

May 12, 2016

LORNA TOMASSONI [tomassoni8395@rogers.com](mailto:tomassoni8395@rogers.com)

Priscilla McLellan <priscilla.mclellan@gmail.com>; lauretta.santarossa@bell.net; James Town <james@parkdalehandydude.com>; Lavonne McCumber Eals <mceals@sympatico.ca>; Albert Caires <u9coach@rogers.com>; roger.riendeau@utoronto.ca; Debbie Crowe <dcrowe@strype.ca>; sean.snow@rbc.com; Catherine Holliday <catherine.holliday@utoronto.ca>; Peter & Diane Siroishka <laopi@sympatico.ca>; Mukesh Prada <mukesh3434@hotmail.com>; Corey Doan <coreydoan@hotmail.com>; diane nasadiuk <dnasadiuk@rogers.com>; Natasha Fahel <natashafahel@gmail.com>; Frank Martins <rinteriorshome@gmail.com>; Steven Li <steven.li@rci.rogers.com>; Dennis Wilson <dennisgwilson@yahoo.com>; Brenda Ford <brendacford@icloud.com>; mathy.varathan@gmail.com; Gaston Cufre <gcufre@gmail.com>; Jennifer Lee <jenniferlee24@gmail.com>; Richard Gislason <rgisee@gmail.com>; Krista Firth <kristafirth@gmail.com>; Subhash (Roy) Roi <subhash\_roy@hotmail.com>; Andre Adams <andreadams1@yahoo.com>; David Nicholson <davidnicholson@sympatico.ca>; Randy Smith <randy@visuallysound.biz>; Greg Barry <barry.greg@gmail.com>; Jacob Karsemeyer <jkarsemeyer@gmail.com>; David Boyle <samndave@pathcom.com>; Melissa Sheppard <melissa.content@gmail.com>; Brent Ferris <brent.ferris@me.com>; Luba Ferris <lubaferris@gmail.com>; Michelle Comma <michcomma@yahoo.ca>; Anvie Nguyen <anvie16@hotmail.com>; Craig Fleming <planetofcraig@gmail.com>; Stephanie Jamieson <stefjamies@aol.com>; Gloria Holmes <gloriah\_p@hotmail.com>; Gwen Chalmers <chalmers.gwendolyn@gmail.com>; Natasha Priest <natashapriest@sympatico.ca>; Nicholas Hryciw <hryciw@teksavvy.com>; Gaby Thatcher <gabythatcher@gmail.com>; Ashley Sheosanker <aashiqui.devi5@gmail.com>; Lee Clarke <yaihearya@yahoo.ca>; Janice Gricken <janicegricken@gmail.com>; Bob McKitrick <rmckitrick@hotmail.com>; jean scaglioni <louscagca@yahoo.ca>; Barbara Ernst <barbara.ernst@rogers.com>; John Scalena <scalena@rogers.com>; Joanna Tobin <j195914@hotmail.com>; Councillor Perks councillor\_perks@toronto.ca

Subject: Business Committee - Muzik Lease Extension

### **Muzik Lease Extension**

Once again, we are please for the opportunity to continue to add the residents' voice to the discussion on the lease extension and the changes to Muzik. We have repeatedly expressed our concerns about the problematic issues that have been associated with the current tenant including the safety of visitors to the site, the protection of the Horticultural Building and the Statues of the Greek Gods, and the degradation of the Park and Open Space areas.

We are very concerned about the changes to Exhibition Place initiated by a tenant who, as we have heard, has not adhered to its original lease. Our understanding, from the research that we have done, is that Exhibition Place approved initiatives after Muzik made changes, without prior approval and, without appropriate assessment. From our perspective, this doesn't demonstrate adherence to the stated Strategic Plan.

After reviewing the 2014-2016 Strategic Plan of Exhibition Place, we question how Muzik's operation justifies their plan for business expansion? If governance is considered important in the strategic plan, how has Muzik demonstrated respect for community open/green space and, visitor safety?

From the Strategic Plan we learned that:

- the western portion of Exhibition Place is landscaped public spaces and heritage buildings used largely for recreational and entertainment activities. The grounds are considered important green space for neighbourhoods to the west of the downtown core.
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- Exhibition Place is committed to exemplifying environmental responsibility in all its undertakings and, has made significant investments in innovative green technologies. The grounds of Exhibition Place, which are a public asset, are free and open to the public for community enjoyment.

- As a local board of the City of Toronto, Exhibition Place fosters and promotes business stimulation that generate positive economic impacts and benefits by supporting public celebrations, by investing, demonstrating and promoting innovation in environmental sustainability, by protecting, revitalizing and enhancing historically significant public assets and parkland while maintaining long-term financial stability

The Exhibition Place philosophy demonstrates:

1. honesty, integrity and belief in people,
2. an environment that contributes to the success of customers and tenants,
3. working together for a common purpose ,
4. a commitment to ongoing improvement by anticipating and exceeding needs as they evolve and ,
5. promoting environmental sustainability by caring and preserving the future of facilities and assets

The Strategic Plan also references the north edge of Exhibition Place as a gateway to the neighbourhoods to the north. According to the Strategic Plan, in making plans for the future, Exhibition Place must consider how it can offer more to the surrounding communities, as it increasingly becomes their city park space.

So, once again, we would like to ask, how does Exhibition Place justify:

- allowing tall fences to overtake the Park and Open Space surrounding Muzik,
- outdoor trailers to obscure the Statues of the Greek Gods,
- permitting the fences from allowing the public to appreciate the Horticultural Building which is a heritage and historical site, and
- maintaining the neighbourhoods concern about the police investigations of the assault charges and murders at Muzik which, during operation hours, can impact the safety of the neighbourhood and, visitors to the west end of the park.

The South Parkdale Neighbourhood Group would like the Business Committee to know that we are fine with, and accustomed to, public events at Exhibition Place. What we don't want, in our backyard, is gun violence, sanctioned disregard for public property and historical works of art, abuse and destruction of parkland, lack of proper security and, venues with unsafe working conditions .

Based on our concerns as citizens of Toronto, we continue to ask for the discontinuation of Muzik's operation at Exhibition Place. With this, we will restore the beauty of the Horticultural Building, appreciate the beautiful Statues of the Greek Gods and, have

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park and open space for the visitors to Exhibition Place.

We would like the Business Committee to recognize that Exhibition Place has a responsibility to ensure that tenants, like Muzik, maintain the historical and heritage value of the site, which is a federally registered Canadian historical landmark. As a neighbourhood of Exhibition Place, we ask why has Muzik received preferential treatment?

*We would like the Business Committee and members of the Board of Governors to remember the Canadian National Exhibition that they visited as a child. It was a beautiful park with fountains and flowers. It had recreational areas like baseball and basketball for youth. It had a playground for children. It was a great place to walk and have picnics. The grounds had events that were enjoyable for all, including the CNE Ex at the end of your summer vacation.*

*The pictures below show what is seen now when entering Exhibition Place from the west end. It is probably not what you remember it to be. The trailers, not only restrict the view of the Horticultural Building and the Statues of the Greek Gods, but also take up the green space appreciated by visitors to the grounds. Is this the Exhibition Place the Board of Governors wants to give the people of Toronto?*

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