Summary Notes

R.C. Harris Public Advisory Committee

Meeting #01/09

January 6, 2009

R.C. HARRIS PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting #01/09

R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant, Construction Trailer
2701 Queen Street East, Toronto

January 6, 2009
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

SUMMARY NOTES

ATTENDANCE

Public Advisory Committee
Julie McNeill (co-chair)
Julie Charles
Alan Demb
Jim Glasspool
David Lewis
Lorraine Mash
Rob Sharples
Henry Spencer
Jim Tulk

City of Toronto Staff

Ron Brilliant (Mgr)	Toronto Water - R.C. Harris Water Filtration Plant

Facilitator

Cheryl Dow	Public Consultation Unit

Regrets:
Ron Sharples

Summary Notes:

Niki Gallo	(Audio recording, 1st version of Draft Summary Notes)
Toronto Water & Public Consultation Unit	(revision/distribution *final* Draft Summary Notes)

R. C. HARRIS PUBLIC CONSULTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING #01/09

January 6, 2009

CALL TO ORDER
Julie McNeill called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The Agenda for this meeting was adopted as circulated.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES
David Lewis moved that the minutes for the June 16, September 9, 2008 and October 15, 2008 meetings be adopted. The minutes were adopted without amendment.

PLANT UPDATES

4.1 BUILDING ENVELOPE REHABILITATION (BER)

Ron Brilliant advised that the BER is a fairly massive project that is anticipated to last five or six years and will take place over four to six phases.

Ron Brilliant noted that the project name Building Envelop Rehabilitation was selected because the majority of the costs (approximately 80%) are related to the building envelope (e.g. the work on the outside shell of the building). BER work will include:

- repairing the roofs that have not been completed;
- repairing the walls that have not been completed (the vast majority of the walls);
- security upgrades along Nursewood Road;
- some of the railing work on the seawall as well as the seawall ;
- Minor work inside the plant (e.g. wall rebuilding, etc.)
- Building an extension of the roadway around the front and around the side (on the top lawn closest to Queen Street). For this extension we are looking a pavement type with grass (perforated pavers). The purpose of this is so that when we have to drive there, we won't destroy the area. This roadway will attach to the ramp that was built by Steven Mannell.

Ron Brilliant noted that the original plan was for the design to be finished by the end of December 2008. Part of the design process was to inspect behind sections of stone walls. During this inspection we found that some areas were not well built and some areas are cracking which leads to further deterioration of the building.

Ron Brilliant advised that the current schedule is to have the detailed design completed in mid-March 2009. This will go out to tender to the shortlist of qualified bidders around the end of March. The project will be awarded to the lowest bidder.

Ron Brilliant explained that the first phase of the BER project will be the security upgrades.

In response to a question from **Julie Charles** about whether mould was found during the building envelope inspections, **Ron Brillliant** advised they did not find any mould.

4.2 NORTH RETAINING WALL

Ron Brilliant advised the group that the north retaining wall was 99% complete.

Ron Brilliant noted that the rented chain link fence on the east side will probably be removed soon. The north side chain link fencing will still be up until the handrails are installed.

In response to a question from **Julie McNeill** about the location of handrails on the retaining wall, Ron Brilliant advised the handrails will be on the Queen Street side of the plantings.

In response to a question from **Julie McNeill** about the status of the stairs at north east corner of the site (next to the apartment buildings) at the east end of the retaining wall, **Ron Brilliant** responded that the stairs are in but the handrails next to the stairs have not yet been installed.

Alan Demb asked if the character of the handrails will be similar to the handrails already installed at the plant. **Ron Brilliant** said that yes, the handrails will be black with three horizontal bars like the handrail on the loading ramp.

4.3 NORTH WALL

Ron Brilliant explained that about 30,000 bricks are currently being stored in the centre of the grounds in front of the filter building and it has not yet been determined if they will remain until the next project starts, or if the pile will be moved elsewhere. Also, the hoarding is scheduled to be removed by the end of next week, weather dependent.

In response to a question from **Jim Tulk** about how much longer construction will be taking place on the east end of the filter building, **Ron Brilliant** responded that construction is finished and the fences are scheduled to be removed by the end of next week, weather permitting.

