

# **MIRANET Annual General Meeting: March 2, 2011**

## **Mississauga Strategic Plan Subcommittee Report**

*Delivered by Michael Spicer: Director, SJHRA*

I would like to provide a brief update on the MIRANET approach to the Mississauga Strategic Plan.

### **Context Review**

MIRANET views the Strategic Plan in the context of the other two major policy instruments in the City: the Official Plan and the Budget.

### **Process Review**

MIRANET has spent the past year and more learning about the Strategic Plan.

In April 2010, we held a 3-hour Strategic Plan Review and Workshop run by two of our member reps: Raya Shadursky (OHHA), an experienced facilitator, and myself, a management consultant. Ved Parkash from Rockwood Homeowners Association helped compile all the data that came out of the Workshop. All Strategic Goals were reviewed in detail, along with the supporting Actions. After spirited discussion, (fueled by candy bars) the entire Steering Committee identified six Strategic Goals that were considered the priorities for the immediate future and to be recommended to the City for focused attention.

### **Priority Strategic Goals**

1. Build a connected multi-modal transportation system  
*[But not at the expense of all those who have invested in the joys of Suburbia, and rely on cars to get them around the city]*
  - Accommodate the needs of cyclists  
*[How many rode their bikes here tonight?]*
  - Implement real time bus tracking
  - Establish transit stops within 10 minutes walk
2. Support aging in place  
*[I'm doing that even as I speak]*
  - Provide alternative housing types, designs and tenures in each neighbourhood.
  - Designate older adult clusters in nodes to provide better access to services, greater independence and a higher quality of life in mixed-use areas and urban corridors of the city, which offer everyday necessities of life within a short walk.
3. Develop walkable connected neighbourhoods
  - Complete neighbourhoods with accessible public squares
  - Build libraries or community centres within 10-15 walk
  - Pedestrian-first streets

#### 4. Create great public spaces

- Provide appealing destinations like interesting parks, plazas and unique natural environments
- Establish international landmark destination on the waterfront.  
*[Many MIRANET reps attended the recent Inspiration Lakeview sessions in order to help promote this exciting action]*
- Create “Central Park”

#### 5. Create partnerships for innovation

- Promotion of Centre of Health Care Excellence
- Sharing of emerging, innovative and creative industries

#### 6. Lead and encourage environmentally responsible approaches

*[As previously stated by Brian Holtham, MIRANET's new Environment Subcommittee will be on this case]*

- Conserve, enhance and connect natural environments
- Implement water conservation programs
- Develop green development standards

This year, we will continue our work to determine how we can promote and measure progress in these key areas.

NOTE: While these six selected Strategic Goals were felt to be the priority to be tackled first, there were other (secondary) goals and actions also selected at the Workshop.

The Strategic Plan is ambitious and far-reaching. To tackle all the Strategic Goals at once, will not result in recognizable success. The residents of Mississauga want to and need to understand that the long term delivery of the Strategic Goals of ‘their’ City is underway and can be measured, but also need to see some immediate returns on the significant investment of time and energy into participating in the Strategic Plan visioning process.

### **Synergy with Others**

We are thrilled that so many groups and citizens in Mississauga are actively working to support the City’s new Strategic Plan. We have met with representatives of the Mississauga Summit, and with the Strategic Plan Advisory Group. We believe it is essential for our citizens groups to have liaison with the academic, corporate, social service and not-for-profit sectors to ensure we reach our community goals. Our Subcommittee will soon be having an in-depth discussion with leaders of the Mississauga Summit to compare priorities and discuss how to promote implementation.

### **Progress Monitoring**

MIRANET feels that community sensing of progress/success is equally important to the measurement of success. We will be working at MIRANET to establish the methodology of how we’ll measure these community success factors over the next year and articulate progress.

As the Municipal Finance Subcommittee continues to monitor the 2011 Budget process and reviews the City's four-year Business Plan we hope to correlate capital spending with our priority items – we view the Capital Budget as the ultimate measure of progress on the Strategic Plan.

We would like to know what the City will be spending in 2011 or in the next 4-year business plan in support of the key goals we have identified. Indeed, we would like the City Budget to be presented in such a way that we can track progress on all Strategic Plan goals.

As our Spokesperson was quoted recently in the *Globe and Mail*: “We want to see alignment between the budget and the strategic plan... We don't **just** want to see a budget that keeps the lights on”.

The new Chair of the Strategic Plan Subcommittee in 2011 will be my colleague at SJHRA, John Hutchison (could you stand up?). Folks, please see John after the meeting if you'd like to join the Subcommittee and help promote the success of the City.

Michael Spicer  
Raya Shadursky  
Ved Parkash