



**ROUNDTABLE ON A BEAUTIFUL CITY
MINUTES
MEETING 9**

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Committee Room No. 1
2nd Floor, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto M5H 2N2

Enquiry: Maria Kolominsky

Committee Secretary

416-392-1147

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Attendant Care Services can be made available with some advance notice.

Members

Present: Mayor David Miller, ex-office member Deputy Mayor Sandra Bussin, Chair Councillor Li Preti Joe Berridge Matthew Blackett Anthony C. Coombes Marjorie Harris Alun Lloyd Joe Lobko Karen Mills Matthew Teitelbaum	Absent: Councillor Howard Moscoe Councillor Jane Pitfield Councillor Peter Milczyn Joe Abbinante Jeanne Beker Jack Diamond Philip Goodfellow Ian Leventhal Roberto Martella Katrina Miller David Mirvish Palwashe Mohammed Janet Rosenberg Anne Swarbrick Mike Yorke
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Declarations of Interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*

Confirmation of Minutes – June 19, 2006

Mayor David Miller thanked the Members of the Roundtable for their incredible work and presented all members with certificates of appreciation on behalf of the City of Toronto.

Communications/Reports

1. Report on 2006 Litter Audit

Min. 9.1

Mr. Geoff Rathbone, Director, Policy and Planning, Solid Waste Management Services, advised that litter is down by 40 per cent since 2002, which demonstrates that the City is moving positively toward the goal set in 2002 of reducing litter by 50 per cent over a five-year period.

The Roundtable received the report for information.

2. Motions from Processes, Standards and Practices Subcommittee

Min. 9.2

Action:

The Roundtable adopted the following motions from the Processes, Standards and Practices Subcommittee and requested the Chair to forward Motion (A) regarding the Environmental Assessment Process for a portion of the Railway Lands that includes the Bathurst Street Bridge to the Works Committee for consideration at its meeting on Monday, September 11, 2006.

The Roundtable acknowledged the outstanding contribution of the following Members of the Processes, Standards and Practices Subcommittee:

- Valerie Schatzker*
- Margaret Graham*
- ?*
- ?*

The Roundtable also acknowledged Members of the Subcommittee who sit on the Roundtable on a Beautiful City.

The Roundtable considered the following motions from the Processes, Standards and Practices Subcommittee:

- (A) Environmental Assessment Process for a portion of the Railway Lands that includes the Bathurst Street Bridge.*

The Processes, Standards and Practices Subcommittee, having considered information and a presentation on the Environmental Assessment Process for a portion of the Railway Lands that includes the Bathurst Street Bridge, and recognizing the importance of achieving design excellence at this location, recommends that the Roundtable on a Beautiful City forward the following recommendations to the Works Committee for consideration at its meeting on Monday, September 11, 2006:

(i) the Executive Director and Chief Planner, in consultation with the Manager of Heritage Preservation Services, and the Museum Administrator, Fort York National Historic Site, report to the Works Committee prior to approving the design of the Bathurst Street Bridge on the following:

- (1) the proposed design of the bridge in relation to the historic context of the location;*
- (2) appropriate aesthetic considerations that should be incorporated into the design; and*
- (3) ways in which the importance of the pedestrian and bicycle connections will be acknowledged, protected and extended in the future plan;*

(ii) the Executive Director and Chief Planner report to the Works Committee on altering the Environmental Assessment Process to ensure that design becomes a primary factor in that decision making process; and

(iii) this matter be forwarded to the Toronto Transit Commission for consideration.

(B) Coordinated Street Signage System

(i) The Processes, Standards and Practices Subcommittee requests the Roundtable on a Beautiful City to:

- (1) support the objective of harmonizing street signage in Toronto;*
- (2) the shift to a contemporary design character; and*
- (3) the objective of making simplicity and clarity key priorities in such a system.*

(ii) The current rate of funding for the replacement of street signage and final roll-out will take 30 years, and therefore, the Subcommittee requests the

Roundtable to support increased funding for this program so that the system can be fully implemented with the next 5 to 10 years.

- (ii) *Due to some Members of the Roundtable having raised issues regarding the size and manner in which neighbourhood identification and Business Improvement Areas are expressed in the proposed system, the Subcommittee requests that:*
 - (1) *this matter be further considered the Executive Director and Chief Planner and City Council;*
 - (2) *if the Roundtable is reconstituted, the matter be brought back to a meeting of the Roundtable for further after the public consultation process is complete; and*
 - (3) *this motion be forwarded to the Works Committee and the Budget Committee when the matter is considered.*

3. Tabling and discussion of Roundtable Summary Report

Min. 9.3

Action:

The Roundtable requested the Mayor to be its advocate for using the Roundtable Summary Report as setting the Terms of Reference for the next Roundtable.

