

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee

Meeting 7

Thursday, September 22, 2005

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee met on Thursday, September 22, 2005, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:37 a.m.

Members Present:

J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair
Helen Riley, Co-Chair
Rita Brooks
Joan Doiron, Feet on the Street
Deanne Fisher
Laurel Fortin
Daina Leja
Crawford Murphy, Toronto Cycling Committee
Elizabeth Walker, Older Womens' Network

Regrets:

Councillor Saundercook
Paul Collier
Dr. Bob Frankford
Shawn Micallef
Dylan Reid
Peter Tesar

Also Present:

Roger Brook, Rocket Riders
Lois James
Leis Linett, Toronto and Area Council of Women
David Scott, T2000 Ontario
Rhona Swarbrick, Pedestrian Planning Network
Ian Wheal, Toronto Field Naturalists
Colin Macdonald, Councillor Saundercook's Office
Suzanne McCormick, obo. Angela Kennedy, Trustee, Toronto Catholic District School Board

Staff Present:

Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit
Lisa Ing, Coordinator, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit
Jennifer Hyland, Assistant Planner, Transportation Planning
Jeff Bateman, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning
Lee Bishop, Toronto Police Services
Brad Bartlett, Committee Secretary

Helen Riley in the Chair.

Helen Riley advised the Toronto Pedestrian Committee that September 22, 2005 was Car Free Day in the City of Toronto.

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

Confirmation of Minutes

J. Richard Nelson in the Chair.

On motion by Helen Riley, the Minutes of the meeting of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee held on July 14, 2005, were confirmed, subject to amending Minute 6.8 – Working Groups, Section (i) Pedestrian Safety, as follows:

“A brief report was given of the Pedestrian Safety Working Group meeting held on July 13, 2005.

All interested members of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee were invited to attend the next meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Working Group on August 30, 2005 to review the draft Collision Study, with City staff.”

Helen Riley in the Chair.

Communication/Reports:

7.1 Guidelines for Advisory Committees

Yvonne Davies, Administrator, Clerk’s Office, City of Toronto gave a presentation to the Toronto Pedestrian Committee on the Guidelines for Advisory Committees, and filed a copy of her submission with the Clerk’s Office.

On motion by J. Richard Nelson, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the presentation.

7.2 Pedestrians, Transit and Planning

Roger Brook, Rocketriders gave a presentation to the Toronto Pedestrian Committee on Pedestrians, Transit and Planning.

On motion by J. Richard Nelson, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the presentation.

7.3 Comprehensive Air Quality Strategy

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered the following communications:

- (1) Communication (July 14, 2005) from Joan Doiron, Member, Toronto Pedestrian Committee, entitled, "Pedestrians Affected by Air Quality Downtown", containing the following motion:

"WHEREAS even now, 45 percent of downtown office workers are walking to work and a total of 70 percent are either walking, taking transit or cycling to travel in the downtown; and

WHEREAS the City of Toronto Official Plan calls for a reduction of downtown motor vehicle traffic so that air pollution is reduced;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council set a downtown business example of cleaning the air by eliminating free car parking at Nathan Phillips Square;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT City Council make it a policy to reduce the number of private automobiles that enter the area bounded by Bloor Street, Lake Ontario, Bathurst Street and the Don Valley Parkway by 30 percent by the year 2008;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with other City staff, to report within three months on how these goals can be reached by 2008."

- (2) Communication (September 21, 2005) from Joan Doiron, Member, Toronto Pedestrian Committee, entitled, "Pedestrians Affected by Air Quality Downtown", revising her motion contained in her Communication (July 14, 2005), and containing the following motion:

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“WHEREAS Toronto pedestrians have suffered through over 44 serious 2005 smog days and official predictions promise that future smog will be even worse, and 1000s are victims of air pollution, and

WHEREAS, even now, 45% of downtown office workers are walking to work and a total of 70% are either walking, taking transit or cycling to travel in some areas of the downtown, and

WHEREAS pedestrians are walking slowly directly by polluting vehicles are most affected by the worsening air quality in downtown streets and communities, and

WHEREAS the City of Toronto Official Plan calls for a reduction of downtown motor vehicle traffic so that air pollution is reduced, and

WHEREAS free car parking promotes car use (see New York study) and City Council needs to set a downtown business example of cleaning the air by considering eliminating free car parking at Nathan Phillips Square;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- (1) a plan be developed in order to implement the Official Plan policy of setting goals for car reduction and improving air quality downtown and throughout the City; and
- (2) the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with other city staff, be requested to report within three months on how the above goals can be reached at least by 2008

On motion by J. Richard Nelson, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee referred the following motion to a special Working Group on air quality and health, coordinated by Joan Doiron:

“WHEREAS Toronto pedestrians have suffered through over 44 serious 2005 smog days and official predictions promise that future smog will be even worse, and 1000s are victims of air pollution, and

WHEREAS, even now, 45% of downtown office workers are walking to work and a total of 70% are either walking, taking transit or cycling to travel in some areas of the downtown, and

