

# BLNA still opposed to revised Neville Park development plan

by Carole Stimmell

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**"IT'S NOT** over." Harold Tabone, spokesperson for the Beach Lakefront Neighbourhood Association (BLNA), wants to get out the message that the association will continue to fight the proposed condominium on the lakeshore at the foot of Neville Park.

Tabone said that, since Dermot Sweeny, the project's developer, sent out a press release just before spring break announcing that significant revisions had been made to the project after extensive consultation with the city and community, the association has received a number of phone calls from people who thought that the project was all but approved.

"We expected [a revised design] to happen," said Tabone.

In a statement released on March 19, the BLNA said that Sweeny had never "consulted" with the association.

"If the developer were genuinely interested in discussing changes with the communi-

ty, we would have expected the developer to seek a meeting with the BLNA and the community to discuss the proposed changes to determine whether they actually responded to the genuine concerns expressed during the public meeting in September 2007 before resubmitting to the City. This was not done."

The association feels very strongly that, despite the fact that the revised design addressed some of the concerns about height (a reduction from five to four storeys) and tree preservation, the proposed apartment-style building is "unacceptable in this location."

The developer's proposal to landscape the public lands at the foot of Neville Park also met with opposition from the BLNA.

"We do not see the need for changes in this area. It is quite attractive as it is. The fact the developer would promote this as something of value in exchange for support of the apartment building is simply an indication that the developer is 'tone deaf' in regard to the community's values."

Councillor Sandra Bussin said that she

only had time for a brief meeting with Sweeny before leaving for spring break. "I have made no decision on the revised proposal...It will be some time before the planning department makes a recommendation," she said.

However, Bussin believes that the design of the building still does not fit into the character of the neighbourhood, and that the proposal will require an official plan amendment.

She hopes to meet with the neighbourhood steering committee very soon to discuss the proposal.

Tabone said that the process to fight the proposal looks like it will be long and drawn out. "We have gotten great support from the community, but we need people to come to the plate financially."

The BLNA intends to hold a fundraiser in late April or early May.

He asks that anyone who wishes information on what the BLNA is planning or who wants to get involved, contact him at [htabone@northafind.com](mailto:htabone@northafind.com).