

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee

Meeting 5

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee met on Wednesday, May 11, 2005, in Committee Room 4, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:37 p.m.

Members Present:

J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair
Helen Riley, Co-Chair
Paul Collier
Joan Doiron, Feet on the Street
Laurel Fortin
Dr. Bob Frankford
Angela Kennedy, Trustee, Toronto Catholic District School Board
Daina Leja
Dylan Reid
Councillor Bill Saundercook
Peter Tesar

Regrets:

Igor Batuk
Rita Brooks
Deanne Fisher
Crawford Murphy, Toronto Cycling Committee
Elizabeth Walker, Older Womens' Network
Councillor Sylvia Watson

Also Present:

Lee Bishop, Toronto Police Services
Roger Brook, Rocket Riders
Joyce Cohen, Older Womens' Network
Patrick Harrington, Aird & Berlis, LLP
Patricia Launt
Lois Linett, Toronto and Area Council of Women
Paul Moloney, Toronto Star
David Scott, Transport 2000 Ontario

Ian Wheal, Toronto Field Naturalists

Staff Present:

Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit
Lisa Ing, Coordinator, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit
Jennifer Hyland, Assistant Planner, Transportation Planning

Helen Riley in the Chair.

No declarations of interest pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act were made.

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Councillor Saundercook, the Minutes of the meeting of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee held on May 11, 2005, were confirmed.

Communication/Reports:

5.1 Toronto Waterfront Revitalization

Melanie Hare, Principal, Urban Strategies Inc., gave a presentation on the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization project, and filed a submission.

On motion by Laurel Fortin, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the submission from Melanie Hare, Principal, Urban Strategies Inc., on the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization.

5.2 Segways on Sidewalks

Robyn Reisler, President, and Anthony Piselli, Vice-President, Segway Ontario, gave a presentation on Segways on Sidewalks.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it the following communications:

- (1) (April 27, 2005) advising the Toronto Pedestrian Committee of the following action taken by the Works Committee at its meeting on April 27, 2005:

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- (a) referred the communication from the Toronto Pedestrian Committee to the City Solicitor for a report to the Works Committee on all aspects with respect to the use and regulation of Segways, and the use of Segways in other jurisdictions; and
 - (b) suggested that Segway Ontario discuss with the Toronto Pedestrian Committee the concerns expressed in that Committee's communication of April 11, 2005;
- (2) (undated) from Margaret Noble requesting that the Toronto Pedestrian Committee not sanction the use of segways on sidewalks; and
 - (3) (May 8, 2005) from Pam Prescott advising that segways do not belong on sidewalks.

On motion by Councillor Saundercook, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee:

- (1) deferred the matter until a future meeting of the Committee to allow Councillor Saundercook the time to conduct, with the concurrence of the owners of the human transporter, Segway Ontario, a one-week test project on the use of a Segway in Toronto under as many different operating scenarios as possible, as a human transporter for work and business, and recreation and leisure activities, so that the matter can be dealt with in conjunction with the opinion from the City Solicitor, and a recommendation forwarded on to the Works Committee;
- (2) requested the Members of the Committee to provide Councillor Saundercook with a list of as many different operating scenarios as possible, that they would like him to include in the test project;
- (3) requested Segway Ontario to provide the Committee with background material on the Segway human transporter, for their information; and
- (4) received the communications.

(Sent to: Councillor Saundercook; c: J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair; Helen Riley, Co-Chair; Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure, Transportation Services; Robyn Reisler, President and Anthony Piselli, Vice-President, Segway Ontario; Margaret Noble; Pam Prescott – June 15, 2005)

5.3 Eucan Litter/Recycling Bin Three-Month Test Project

Michelle Carruthers, Public Consultation Coordinator and Kevin Vibert, Senior Analyst, Solid Waste Management Services gave a presentation on the Eucan Litter/Recycling Bin Three-Month Test Project, and filed a submission.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it a communication (April 29, 2005) from Michelle Carruthers, Public Consultation Coordinator advising that Kevin Vibert, Senior Analyst, Solid Waste Management Services would like to make a presentation to the Toronto Pedestrian Committee at its June 8, 2005 meeting on the Eucan Litter/Recycling Bin Three-Month Test Project

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee:

- (1) requested Michelle Carruthers, Public Consultation Coordinator to forward the presentation materials on the Eucan Litter/Recycling Bin Three-Month Test Project to the Committee Secretary so that they can be forwarded on to the Members of the Committee; and
- (2) received the communication.

