

2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM)  
South Eglinton Ratepayers' and Residents' Association (SERRA)  
Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Zoom Webinar

Minutes

Welcome & Call to Order

- Welcome by Andy Gort, SERRA President and Chair for the 2020 AGM
- The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.
- John Hiddema, Moderator introduced himself and described the agenda explaining how the voting will be conducted. He also described how the Q&A will be conducted, virtually.
- The land treaty acknowledgement of the traditional territory was read by John Hiddema
- Andy thanked John, acknowledged the state of the community in particular the impact of Covid-19, introduced himself and the board
- The Members of Board of Directors introduced themselves describing their current role including Jane Auster, Paul Newbigging, Al Kivi, Sue Simon, Bob Collins, Charles Iscove and Lilly McIsaac
- Andy proceeded to describe the agenda in more detail, highlighting the business meeting and town hall introducing the theme "Our Changing Midtown". He described why that theme was chosen for this meeting, and with particular focus on life post-Covid-19, underscoring the overdevelopment of midtown without the requisite infrastructure.

Minutes of the April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 AGM

- Minutes of last year's AGM were distributed to members in advance through the website and email
- Motion to accept the minutes of the 2019 AGM was by Andy Gort, seconded by Jane Auster. CARRIED

Finances – Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Paul Newbigging presented the Treasurers Report.
- Motion to accept the accounts by Paul Newbigging, seconded by Jane Auster. CARRIED
- Financial statements are available on the website and to all SERRA members on request

Elections to the Board of Directors

- Andy Gort described the value and process of volunteering
- All current Board Members were willing to continue to serve on the Board for the upcoming year, Andy Gort, Jane Auster, Paul Newbigging, Al Kivi, John Hiddema, Charles Iscove and Lilli McIsaac

- Two appointments required confirmation at the meeting, Sue Simon and Bob Collins were seeking confirmation of their appointment (joined Board since 2019 AGM).
- Motion to elect all persons on the list to be members of the Board of Directors of SERRA in the year to come, by Andy Gort, seconded by Jane Auster. CARRIED

Closed the business meeting with the motion by John Hiddema, seconded by Jane Auster.

### Town Hall – Our Changing Midtown

#### Speakers:

#### Andy Gort – President of SERRA

Andy spoke about a number of issues including the following:

- The provincial permissive development environment will result in higher height and density and rapid development now and well into the future in the midtown area.
- SERRA is very concerned about not just each application but rather the cumulative impact. The 37 tall and midrise developments since 2016 projects the population to increase from 25,000 to 45,000
- There are two major issues – absolute density of specific neighbourhoods (e.g. Soudan population growth from 6600 to 16,800, this equates to 75,000 residents/square km, one of the densest neighbourhood's in Canada) and secondly, the impact of this population growth on the wider area.
- It's like a giant object hitting a pond of water – rippling far beyond its immediate impact ... affecting transit, daycare, social services, new schools, rec facilities in a wide area. Looking beyond covid-19, what can we do?
- What has SERRA tried to do in the meantime? Tracking applications and recording, informing residents, describing how the development application process works, represent residents' concerns at LPAT etc. Working with councillors, residents, Davisville landowners and city planners to formulate a Public Realm, Park and Retail plan for the Davisville apartment neighbourhood through workshops.
- We continue to focus on other areas including heritage, traffic congestion, etc.
- How can you help? Join us, more member's means a greater voice.
- Donate and we need volunteers, if you have experience please contact us.

#### Jaye Robinson, City Councillor, Ward 15

- Jaye spoke to our inability, as neighbourhood, to hand this massive population influx, highlighting the number of cranes in Toronto (124) being second in NA only to Seattle at 43. In midtown, with current development the population is projected to increase 75%.