The Roundtable considered the report (September 5, 2006) entitled “The Beautiful City – Observations and Recommendations from Members of the Roundtable on a Beautiful City”, recommending:

- (A) *Beyond a State of Good Repair*
 - (i) *Increase investment for much needed improvements to public space across the City. If this is not possible in the short term, make fewer improvements, but ensure that they are to a desirable, rather than a compromised standard.*
 - (ii) *City Council must recognize the strategic importance of City-wide strategic decision-making in relation to matters affecting the overall quality and character of the City as a whole.*
 - (iii) *Ensure that operational and maintenance funding is increased to match capital project expenditure within the City.*

- (iv) *Adopt the Green Development Standard for all new City projects.*
- (v) *Ensure the implementation of a Design Review process for all significant City infrastructure improvement projects as soon as possible.*
- (vi) *Reform both the procurement process for the selection of consultants and City contracts for design services.*

(B) Strategic Planning

- (i) *Make an increased and significant budgetary investment to increase the number and scope of detailed secondary neighbourhood, district plans and urban design guidelines.*
- (ii) *Undertake a study to assess the current influence of the Ontario Municipal Board at the City, including the percentage of major developments now decided at the OMB, the City tracking and communication of OMB decisions, how these decisions influence subsequent planning decisions, and what the City spends annually on defense of its decisions at the OMB.*
- (iii) *Review the way detailed planning studies are selected annually, including a City wide review of progress to date, a recommendation of priorities, as well as a review of the criteria being used to select areas in need of more detailed study on an urgent basis.*

(C) The Green City

- (i) *Develop more extensive requirements for a landscape standard in the development process modeled on the requirements for public art to ensure that a fixed and sufficient portion of funds for any new development is allocated on private property and the adjacent public realm.*
- (ii) *Develop clearer lines of responsibility for trees within the road allowance and communicate them to the public, design professionals and the development industry.*
- (iii) *Implement a Corporate Interdivisional Ravine Management Program with sufficient funding to address Cleanup (illegal dumping), Beautification (plantings and access), Stewardship (community engagement), and Signage (interpretive and directional).*

- (iv) *Improve the program for tree management and care through retrofitted pilot projects and new partnerships.*
- (v) *Implement new and retrofitted projects to support the Parks Renaissance strategy.*
- (vi) *Add more horticultural projects throughout the City by organizing more community initiatives and competitions.*
- (vii) *Maintain and develop more trails throughout the City with signage and linkages.*
- (viii) *Include parks projects in the Strategic Infrastructure Capital Fund to receive Federal and Provincial support for Parks and Recreation infrastructure.*

(D) *Large-scale City Projects*

- (i) *Develop a strategic plan and public-private investment strategy for the improvement of major public spaces in the City that would have a transformative impact on the public realm of Toronto.*
- (ii) *The following recommendations of “Strong Beauty”, outlined below, could form the starting point of such a strategic plan:*
 - (1) *Undertake the following projects in the short term: Nathan Philips Square, University Avenue, Queen’s Quay West, Bloor Street at Yonge, Yonge Street;*
 - (2) *Undertake two “visionary” projects: an investigation of the development potential of the North West Corridor of Toronto and a project intended to raise awareness of the range of opportunities available along the central waterfront.*
 - (3) *Allocate \$8 to \$14 million per year of City funds for three years to immediate public realm projects and embark on fundraising for the remaining two thirds of the required budget.*

(E) *The Application of a “Design Filter” to City Decision Making*

- (i) *Improve communication and coordinate between divisions, entrench the leadership and authority of good urban design and accountability and allocate budgets to ensure the best design for infrastructure improvement.*

- (ii) *Apply the Design Review pilot project, recently adopted by City Council, to City projects and not just private development.*
 - (iii) *Demand design excellence in both private and public sector development projects and the design of our public spaces.*
 - (iv) *Simplify and reform the difficult and lengthy bureaucratic process that seems to typify procurement within the City.*
 - (v) *Significantly reform the Environmental Assessment process to ensure that the overall design implications of a project are a primary priority.*
 - (vi) *Enforce the City's by-laws in all areas that control its appearance and design.*
 - (vii) *Continue and expand incentives and programs to promote and reward good design.*
- (F) *Can a Roundtable of citizens help make all this happen?*
- (i) *That a smaller number of appointees to the Roundtable be considered for the new Term of Council and the subcommittee structure evolve to suit particular circumstances and identified needs.*
 - (ii) *That a citizen co-chair of the Roundtable be appointed to share responsibilities with an appointed Councillor.*
 - (iii) *That there be an increased but focused participation of the public in meetings of the Roundtable.*

4. Other Matters

Min. 9.4

Action:

Deputy Mayor Bussin thanked City Staff for their work on the Roundtable on a Beautiful City.

The Roundtable adjourned its meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Chair.