



Summary Notes

R.C. Harris Public Advisory Committee

Meeting # 5/09

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

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

Wednesday November 18, 2009
7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Public Advisory Committee

Julie McNeill (co-chair)
Julie Charles
Paul Dowsett
Lorraine Mask
Wayne Reeves
Henry Spencer

City of Toronto Staff

Ron Brilliant – Toronto Water; R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant Manager
Jeff Peck – Security Supervisor for Toronto Water

Facilitator

Cheryl Dow – Public Consultation Unit

Regrets

David Lewis
Rob Sharples

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Introductions

All present at the meeting introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda

“Security Issues Update” was moved up in the agenda in order to be discussed earlier in the meeting.

3. Approval of September 15, 2009 Summary Notes

The following items required clarification from the minutes of the last PAC meeting on September 15, 2009:

- a) Update on lighting: **Ron Brilliant** clarified that there will be a light at the main entrance to the plant as well as a light at the stairs coming down off the road. The long-term lighting plan for the facility involves eventually removing the lights that are currently on the building, but that will not take place until the rest of the work is done.
- b) The elevator: **Ron Brilliant** explained that the plan was to replace the elevator because it was thought that the original inside section (the elevator cab) had been removed and replaced. After peeling off several layers and then beginning the work on the rehabilitation, the original bronze cab was found to be still there. The original cab has been refurbished and is in operation.
- c) Historic Site Designation: **Cheryl Dow** asked Wayne Reeves to clarify the requirements for the historic site designation. **Wayne Reeves** explained that The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada sets out the guidelines for this type of designation. A group (such as PAC) and the landowner (Toronto Water) would make the application to the board with the updated heritage inventory. At the next PAC meeting, Wayne Reeves will provide more of an update on these requirements.

With the above clarifications, the minutes from September 15th were approved.

4. Security Issues Update

Cheryl Dow sent the agenda and the minutes from the last meeting to the local residents who attended the last meeting with concerns regarding security. She said that she would send them the minutes from this meeting along with an email asking if they have any more questions or concerns pertaining to the security issues.

Jeff Peck from The City of Toronto Security explained that the east side of the plant is patrolled by Toronto security. The security staff stops at the site at least once every night and whenever they find people on the site, they are directed to leave immediately. The security personnel are aware that there tends to be a problem with people gathering in the area so they ensure that they check the area at least once a night.

Jeff Peck said that there is a 24-7 security centre that can be contacted anytime, at (416) 397-7163. If a call is placed to this number to report a problem with youth congregating in the area, a security staff member will be on the site in approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

Lorraine Mask asked if the security is specific to this site or if it works in other areas of the city as well. **Jeff Peck** replied that the vehicle patrolling this site also patrols all city property that is located on the southeast side of the city. The security staff has no authority once the individuals are off of city property, but they would call the police if there were a large group moving into another area, that is not on city property.

Julie Charles asked whether the beach directly below the steps is part of city property. **Ron Brilliant** said the land along the shore in front of the plant belongs to Toronto Water, because the intakes and outtakes go through that area; however, the beaches to the east or west of it are not part of Toronto Water.

Julie McNeill asked for clarification as to what areas Toronto Security patrolled. **Jeff Peck** explained that all the security officers are City of Toronto employees and they are part of the “mobile patrol unit,” which is broken into four sections across the city (north, south, east and west). Each vehicle patrols city buildings in one section of the city, including social services sites and community centers. **Julie Charles** asked if the security officers ever get out of their vehicles and patrol on foot. **Jeff Peck** said that they do. He added that when they come to the R.C. Harris Treatment Plant, they would drive around the site and then check every door of the building to make sure that they were locked and secure.

Julie McNeill commented on the large territory that each vehicle must cover, and asked if they were only able come to the R.C. Harris Treatment Plant once per evening.

Jeff Peck said that they try to come more than once because they know that there are often issues on the site. They try to come sometime between 8pm and 2am – when they know there are potentially people congregating on the site.

Ron Brilliant added that the security officers try not to come at the same time each night, so that people don't anticipate their arrival and avoid being on site only at that specific time.

Julie Charles asked how many officers were in each vehicle. **Jeff Peck** said that there is one, well-trained, unarmed officer per vehicle. If they are met with any resistance when trying to escort people off the property, they will immediately call the police. He added that there is an arrangement between the Toronto Security and the police so that if a 911 call is made regarding any of the water

treatment facilities in the city, they get elevated priority because the water treatment sites are considered critical infrastructure.

Jeff Peck explained that the security officers are in marked vehicles with City of Toronto logos. The officers are in full uniform, well trained and very approachable. **Ron Brilliant** added that the security officers do a thorough inspection when they are on the site, and always enter the building to check-in with the staff. **Jeff Peck** said that the mandatory patrols (i.e. checking the R.C. Harris Treatment Plant *at least* once each night), have been in effect for about 1 year.

Jeff Peck showed the group a pamphlet for Toronto Water that he is working on, to inform people about how to contact security in the event that something suspicious is seen on site. It is also possible to get to security using "311." **Cheryl Dow** requested that Jeff Peck send her a copy of the brochure once it is completed so that she can circulate the brochure to R.C. Harris Public Advisory Committee members.

Julie McNeill thanked Jeff Peck for attending the meeting.

5. Plant Updates

a) Building Envelope Rehabilitation (BER)

Ron Brilliant discussed the schedule for the BER for 2009 and 2010. As things move forward they may change, but as of today, the following is what is planned:

In 2009, they will be working on the east side of the filter building and the north side of the service building.

