

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee

Meeting 14

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee met on Tuesday, October 21, 2008, in Committee Room No. 4, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

*Members Present:

3:00 p.m. – 5:05 p.m.

Councillor Bill Saundercook, Co-Chair	X
Dylan Reid, Co-Chair	X
Sean Marshall	X
Shawn Micallef	X
Beth Milroy	X
Jennifer Niece	X
Fred Sztabinski	X
Peter Tesar	X
Elizabeth Walker	X

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

Absent:

Councillor Karen Stintz
Matthew Blackett
Roger Brook
Greg Crompton
Laurel Fortin
Margaret Hastings-James (Regrets)
Trustee Catherine LeBlanc-Miller, Toronto Catholic District School Board
Trustee John Matlow, Toronto District School Board
Stephanie Tencer

Staff Present:

Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure,
Transportation Services
Lisa Ing, Transportation Coordinator, Pedestrian and Cycling
Infrastructure, Transportation Services
Jennifer Hyland, Planner, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure,
Transportation Services

Pauline Craig, Assistant Planner, City Planning
Christina Bouchard, Transportation Services (Cycling Group)
Roman Oleksij, Supervisor, Traffic Engineering,
Toronto East York District

Dylan Reid assumed the Chair.

Declarations of Interest

None declared.

Confirmation of Minutes – September 16, 2008

On motion by Sean Marshall, the minutes of the meeting of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee held on September 16, 2008, were confirmed.

14.1 Walking Promotion Programs including “Walk Into Health”

Jackie Leroux, Health Promotion Consultant, and Marinella Arduini, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention, Public Health, gave a presentation on Walking Promotion Programs, including “Walk Into Health”.

Jackie Leroux advised that the Pedometer Lending Program and Walking Kit are available at various libraries across the city and that the program would be expanded to an additional ten libraries annually.

The following persons addressed the Committee:

- Christa Kroboth, A Stroll in the Park
- Ian Wheal, Toronto Field Naturalists

Jann Houston, Acting Director, Chronic Disease Prevention, Toronto Public Health, and Pat Bull, Library Service Manager, Toronto Public Library, were also in attendance.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee thanked the Public Health Team for their informative presentation and congratulated them on their excellent walking programs as well as their promotional efforts.

14.2 Sidewalk Lay-Bys on Public Roads – Pedestrian Issues

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a letter (August 7, 2008) from Sean Marshall regarding sidewalk lay-bys built by the City on public roads designed for short-

term parking or drop-off locations for local businesses and their intrusion on sidewalk space.

On motion by Sean Marshall, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee:

1. Requested the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee to:
 - (a) Request the General Manager of Transportation Services to report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on developing a city-wide policy on requests to install sidewalk lay-bys on public roads.
 - (b) Request the General Manager of Transportation Services to report at its next meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, on:
 - (i) the history of the lay-bys recently installed in the Bloor/Bay area;
 - (ii) whether the lay-bys are being used improperly for private purposes; and
 - (iii) if the sidewalk conforms to accessibility standards.
 - (b) Recommend that City Council:
 - (i) place a moratorium on any requests for lay-bys that result in a net reduction in the sidewalk width until a city-wide policy has been established; and
 - (ii) adopt the position that the lay-bys recently installed in the Bloor/Bay area do not set a precedent for other lay-bys in future.

14.3 Staff Report

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the staff status reports by Daniel Egan, Manager, and Jennifer Hyland, Planner, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure, Transportation Services, on the following:

- (a) Walking Strategy – Lawrence Heights.
- (b) Barcelona Report.

It was noted that Walk 21 will be held in New York City next year from October 7 to 10, 2009, and members of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee were requested to explore opportunities that would allow them to participate and attend the event.

- (c) Public Realm Office.

14.4 Closing Streets to Motor Vehicles During Nuit Blanche

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered a letter (October 5, 2008) from Dylan Reid, Co-Chair, Toronto Pedestrian Committee, recommending that during future celebrations of Nuit Blanche, the City implement more extensive restrictions on private motorized vehicle movement on the streets that will be most heavily travelled by pedestrians, in order to create more space and improved safety for pedestrian travel, while still allowing space for transit vehicles and bicycles.

On motion by Councillor Bill Saundercook, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee requested the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee to request the General Manager of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, in consultation with the General Manager of Transportation Services, to report on closing additional streets to motor vehicles during Nuit Blanche next year and at other mass public events, including the issue of closing streets on which streetcars are running.

14.5 Updates from Committee Members

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the following announcements for information:

- (a) Metrolinx meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2008, at Metro Hall, to discuss the Draft Regional Transportation Plan for the next 25 years.

Dylan Reid, Co-Chair, encouraged Committee members to provide feedback on walking issues in the Metrolinx report.

- (b) The Toronto Pedestrian Committee thanked Laurel Fortin for organizing the Pedestrian Committee presence at the launch of the Walking Festival on October 2, 2008. The Committee also thanked the City for organizing the event and is looking forward to working with the City on enhancing the festival next year.

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The Toronto Pedestrian Committee adjourned its meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Chair