

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee

Meeting 8

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee met on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 3:05 p.m.

*Members Present:

3:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Councillor Bill Saundercook, Co-Chair	X
Dylan Reid, Co-Chair	X
Roger Brook (Feet on the Street)	X
Laurel Fortin	X
Greg Crompton	X
Margaret Hastings-James	X
Shawn Micallef	X
Fred Sztabinski	X
Stephanie Tencer	X
Peter Tesar	X

* Members were present for part or all of the time indicated.

Regrets:

Councillor Karen Stintz
Matthew Blackett
Trustee Catherine LeBlanc-Miller, Toronto Catholic District School Board
Sean Marshall
Trustee Josh Matlow, Toronto District School Board
Beth Milroy
Jennifer Niece
Elizabeth Walker

Staff Present:

Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure,
Transportation Services
Jennifer Hyland, Transportation Services, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure

Dylan Reid, Co-Chair, assumed the Chair.

Declarations of Interest

None declared.

Confirmation of Minutes – February 19, 2008

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee amended Minute 7.10 – Snow Clearing, to read as follows:

“Elizabeth Walker commended Transportation Services staff for the excellent job the City has done in clearing snow from City streets.”

The Minutes, as amended, were confirmed.

8.1 Recognition of the contribution made by past Members of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee who served during the 2003-2007 term of Council.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee recognized the contribution made by past Members of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee who served during the 2003-2007 term of Council.

The Co-Chairs presented scrolls of appreciation to:

- Rita Brooks
- Dr. Bob Frankford, and
- Daina Leja

and thanked them for their valuable contribution to the Toronto Pedestrian Committee.

8.2 Walking Strategy Presentations

a. Toronto Walking Survey

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered the report (February 19, 2008) on the Toronto Walking Survey titled “Walking Habits and Attitudes Report”, prepared for the City of Toronto by Harris/Decima, submitted by Jennifer Hyland, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure.

Jennifer Hyland, gave a power point presentation.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee thanked staff for undertaking this valuable initiative and received, for information, the report on the Toronto Walking Survey and the power point presentation.

b. Draft Walking Strategy

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a communication regarding Draft Actions - Toronto Walking Strategy, submitted by Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure. Daniel Egan gave a verbal report.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee:

1. decided to work with staff to develop an appropriate motion, to be considered at a future meeting, regarding safe pedestrian-friendly lighting where all public lighting occurs.

(Motion by Councillor Saundercook)

2. received, for information, the communication and verbal report from Daniel Egan.

c. Working Group Draft Vision Statement and Report

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a communication titled "Toronto Walking Strategy: Steps Toward a Walkable City", submitted by Laurel Fortin, on behalf of the working group drafting the vision statement and report.

Members of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee were asked to e-mail Laurel Fortin with ideas and comments on the communication.

d. Steps Towards a Walkable City Proposed Framework for a Toronto Walking Strategy

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee heard a presentation by Stephanie Tencer and Roger Brook, Members of The Toronto Pedestrian Committee regarding the communication (February 8, 2008) from Stephanie Tencer and Helen Riley, on behalf of Feet on the Street, submitting comments on "Steps Towards a Walkable City-Proposed Framework for a Toronto Walking Strategy";

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee thanked Feet on the Street, and received, for information, the presentation and communication.

e. Presentation on Walking Website by Pauline Craig, City Planning.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee deferred hearing the presentation on the Walking Website to its April 15, 2008 meeting.

8.3 Working Groups - Updates

- a. The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a communication (July 11, 2007) from Fred Sztabinski, Project Coordinator, Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation, regarding the Toronto Transit Commission – Transit City Light Rail Projects.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee adopted the following motions:

1. That any member of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee who can attend any of the Environmental Assessment meetings, for the Transit City Light Rail Plan, be designated to liaise on behalf of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee to raise any issues of concern.

(Motion by Councillor Saundercook)

2. That Mitch Stambler, Manager, Service Planning Department, Toronto Transit Commission, be requested to attend the April 15, 2008 Toronto Pedestrian Committee meeting and give a presentation on the Transit City Plan, including the schedule of projects and environmental assessments.

(Motion by Fred Sztabinski)

3. That the Toronto Transit Commission be advised that the Toronto Pedestrian Committee respectfully requests to be considered a stakeholder for the Transit City Environmental Assessment projects.