- Other work currently being done includes work on the east and west walls of the wash tower on the north side of the filter building. These walls have actually been completed, but are currently behind tarps and being heated to meet the requirements for the mortar.

In 2010 they will start working on the north side of the east filter building, finishing the work that was not completed in the first contract because there was a shortage of brick.

- In the spring of 2010, work will begin on the admin towers (the towers in the middle of the filter building) and scaffolding will be put up around that area. Work will also begin on the west filters - on both the south and north sides.
- Security upgrades will be done, including the gates and lights.

Ron Brilliant shared that things are going very well so far and everything is on-track.

b) Vacuum Trucks

Ron Brilliant explained that the vacuum trucks had to do with the issues within the residue management facility, and some large vacuum trucks had been situated between the buildings. The plant sent out notices to residents in the surrounding area about the noise. That work is now completed and hopefully they won't need to bring the trucks back.

Ron Brilliant said that the truck at the top of the site is now there because they are currently doing a yearly filter top-up, where a carbon filter media is added to the filters. This usually takes 3 to 4 weeks, but can sometimes take up to 6 weeks; it should be gone before Christmas.

Ron Brilliant said that most of the work currently being done on the site is part of the BER. There is also a pilot project within the facility that some of the contractors are working on, which will assist in optimizing the processes. This project will be here for 2 or 3 years and is located in the new building, with no impact on the heritage aspects of the site. The other project currently on site is the MCC upgrade, which is all being done inside the facility, but the trailer is located outside between the 2 buildings; this project will be completed by the end of March 2010.

The trailer that is currently located just south of the meeting trailer has been there for a few days for a short maintenance project. The project involved a ROV (remote operating vehicle) with a camera and lights attached to it being sent down 2.8 km of the clean water pipes, starting at the site and heading towards John Street. This project should be finished by tomorrow and everything looks to be in very good shape.

Julie McNeill asked about the black railing between the garden and Queen Street, at the front of the site. **Ron Brilliant** said that they ran out of railing and it will not be done this year. **Ron Brilliant** said that he is now reviewing the fencing on the Queen Street side.

6. Heritage Inventory Update

Cheryl Dow compiled past PAC minutes since 1997 for Wayne Reeves. She explained that some are compiled in binders and some are in digital format.

Ron Brilliant said that there should be a PAC member as the lead of the Heritage Inventory Update. He is willing to assist and be involved with the project, but a member of PAC should be responsible for the updates on this project. **Julie McNeill** pointed out that she, Wayne Reeves and Paul Dowsett had formed a sub-committee at the last PAC meeting. **Wayne Reeves** volunteered to report on what has been done since the last meeting.

Wayne Reeves explained that he managed to recover the Heritage Inventory document in a WordPerfect file. All of the images from this document were scanned in 1997 when it was first put together. He also has copies of the city council minutes and all the published Toronto Water annual reports since 1997. The new Word file is undergoing some minor updates such as changing it from a metro document to a City of Toronto document, as well as updating the bibliography.

Wayne Reeves said that Heritage Toronto has a project called “Building Stories,” which is going to be an exhibit on architecture in Toronto including Public Works. Permission was given to take images of the inside of the Water Works building. Wayne passed around a copy of a photo from inside the filtration plant. The members of PAC were impressed by the artistic quality of the photo. **Wayne Reeves** added that they had discussed adding some contemporary photography to the annual report.

Wayne Reeves explained that Ron Brilliant would be arranging a site inspection so that all the changes that have been made to the plant since 1997 can be reviewed and accurately tracked. To track all the restoration activities, there will also be some “before and after” photography. He said that PAC and the subcommittee would do the overall writing and review of the project, and the subcommittee would be responsible for the design and production. The budget for the project will be discussed with Ron Brilliant in the near future.

Wayne Reeves shared with the group that he was recently appointed Chief Curator of Toronto Museums and Heritage Sites.

Wayne Reeves said that the original 1997 copy of the Heritage Inventory would be transferred into a PDF document so that Cheryl Dow will be able to provide copies to the members of PAC.

Cheryl Dow said that the website was recently updated to include the PAC meeting agendas as well as the minutes, once they are approved. She will send the link to the committee members.

Editor's Note: The R.C. Harris Public Advisory Committee website address is http://www.toronto.ca/wes/techservices/involved/wws/rcharris_pac/index.htm

In response to **Paul Dowsett's** question about the old the drawings and documentation, **Ron Brilliant** explained that there is an area in the plant that will contain all the records and drawings of the plant. The consolidation of these documents should be completed by January 2010. The location is in a well-lit room with a lot of space. **Wayne Reeves** added that, in addition to the collection at the plant, all of the Toronto Water drawings are also on microfilm held at Metro Hall.

Ron Brilliant asked the subcommittee when they would like to take a look around the plant, and it was decided that it would be done sometime in December 2009. The initial walk-through will be done to determine what needs to be accomplished for the heritage inventory.

7. New Business

Paul Dowsett asked whether there was any further feedback from the Humane Society. **Cheryl Dow** said that she sent the summary notes from the last meeting and terms of reference to the representative that attended the last PAC meeting, and she did not hear back from him.

Ron Brilliant informed PAC members that Mr. Michael O'Sullivan of the Humane Society of Canada had filed an official complaint to the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario concerning Ron's professional conduct. The complaint is in regard to the dog incident which Mr. Michael O'Sullivan discussed with the PAC at the last meeting. The complaint was filed late in July.

Many PAC members offered their support to Ron Brilliant.

8. Next Meeting and Agenda Items

The next meeting was set for Tuesday January 5, 2010.

9. Adjournment

Julie McNeill adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.