



Meeting Minutes, Sunday, Jan 9th, 2022

List of Participants

1. Ron Stagg- Chair: Professor of History Ryerson
2. Rose Dyson-Media Scholar, Social Activist
3. Bruce Weber- Retired Nurse and Toronto Island Seniors Advocate
4. Carolyn Edgar- Retired Nurse
5. Lynn McDonald-Nightingale Scholar, Social Activist, Former MP
6. Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg- Professor UT, Social Activist
7. Elizabeth (Betty)Trott- Retired Philosophy Professor
8. Phyllis Creighton- Dictionary of Canadian Biography
9. Judy Mathews- C.M.,M.A.Ryerson Environmental Studies
10. Robert Timko- Philosophy Professor
11. Fran Graham- Relative of Ryerson
12. Tom Thorne- Ryerson -Founding Editor of The Eyeopener
13. Richard Dundas- Ryerson Grad-Dundas Family
14. Charles Campbell- Retired Lawyer
15. Don Mathews- MA Retired Teacher (Ryerson Family)
16. Anne Venton- Retired Librarian, University/Rosedale Liberal Riding Assns
17. Max Allen- Ryerson Alumni, CBC Producer
18. John Taylor- Ryerson Alumni, Sports Program
19. Peter Curtis - Activist Opposing Dundas Street renaming
20. Aline Novak
21. Rick Ryerson (Ryerson Family)
22. Kate McCrone- Professor Emeritus University of Windsor
23. Melanie Duras- Retired Teacher
24. Donna Nicol

Absent: Patrice Dutcl (chair of previous meeting) and Len Fortune

Chair: Ronald Stagg

Recorded By: Carolyn Lynn Edgar, Rose Dyson and Lynn McDonald

Agenda:

Minutes from Dec. 19th mtg.,
Approval of Mission Statement,
Next Actions,
New Business

Approval of minutes from previous meeting postponed until circulated.

Mission Statement: Being worked on.

Robert Timko requested that the paper co-authored by Elizabeth Trott and him not be posted on the website until after it has been presented at a conference in March, 2022

Overview of Discussion for New Initiatives:

Lynn McDonald emphasized the need for outreach to Ryerson alumni association, student groups including indigenous associations. Conservative group of Ryerson students has already been identified. Ron Stagg will investigate possible collaboration with them. A hurdle exists regarding any plan to send a copy of our letter to Doug Ford to all alumni members as the alumni office is at Ryerson University itself and would require clearance with the President.

More publicity, news releases, and letters to the editor required. A renewed call was made by Lynn for more letters to be sent out to MPPs of all parties. A follow-up letter was sent to Steven Del Duca, leader of the Ontario Liberal Party on behalf of Friends of E.R. by Rose Dyson.

Need expressed for more youthful involvement in plans for action

Charles Campbell and Max Allan called for a greater sense of urgency in our actions, given that a June provincial election is fast approaching. Focus of attention on other matters is likely to be shelved until the election is over.

A report in The Globe and Mail, December 15, 2021 on the name change proposal was discussed. A survey was conducted last month involving a limited number of students, staff and alumni to gather input on potential new names for the university. The analyzed data was to be given to a 15-person committee selected by the university. The committee will then compose a short list of 3-5 names for submission to President Mohamed Lachemi. A branding agency will be hired to consult on the possible choices. Of that list, one will be selected and presented by the President to the Board of Governors for approval. No further public consultations are planned. The new name is expected to be confirmed before the end of the academic year in April.

Ron Stagg pointed out that there has been very little transparency throughout the inquiry process. Dissenting voices and submissions from students, faculty and staff have been ignored. Conclusions from the original task force report were flawed and biased. The atmosphere at the university involves one of intimidation where students and faculty unhappy with the unfolding events are afraid to speak up.

Nevertheless, Ron reported that he gets numerous calls and letters from people who are upset about what is happening, which indicates that we have considerable support within the community at large.

New actions items proposed:

- A more militant approach is to be adopted.
- The possibility of legal action with a lawyer acting on a pro bono basis on our behalf to be explored by Max Allan, Charlie Campbell and Judy McCrone. The lawyer should be familiar with administrative law.
- A legal opinion will also be sought out on what exactly is required to halt the name change.
- Fundraising options to be explored by Max Allan.
- A proposal by Max for a mock trial was met with much enthusiasm. It would be a theatrical performance in which E.R. Ryerson would be defended as the wrongfully accused in the establishment of residential schools in the province
- Max, Charlie and Elizabeth Trott will explore the possibilities of such a performance, drawing upon the natural performing talent within the legal profession, itself, and the Arts and Letters Club, which also includes considerable resources in terms of acting and legal talent. A presentation on our objectives has already been made at the Arts and Letters Club, where Elizabeth is a member. A number of members are familiar with our objectives and are supportive.
- Max will explore the possibility of staging such a performance at Campbell House, given the historic ties between Sir William Campbell, who once lived in it as the first Chief Justice for the Province of Ontario, and E.R.
- If necessary, plans will focus on holding such a performance virtually, due to COVID restrictions but could be repeated as a live performance. Such an event holds the potential for more publicity and could also be a fundraiser.
- 1-page advertisement in the Globe and Mail with relevant excerpts from task force reports calling out the lack of accuracy was proposed. Costs to be investigated.
A YouTube posting of information on the erroneous accusations directed at Egerton Ryerson and initiatives to block the university name change was recommended by Anne Venton. Max to explore possibilities. Such a posting could be framed to catch the attention of young people.
- Robert Timko, a former university administrator, suggested the possibility of a judicial review of the proposal for name change, be explored through "commonwealth sunshine laws."
- Lynn will collaborate with John Taylor in setting up a meeting with Minister of Colleges and Universities

Next meeting: January 16th, 2022, 3 pm.