5.4 Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure – Staff Update

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it a communication (May 31, 2005) from the Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit, Transportation Services, providing, for information, a review of the impacts of the railing installation to pedestrian crossing activity on Bay Street, south of Front Street, and the reporting of road problems.

On motion by Joan Doiron, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee referred the communication to the Pedestrian Safety Working Group.

5.5 Designated Senior Staff Person on Pedestrian Issues

(Deferred from the May 11, 2005 meeting of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee.)

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it a communication (April 27, 2005) from Joan Doiron, Chair, Feet on the Street, requesting that the Toronto Pedestrian Committee recommend to the Works Committee that City Council designate a existing senior staff person be put in charge immediately of the pedestrian realm in order to beautify and make the streets of the City of Toronto walkable, as part of the staff changes after April 15, 2005.

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee deferred the communication to the July 13, 2005 meeting of the Committee.

5.6 Working Groups

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it the following meeting materials from the Working Groups:

- (i) Promoting Walking:
 - Meeting Notes – April 20, 2005
- (ii) Pedestrian Friendly Environments – Urban Design and Streetscaping:
 - Verbal Update by Daina Leja
- (iii) Pedestrian Safety:
 - Update 2 – May 24, 2005

On motion by Councillor Saundercook, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the Updates from the Working Groups.

5.7 Toronto Pedestrian Committee Views on Nathan Phillips Square Design Competition

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it:

- (1) Communication (May 25, 2005) from J. Richard Nelson, Member, Toronto Pedestrian Committee, requesting that the following points of interest regarding the Nathan Phillips Square design competition be referred for information and review to the Working Groups, with a request to report back to the Committee:
 - (a) Nathan Phillips Square invites people to cross Queen Street mid-block:
 - (i) an underground passage is provided between the parking garage and the Sheraton Centre, but it mostly used by those destined to or originating from the PATH network;
 - (ii) an overhead crossing was provided but is now closed. Its fate is presumably tied to the fate of the overhead walkway;
 - (iii) ways of making Queen Street more crossable - such as a median – should be investigated as part of the square's revitalization. Queen Street does seem to have sufficient width for a median, though it would require the streetcar tracks to be reconfigured; and
 - (iv) access to Nathan Phillips Square from the south would be greatly improved if the use of the Queen Street frontage as a parking bay for buses and hot-dog vendors was reduced;
 - (b) the slip lane from southbound Bay Street to westbound Queen Street should be removed or, failing that, made safer and more comfortable for pedestrians by, e.g, making it squarer;
 - (c) the crossing of Bay Street at Albert Street requires a clumsy grade change on the west side, which should be improved;
 - (d) the west side of Bay Street from Queen to Hagerman street is not well provisioned with a sidewalk, and indeed lacks a sidewalk north of Albert Street. The Bay Street entrance to the parking garage poses a challenge, but this side of Bay Street might be made more inviting or convenient to pedestrians;

- (e) the intersection of Bay & Hagerman streets, including access to underground services, is not designed for safe pedestrian crossing. It should be improved;
 - (f) the intersection of Armoury and Chestnut streets should be a gateway to Nathan Phillips Square for pedestrians and cyclists, with its peculiar geometry, unclear sightlines, and entrance to the parking garage, should be improved for pedestrians;
 - (g) the lane between Nathan Phillips Square and Osgoode Hall north from Queen Street engenders many pedestrian/motor vehicle conflicts, particularly as vehicles try to enter or leave Queen Street. Better approaches for vehicular access should be instituted; and
 - (h) the entrance of the parking garage on Queen Street engenders many pedestrian/motor vehicle conflicts. Improved design might mitigate this; and
- (2) City of Toronto Website Material on Nathan Phillips Square Design Competition.