- In particular she underscored the traffic infiltration on residential streets, deficiency of parks and green space, the subways being overcapacity and schools being at capacity – resulting in the need to redirect students.
- She spoke to the reasons we fought so hard for Midtown in Focus plan. Reminding us that it was comprehensive, involving community, city, councillors – we were successful, got through council, minister of municipal affairs. The government changed and the new minister of municipal of affairs loosened the key requirements, and significant height changes.
- Regarding the Homeless shelter, she highlighted the fact that there was no consultation and initially not well orchestrated resulting in a very challenging summer. In the meantime, her team is working closely, weekly with police and city staff.
- Outcome of Covid-19 – hopeful news on the horizon. Covid has taught us much. We need wider side walks, parks and green space essential, reliable public transit – need to build ample infrastructure

Where do we go from here? Potentially 11,000 units in the pipeline [in SERRA area alone].

- We need to think about service delivery – need to modernize for example at TTC starting “as directed” buses, using technology more to match service to capacity, installing state of the art signaling which will increase capacity.
- Executing Construction hub coordination project – Protective and Proactive Workspace Safety. Move to “traffic agents” rather than “pay for duty” police officers.
- Most important thing we need to preserve is the voice and power of input into the decision making process. Showing up is the first step.

Josh Matlow, City Councillor, Ward 12:

- Josh initially spoke to the Covid-19 impact on our fellow citizens and the impact of building community and he reminded us not to forget the issues that are important to us.
- He spoke specifically a number of initiatives the city has done to try to help us get through the pandemic such as Café TO, Active TO, including possible bike lanes on Yonge Street. All of these initiatives would ideally continue into the future.
- In addition to the city wide programs, closer to home Josh spoke to the Midtown construction Hub with Stuart McGee– making sense of all the construction coordinating and planning – leads to safety and better mobility, the Beltline stations, open space and park space – example on Soudan
- Josh reminded us that there is a motion with the possibility to ban the noisy leaf blowers and equitable and safe sidewalks ie. Snow removal. He requested that we please go to his website to sign petition.
- Josh spoke at length about the shelter, again reiterating that it opened without consultation. He informed us of the efforts being made by the Major and city to resolve any and all issues. Criminality is unacceptable but he reminded us that

these are human beings and it's inhuman to protest and push them away.  
Concluding that permanent supportive housing is the long-term answer.

- Josh spoke to the number of developments in area and the challenges that have surfaced with the current provincial government, in particular the impact of Bill OPA405, gutting Midtown in Focus and reverting back to the old OMB tribunal approach.
- He encouraged people to attend his upcoming town halls to stay informed with the facts. He announced the Davisville TH, Long Term Care Town hall on Nov 30<sup>th</sup> and Community Safety Town hall.
- Josh concluded his session with a request to the attendees *How do we leave this place better than we found it? We need to pressure every level of government.*

#### Shelley Laskin – School Trustee, Ward 8:

- Shelley gave us updates on a number of activities, starting with the construction of Davisville PS which is still on scheduled for completion in July 2021
- They are continuing to advocate for 5 new kindergarten spaces despite initial application rejection from the province. With regards to Yonge Eglinton area, they are now redirecting students from 10 new buildings to schools outside of the area and Toronto Lands Corporation is exploring with Oxford Group the potential to include schools in their Canada Square plans.
- She reminded us that all schools are at capacity in the area and North Toronto is closed to all optional attendance effective Sept 2021
- She reminded us that she sends out a weekly update every Sunday night, it can be accessed on her website.

#### Rachel Chernos Lin, School Trustee, Ward 11:

- Rachel made us aware that Hodgson Middle School Capital Project has been approved for 832 new spaces, timelines are pending, design process in the works.
- She continues to meet weekly with police to table any issues regarding the homeless shelter. At the same time the shelter staff meet with schools. The initiatives underway appear to be working well. The shelter is doing their best to mitigate the safety concerns. However, there is still a concern that the drug trade is being brought into the area. She mentioned that there is no opportunity for the school trustees to weigh-in on the proposed Drug Consumption Site (for residents only)
- Rachel mentioned she has a newsletter encouraging parents to sign up on her webpage or follow her on twitter

Motion to Close the 2020 SERRA Annual General Meeting

After closing remarks (remembering passing of Rosemary Corbett, SERRA Board member) by SERRA President Andy Gort, at 9:05pm John Hiddema moved to close the meeting, seconded by Jane Auster. CARRIED

The text of the minutes was finalized on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for publication and distribution