

# Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association

*Reflecting the interests of the Swansea Community*



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## Swansea Area Ratepayers' Group

### Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 1, 2010

**Call to Order:** Nick Singh at 7:34pm  
**Present:** Nick Singh, David Fleming, Louis Gris, Kate Lawson, Ian McIsaac, John Meijer, Ed Gaigalas, Bill Roberts, Sybil Wilkinson, Gared Daniel  
**Regrets:** None  
**Guests:** Mayor David Miller

Approval of Agenda: David Fleming motioned approval, Sarah Doucette seconded and carried  
Approval of Minutes from 2008: Bill Roberts motioned approval, Kate Lawson seconded and carried  
Approval of Minutes from 2009: Kate Lawson motioned approval, Sybil Wilkinson seconded and carried  
Membership Report: John Meijer motioned approval, David Fleming seconded and carried  
Treasurers Report: Kate Lawson motioned approval, John Meijer seconded and carried

#### **Presidents Report:**

**Scotia Bank Toronto Waterfront Marathon** is a world class event drawing international competitors from the best the world has to offer. In 2009, the Ratepayers' once again partnered with three other community groups, the Legion, the Town Hall and the Recreation Centre, as a cheering section. Our efforts won us a \$1,000 award of merit for best cheering section once again. In addition we had four champions running in the 2009 race. Nick thanked them for their fund raising efforts.

**Western Waterfront Master Plan Key Recommendations:** The Plan is now two years old and beginning to implement, starting with a curtain breakwater. The long range goals and plans dealing with Lakeshore Blvd, the lakeshore and islands at the mouth of the Humber River can be found on the web.

**Liquor License Applications** to extend hours of operation on the patio at Queens Pasta and Mike's Place are being monitored.

**New Home Construction** is a serious challenge as more and more homes are purchased, torn down and rebuilt in a suburban style. Residents interested in working on character preservation should contact us.

**The Humber Odeon Cinema** owner now owns the entire block west to Riverview Gardens. There has been no development progress since their last application. It is suspected that they are waiting on the results of the applications at 2500 Bloor Street West before proceeding.

**2500 Bloor Street West** proposal is now two towers between 10 and 12 storeys. SARA has been involved and participating actively in the meetings hosted by the developer, Tridel. This is a very large development with a large impact on the

community. Height, density and traffic are the major concerns for SARA. Details are available on the web. We can take your contact information to keep interested community members in the loop.

**Old Mill Development:** SARA has been continually involved in the development proposal over the last two years.

**The City of Toronto Harmonized Zoning By-law:** Bill Roberts has been a key participant in crafting the HZB. He spoke about the by-law and described the concerns, especially “R” zoning, for our community:

- Height and grade
- Removal of second story deck
- Change of “R” and “R2” zoning into “R1S” designation will allow larger development in certain instances than we want in our community
- Exceptions for open/enclosed front porches – enclosed porches are being considered as the front property line, thus allowing more forward, larger and higher construction than wanted. SARA is seeking an exemption to this as there are many houses in Swansea that have this building trait

The by-law is coming before the Planning and Growth Committee in June and City Council in July. Please contact SARA if you have more questions.

**Sign By-law Harmonization:** Most of the pre-amalgamation by-laws are being kept and is very restrictive.

**Traffic in Swansea:** SARA has been asking for traffic reports and have received small individual reports, but not a Swansea comprehensive report. We will continue to work on this.

**South Kingsway Ramps and Sobey's:** There are concerns about the intersection at the ramp from southbound South Kingsway to westbound Queensway. The sightline to approaching traffic and bicycles is very difficult and the alignment to the pedestrian crossing is not a style that drivers are used to. The traffic in and out of the Sobey's mall is very convoluted and prone to minor accidents. The mall owners are open to suggestions, and SARA has been actively working with them on solutions to improve the mall entrance.

Nick Singh wrapped up his report by informing that the Ratepayers' newsletter contains more information and that you sign up to become a member you will automatically receive a copy. Please sign up!

**Election of the Board of Directors for 2009-2010:**

The candidates for election are:

President:	Nick Singh
Secretary:	David Fleming
Treasurer:	Kate Lawson
Past President:	Louis Gris
Directors:	Bill Roberts
	Sybil Wilkinson
	Ian McIsaac
	John Meijer
	Gared Daniel
	Ed Gaigalas

Sarah Doucette asked for further nominations for the Board of Directors. Gared Daniel nominated Elizabeth Elson. Her nomination was seconded by Bill Roberts. Nick Singh moved the nominations be closed the nominees were elected by acclamation. Bill Roberts motioned that the Executive be allowed to fill vacancies as required over the year. The motion was seconded by Sarah Doucette and carried.

**Guest Speaker Introduction:** Nick Singh introduced Mayor David Miller, detailing his City Hall tenure as a Councillor then Mayor: the Waterfront, the Gardiner Expressway, East Donlands, City Hall, Union Station and Parks. He is an advocate of initiatives from cycling to recycling. He has championed the City of Toronto nationally and internationally. He redefined the old City of Toronto Act to promote and keep local jobs. The true value of his legacy is yet to be valued.

**Guest Speaker - Mayor David Miller:** Mayor Miller started with a statement that Swansea demands a strong leader and a strong Councillor. He then presented a slide show and described the progress and innovations in Toronto:

- Progress:
  - Amalgamation
  - Financial support from the Federal government – 65% of Canadians live in cities with the majority of immigrants coming to Toronto. This requires financial support to build municipal success. Cities need money, legislative power and respect
  - Sustainable Transit – A priority for Toronto. Bus fleets, LRT's, subway and streetcar expansion is required. Transit City funding was announced in 2007
  - C40 – Toronto is a major participant in the innovative “C40”, 40 partner cities in 18 assorted countries
- Innovations:
  - Landfills – Acquired the Green Mills Landfill in London and is Using methane produced from land fills to produce power
  - Green Bins – produces gas to power the City's garbage fleet
  - LED Streetlights
  - Wind Turbines
  - Solar Panel Farm at Exhibition Place
  - Deep lake cooling
  - Concrete slab building insulation – cladding of 7 City buildings. Toronto is looking for a financing mechanism from the Federal government for energy retrofits

Toronto needs the Federal government to “Engage, Empower, and Resource” Toronto. We are leading the charge for climate change action. We are building Transit City and are increasing density. The Provincial government has announced big plans but has formalized little. The City is concerned that the governments will not follow through with promised funding or infrastructure. Constituents need to stand together in local and City issues to find a way to work with the Federal and Provincial governments. Hopefully they will keep their promises.

Mayor Miller took some questions from the floor:

- Will expansion of National Free Trade effect the City negatively?
  - This is a very serious topic and should be publicly debated. Water rights are a big issues and water should be “owned” by the people
- Affordable Housing - Is Swansea Mews being bought and converted to posh town homes?
  - **NO!!**
- How can Toronto attract more talent?
  - Toronto is inexpensive. It is low cost, competitive and people want to live here. We need to work on getting Federal and Provincial support to help.

**Adjournment:** Upon a motion by Bill Roberts, seconded by Sarah Doucette, and carried, Nick Singh adjourned the meeting at 9pm.