On motion by J. Richard Nelson, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee referred the communication to the Working Groups and requested that they report back to the July 13, 2005 meeting of the Committee.

5.8 Toronto Seniors' Forum – Community Consultations

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it a communication (May 6, 2005) from the Community Resources Unit, inviting the Toronto Pedestrian Committee to participate in the Toronto Seniors' Forum, Community Consultation meeting on May 16, 2005 and October 19, 2005, and complete the Survey.

On motion by Councillor Saundercook, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee accepted the request from Laurel Fortin to volunteer as the designate of the Committee to the Toronto Seniors' Forum - Community Consultations.

5.9 Appointment to the Toronto Pedestrian Committee

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee reported for the information of the Works Committee, having:

- (1) accepted the resignation of Igor Batuk, under the Terms of Reference for the Toronto Pedestrian Committee; and
- (2) appointed Shawn Micallef as a Member of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee, who was appointed as a Alternate Member in case a vacancy occurred on the Committee, (by the adoption of Works Committee Report 9, Clause 9 which was considered by City Council on October 26, 27 and 28, 2004), until the end of the current term of Council, which ends November 30, 2006, or until a successor is appointed.

(Sent to: Works Committee; c: J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair; Helen Riley, Co-Chair; Shawn Micallef, Member; Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure, Transportation Services - June 15, 2005)

5.10 Updates – Committee Members

Jennifer Hyland, Assistant Planner, Transportation Planning, provided an update on the revitalization project of Union Station and the pedestrian planning initiatives currently underway.

5.11 Items for Information

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it the following Items for Information:

- (a) Communication (May 2, 2005) from Toronto Transit Commission inviting Members of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee to participate in the Toronto Transit Commission Equity and Human Rights Sub-Committee on Tuesday June 28, 2005 in Committee Room 2, City Hall at 9:30 a.m.;
- (b) April 2005 Fatal Collision Summary, Transportation Services Traffic Management Centre Traffic Data Centre and Safety Bureau; and

- (c) January 1 to December 31, 2004 Pedestrian Collision Summary, Transportation Services Traffic Management Centre Traffic Data Centre and Safety Bureau.

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the Items for Information.

5.12 Wheelchair User Safety on Toronto Sidewalks and Streets

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it a communication (undated) from Jean McLeod informing the Toronto Pedestrian Committee of safety concerns for wheelchair users on Toronto's sidewalks and streets.

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee referred the communication to the Pedestrian Safety Working Group.

5.13 College Street Pedestrian Clearway Pilot Project

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee:

- (1) recommended to the Planning and Transportation Committee that City Council approve the following motion:

“WHEREAS City Council has directed staff to prepare a report on the proposed ‘pedestrian clearway’ pilot project for College Street, from Bathurst Street to Spadina Avenue; and

WHEREAS there is significant potential for pedestrian benefit from this pilot project, and its potential application to others areas of Toronto;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Planning and Transportation Committee be requested to recommend to City Council that the Toronto Pedestrian Committee be actively involved in the review, critical challenge and advocacy of the ‘pedestrian clearway’ pilot project as it moves through stakeholder presentations, Community Council and City Council.”; and

- (2) appointed the following Members of the Committee to represent their interests at stakeholder presentations and Community Council meetings:
- (a) Rita Brooks;
 - (b) Dr. Bob Frankford; and
 - (c) Daina Leja.

(Sent to: Planning and Transportation Committee;
c: J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair; Helen Riley, Co-Chair; Manager,
Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure, Transportation Services;
- June 15, 2005)

5.14 Committee Meeting Dates

Councillor Saundercook advised the Toronto Pedestrian Committee that he has been appointed by City Council to represent them on the Board of Management for the Toronto Transit Commission and that this appointment would conflict with the July 2005 meeting of the Committee.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee requested the Committee Secretary to informally poll the Members of the Committee to reschedule the July 2005 meeting of the Committee to July 14, 2005 at 9:30 a.m.

Councillor Saundercook thanked the Toronto Pedestrian Committee for accommodating his schedule and for allowing him to advocate pedestrian issues further with the City.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee adjourned its meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Helen Riley, Co-Chair