WHEREAS pedestrians are walking slowly directly by polluting vehicles are most affected by the worsening air quality in downtown streets and communities, and

WHEREAS the City of Toronto Official Plan calls for a reduction of downtown motor vehicle traffic so that air pollution is reduced, and

WHEREAS free car parking promotes car use (see New York study) and City Council needs to set a downtown business example of cleaning the air by considering eliminating free car parking at Nathan Phillips Square;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- (1) a plan be developed in order to implement the Official Plan policy of setting goals for car reduction and improving air quality downtown and throughout the City, such plan to include the elimination of free parking at Nathan Phillips Square; and
- (2) the General Manager of Transportation services and the Chief Planner, be requested to report within three months on how the above goals can be reached at least by 2008.”

7.4 Avenue Road and Bloor Street

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a communication (September 6, 2005) from J. Richard Nelson, Member, Toronto Pedestrian Committee, requesting the Toronto Pedestrian Committee approve the following motion:

“WHEREAS the northeastern corner of Avenue Road and Bloor Street has been reconfigured to provide pedestrians with a wide and comfortable sidewalk, eliminating an infamous and long-standing 1.2 metre pinch point;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Toronto Pedestrian Committee thank the Transportation Services Division, Toronto City Council and Councillor Kyle Rae, the ABC Residents’ Association, and all others involved in bringing about this significant improvement to the Toronto walking environment.”

On motion by J. Richard Nelson, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee approved the following motion from J. Richard Nelson, Member, Toronto Pedestrian Committee, requesting the Toronto Pedestrian Committee approve the following motion:

“WHEREAS the northeastern corner of Avenue Road and Bloor Street has been reconfigured to provide pedestrians with a wide and comfortable sidewalk, eliminating an infamous and long-standing 1.2 metre pinch point;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Toronto Pedestrian Committee thank the Transportation Services Division, Toronto City Council and Councillor Kyle Rae, the ABC Residents’ Association, the Pedestrian Planning Network and all others involved in bringing about this significant improvement to the Toronto walking environment.”

(Sent to: Mayor and Members of Council, Councillor Kyle Rae (Ward 27 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale); ABC Residents’ Association; Janice Etter, Pedestrian Planning Network; Gary Welsh, General Manager of Transportation Services, c: Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit - October 6, 2005)

7.5 Staff Updates

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered

- (a) Transportation Services; and
 - (i) Communication (September 9, 2005) from Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit, providing, for information, a review of the Pedestrian Safety Campaign and the Draft Pedestrian Collision Study report.
- (b) City Planning:
 - (i) Union Station Precinct Study.

Jeff Bateman, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning updated the Toronto Pedestrian Committee on the Union Station Precinct Study, and filed a copy of his submission.

On motion by J. Richard Nelson, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the Communication (September 9, 2005) from Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit.

7.6 Working Groups

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered the following:

(i) Promoting Walking:

Update by Laurel Fortin, Chair.

(ii) Pedestrian Friendly Environments – Urban Design and Streetscaping; and

Update by Daina Leja, Chair.

(iii) Pedestrian Safety:

- Communication (September 20, 2005) from Helen Riley, Co-Chair, Pedestrian Safety Working Group; and

- Minutes dated July 13, August 30 and September 19, 2005.

Update by Helen Riley, Chair.

On motion by Joan Doiron, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee:

(1) received the Updates from the Working Groups; and

(2) requested Helen Riley, Co-Chair, Toronto Pedestrian Committee to write a letter, on behalf of the Committee, expressing its appreciation to the staff of the Traffic Data Centre for the opportunity to review the draft Collision Study with them.

(Sent To: Steve Kodama, Manager, Transportation Services, c : J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair, Toronto Pedestrian Committee; Gary Welsh, General Manager, Transportation Services; Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit - October 6, 2005)

7.7 Updates – Committee Members

No discussion held.

7.8 Committee Member's Discussion on Priorities

On motion by Elizabeth Walker, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee referred this discussion to Working Groups.

7.9 Items for Information

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered the following:

- (a) Communication (July 8, 2005) from William Brown, regarding Toronto Public Service works and emergency vehicle;
- (b) June 2005 Fatal Collision Summary, Transportation Services Traffic Management Centre Traffic Data Centre and Safety Bureau;
- (c) Communication (July 24, 2005) from Margaret Noble, regarding cyclists and segways on sidewalks;
- (d) Communication (July 27, 2005) from the City Clerk, advising that City Council, at its meeting on July 19, 20, 21 and 26, 2005, directed 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
- (e) Communication (July 24, 2005) from Joan Doiron, Feet on the Street endorsing the Toronto Pedestrian Committee's position on the Development Infrastructure Policy and Standards (DIPS) review of local road standards.

Revised Communication (September 21, 2005) from Joan Doiron, Feet on the Street

On motion by J. Richard Nelson, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the Items for Information.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee adjourned its meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Helen Riley, Co-Chair