(Motion by Margaret Hastings-James)

(Mitch Stambler, Manager of Planning, Toronto Transit Commission – March 26, 2008)

- b. Dylan Reid gave a verbal update on the Pedestrian Collision Study Working Group and the Urban Design and Pedestrian Environment Working Group.

8.4. 2008 Operating Budget – Priorities for Walking

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a draft letter, addressed to Councillor Carroll, Chair, City of Toronto Budget Committee, prepared by Fred Sztabinski, Chair, Budget Working Group, Toronto Pedestrian Committee, respecting Toronto's priorities for walking and the need for a dedicated staff resource from the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division.

On motion by Fred Sztabinski, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee endorsed the draft letter which recommends the following, and requested that it be sent to the Executive Committee for consideration at its special meeting on March 25, 2008:

That a full-time trails and pathways planner be hired to coordinate the planning, consultation, construction and maintenance of pedestrian paths and the bikeway network infrastructure projects in Toronto's parks, and that funding in the approximate amount of \$80,000 be included in the Parks, Forestry and Recreation operating budget.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Saundercook and the above motion carried unanimously on the following division of votes:

Yeas: Councillor Saundercook, Dylan Reid, Roger Brook, Laurel Fortin, Greg Crompton, Margaret Hastings-James, Shawn Micallef, Fred Sztabinski, Stephanie Tencer, Peter Tesar - **10**

Nays: 0

(Executive Committee – March 19, 2008)

8.5 A Stroll in the Park

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a Presentation by Christa Kroboth, respecting her Award Winning Walking program "A Stroll in The Park". Web page link: <http://www.astrollinthepark.com>.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee received, for information, the presentation from Christa Kroboth.

(Christa Kroboth, A Stroll in The Park – March 25, 2008)

8.6 Accessible Pedestrian Routes after Heavy Snowfall

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered the following communications forwarded by Dylan Reid, Co-Chair, respecting safe and accessible pedestrian routes after heavy snowfalls.

- a. Extract of Minute PW13.7 and 13.7a, from the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting of February 8, 2008, respecting Accessible Pedestrian Routes after Heavy Snowfall and Snow Clearing Enforcement;
- b. Article (February 2, 2008) from The Star, written by John Spears, City Hall Bureau, headed "Committee wants better snow removal on sidewalks".
 Link: <http://www.thestar.com/printArticle/299796>;
- c. Article (February 9, 2008) from The Star, written by Josh Wingrove, headed "Beware the snow police".
 Link: <http://www.thestar.com/News/GTA/article/302005>;
- d. Article (February 9, 2008) from Toronto.ctv.ca, written by Alicia Kay-Markson, headed "Residents complain about sidewalk-shovelling slackers".
 Link: <http://tinyurl.com/3yrw93> (CTV).

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee also considered the following communications:

- e. (March 12, 2008) from Helen Hansen regarding access to pedestrian push buttons after snow falls; and
- f. (March 18, 2008) from William Brown, regarding the City's selective snow removal policies

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee received, for information, the communications from Dylan Reid, Helen Hansen, and William Brown.

(Helen Hansen; William Brown – March 25, 2008)

8.7 Scarlett Road/CP Rail Bridge Class Environmental Assessment Study – Notice of Filing of Environmental Study Report

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a communication (February 11, 2008) from John P. Kelly, Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Transportation Services, advising that the study has been completed for the Scarlett Road/CP

Rail Bridge Class Environmental Assessment Study under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) process; and that the Environmental Study Report is available for review and an opportunity exists to submit comments.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee received, for information, the communication from the Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Transportation Services.

8.8 Older Adults Needed For Study About Winter

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a communication from Yue Li, iDAPT Technology Research and Development Team at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (TRI) advising, for information, that Researchers at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute are studying how winter affects older adults' outdoor activities and providing information on how to participate in this study.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee received, for information, the communication from Yue Li, and requested that it be forwarded to Members of City Council.

(Members of City Council – March 25, 2008)

8.9 Jarvis Street Streetscape Improvement Class Environmental Assessment Study – Schedule ‘C’ – Notice of Study Commencement

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a communication (March 7, 2008) from John P. Kelly, Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Transportation Services, advising that the City of Toronto has initiated a Class Environment Assessment Study to review streetscape improvements along Jarvis Street between Bloor Street East and Queen Street East, and providing information on how to participate in the process.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee received, for information, the communication from the Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Transportation Services.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee adjourned its meeting at 5:45 p.m.