Julie McNeill inquired if the temporary frost fence gates on the roadway that points east will be removed. **Ron Brilliant** replied that the frost fence gates were for construction safety reasons and not for the security of the building. The gates that were put in for the security of the building were removed before the construction started and the gate supports have been damaged during construction and will have to be repaired. This will be included as part of Phase 1 of the BER.

4.4 LIGHTING

In response to a question from **Alan Demb** about whether the street lights would be removed and replaced by period lighting, **Ron Brilliant** responded that the street lights will all be removed and replaced. Various lighting proposals have been suggested including one in which the height of the curb on the southbound roadway would be increased by 6-8 inches to allow for lighting to be installed in the curb itself to light the roadway. This would be along the roadway, parallel to Nursewood Road, from the entrance to the plant grounds south to the stairs. We would also install lights in the security wall on the slope next to the parking lot. Any additional lighting can be period-style lighting.

Ron Brilliant also advised that we will still be proceeding with the plan to install ground-mounted lights that will wash light against the buildings. There is a design for this that includes the type of lights and placement locations. The next step is to install 1 or 2 and consult with the PAC about the colour of the lighting before proceeding.

4.5 NURSEWOOD ROAD SECURITY UPGRADES

Lorraine Mash asked if the trees or the walls will prevent people from driving on the property. Ron explained that it is the walls that will stop them. The plan to date includes low “curb-like” walls that will be placed as a barrier on the west side of the grounds, running from the lake end along the slope opposite the parking lot, north to where the stairs are. The curb on the roadway parallel to Nursewood Road will be increased in height to provide a sufficient barrier. The entire plan will have very little or no impact on the view from Nursewood.

In response to a question from **Alan Demb** about the amount of graffiti on the seawall and the difficulty in removing it, **Ron Brilliant** assured Alan that concrete is much easier to clean than the bricks and stone of the building. **Ron Brilliant** said that the graffiti is removed on a regular basis, but he would like to be

e-mailed when graffiti is seen so that he can address it. Of course, this may be a difficult time of year to remove it.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 DISTRIBUTION OF MEETING MATERIALS

David Lewis requested that the agenda and minutes be distributed by mail to people who do not have e-mail addresses and he requested that everyone else receive the agenda and minutes by e-mail only.

Cheryl Dow will send the meeting materials by e-mail to everyone who provided their e-mail addresses for the PAC mailing list. Those without an e-mail address will receive a hard copy of the materials. PAC members who would like to receive the meeting materials by e-mail should provide Cheryl Dow (cdow@toronto.ca) with their e-mail address.

5.2 HERITAGE INVENTORY

Ron Brilliant indicated that the PAC developed a heritage inventory in 1998/1999. The inventory provided a brief history of the building and noted all of the changes that had been made from the original construction to the date of the inventory itself. Since that date, Ron has been using the inventory as a tool to assure that restoration is included during usual maintenance and other projects.

Ron Brilliant asked the group if they are interested in reviewing this document and updating it. Updating the inventory would involve adding a description of what has been done to date and removing some of the recommendations that have been acted on. The inventory is a valuable tool for any future manager, and potentially for historians.

Ron Brilliant said this document would not impact the 5-year plan.

Ron Brilliant will send a copy to **Cheryl Dow** to review and to bring to next PAC meeting for discussion.

Cheryl Dow suggested that the document is something that might be added to the plant website in the future. **Cheryl Dow** offered to research about the building being designated as a historical site.

In response to a question from **Alan Demb** asking if there is any prospect of incorporating into the grounds information for the general public about what goes on at the plant and how the plant has evolved, **Julie McNeill** advised that there is still a plan to incorporate a information plaque into a retaining wall between the two entry gates and the stairs to the grounds.

5.3 LAKE ONTARIO PARK

Julie McNeill brought Waterfront Toronto's book 'Lake Ontario Park' and pointed out the proposal maps which suggest that there will be a transect (which is like a boardwalk) that crosses the lawn and connects on the other side of the beach. Julie advised she will keep the PAC informed about this issue.

OTHER UPDATES

Ron Brilliant noted that the dredging is finished and we are just starting the construction of the storage rooms in the new facility. Also, the workshop for the electricians is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. Two months after they complete we can start to hold PAC meetings in the building — end of May or June.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2009 in the construction trailer. *(Follow – Up Note: Meeting has been **rescheduled to March 4, 2009**)*

Meeting ended 7:57 pm