Committee received from Ms. Walker, various press cuttings describing these bins.

Committee directed that City Council be advised that the Committee feels very strongly that the installation of the proposed 2.3 metre high recycling/litter bins should not be approved by City Council, and that pedestrian passage and visibility on the sidewalk should not be impeded by street furniture, in general, and by these proposed bins, in particular.

5.7 Toronto's Walking Couriers

The Committee, on a request by Wayne Scott, agreed to again discuss the matter contained in a communication (January 7, 2003) from Mr. Scott, requesting that the Toronto Pedestrian Committee ask City Council to:

- “(a) consider passing a motion that whenever possible, any and all small package, in town, official City of Toronto delivery that can be done by foot, bicycle or public transit be transported in such a specifically apropos manner;
- (b) request the Provincial and Federal Governments follow the same sustainably responsible delivery practices as well as the private sector, when they are conducting their business within the confines of our fair City;
- (c) proclaim that Toronto's walking couriers as well as the bikers be acknowledged for their unique and tireless contribution to a better quality of life for each and every breathing Torontonians on the next Messenger Appreciation Day being planned for October 9, 2003.”

In its previous consideration of this matter, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee recommended that the Works Committee request City Council to:

- “(1) set an example by advocating the use of pedestrian messengers whenever possible, if any small packages are to be delivered in the City of Toronto (especially downtown), could be done by foot, bicycle or public transit be transported in such a specifically apropos manner;

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- (2) request the Provincial and Federal Government follow the same sustainably responsible delivery practices as well as the private sector, when they are conducting their business within the confines of our fair City;
- (3) proclaim that Toronto's walking couriers as well as the biking couriers be acknowledged for their unique and tireless contribution to a better quality of life for each and every breathing Torontonians on the next Messenger Appreciation Day, being planned for October 9, 2003; and
- (4) provide a copy of this matter to the Toronto Cycling Committee for their information."

Mr. Scott commented that no response to these recommendations was ever received from the Works Committee.

Mr. Scott declared an interest in this matter, in that he earns his living in the courier business, and took no part in the subsequent discussion or vote.

Committee recommended to the Works Committee that it request City Council to:

- (1) set an example by advocating the use of pedestrian messengers, whenever possible, if any small packages are to be delivered in the City of Toronto (especially downtown), that such delivery be done by foot, bicycle or public transit; and
- (2) request that the Provincial and Federal Governments follow the same sustainably responsible delivery practice, as well as the private sector, when they are conducting their business within the confines of the City.

5.8 2005 Schedule of Meetings

Committee requested that the City Clerk's Office consider establishing the 2005 Schedule of Meetings for this Committee so that it does not conflict with meetings of the Toronto Transit Commission, and that such consideration also include the possibility of evening meetings, and report thereon to the Committee meeting on September 22, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Rita Brooks, Chair.