

TEA Environmental Priorities Mayoral Debate

MINUTES

23RD SEPTEMBER 2010 7:00PM

ST. SIMON THE APOSTLE CHURCH,
525 BLOOR STREET EAST.

MEETING CALLED BY	TEA – Toronto Environmental Alliance
TYPE OF MEETING	Mayoral Debate
MODERATOR	Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
ATTENDEE RECORD	<p>Mayoral Candidates: Mr. Rob Ford – LEFT AFTER 45 MINUTES AT 7:45PM. Mr. George Smitherman – ARRIVED LATE AT 7:30PM. Ms Sarah Thomson – PRESENT Mr. Joe Pantalone - PRESENT</p> <p>Mr. Rocco Rossi – NOT PRESENT</p> <p>TEA Members, Allies and Friends, general public</p>

6 Municipal Election Environmental Priorities

1. Build **Transit City** and Fund It.
2. Achieve 70% **Waste Diversion** by 2012.
3. Buy & **Support Locally-Produced Green Products.**
4. Build **Transportation Infrastructure** Everyone Can Use.
5. Implement the City's **Sustainable Energy Strategy.**
6. Provide Tools to **Prevent Pollution.**

Questions delivered by Gord Miller based on these 6 Environmental Priorities.

Opening Statement – 3 minutes

SARAH THOMSON

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frustrated with city – wants expansive subway system – get transit off streets • Solar panel housing • More room for bike lanes • Give incentives • Green Product manufacturing • More accountability/responsibility to front line workers

JOE PANTALONE

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City = Recognized green leader • Always considered himself an environmentalist – Italian farm roots – moved to Canada at 13 • Tree Planting/Wind Turbines • Environmental strategies to create jobs

ROB FORD

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business approach to politics• Customer Service # 1• Abolish certain taxes – disagrees where money is being currently spent• City Hall current expenditure = waste• City can't afford to implement energy conservation and environmental policies

Q1. How do you plan to bring energy conservation to all areas of the city?

ROB FORD

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lights off! Tame unnecessary energy consumption – need for penalties

SARAH THOMSON

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solar panels – Hydro Finance Program• Green/White Roof• Embrace all wings of environmental improvement

JOE PANTALONE

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give Hydro a conservation mandate – follow up• 'Be as green a mayor as mayor can be'

GEORGE SMITHERMAN (ENTRY 7:30PM)

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership – make progress!• Keep Hydro in public hands• Allow people to exercise their values• School Boards are ahead of city – why?• Lure green investment

Q2. What is your plan to get more city dwellers cycling?

SARAH THOMSON

DISCUSSION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University, Richmond, Adelaide – bike lanes within 4 years• More awareness signage• Reduce car vs. bike war• Current leadership problem – causing city to have a spending problem

JOE PANTALONE

DISCUSSION	

- The bike belongs! Healthy!
- Complete streets throughout Toronto
- Hydro corridor/Ravines

GEORGE SMITHERMAN

DISCUSSION

- Support bikers
- Improve existing road space
- Adopt kerbed separation (like Montreal)
- Bike expressways
- Educate kids in safe cycling
- Enhance existing integration
- Road construction - more urgency needed – i.e. Gardiner Expressway
- Emphasized delivery of policies

Q3. Waste – How do you suggest a way to increase waste diversion in households, and provide greater access to green bins?

SARAH THOMSON

DISCUSSION

- Open doors at City Hall to new green ideas/new concepts
- Reverse pulverization

JOE PANTALONE

DISCUSSION

- Technology is not always the solution
- Composts smell!

GEORGE SMITHERMAN

DISCUSSION

- Deal with as much compost on site within green home space
- Micro-composting solution – Digesters not incinerators

Q4. Transit City Plan – Subway vs. LRT

SARAH THOMSON

DISCUSSION

- LRT's underground – reduce gridlock and pollution
- Reduce travel time and cost – get people out of cars
- Face truths and deal with realities

JOE PANTALONE

DISCUSSION

- Believes in plan 100%
- Paralysis by analysis

GEORGE SMITHERMAN

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting plan but believes improvement on existing plan to progress• 2015 Pan Am Games – opportunity to complete transit by then. Do it!• 1 year tax freeze possible – 2 year surplus (City of Toronto)

Q5. What do you propose to collectively lead resources for environmental initiatives?

SARAH THOMSON

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental issues pushed off stage• Open more doors to green initiatives• Time shifting – use organizations• Attract business and innovators

JOE PANTALONE

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hard, but must be done• Move in multiple directions at the same time• No slowing down

GEORGE SMITHERMAN

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Too many initiatives may exhaust bureaucracy• Don't bite off more than we can chew• Help Toronto emerge as most sustainable city• Scarcest resource = Leadership and time

Closing Statements

SARAH THOMSON

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fed up with politicians• City Hall doors need to open• Learn from other cities• Consult with the community• Listen to people

JOE PANTALONE

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vision of city as envy of world• Investment, start building, stop talking• Tax increases are fine – it's an Investment; don't freeze and decrease revenue

DISCUSSION

- Apology for being late
- Stop Rob Ford
- Build Toronto with passion and intellect
- Get people into the city – open to the world for Pan Am 2015
- Jobs and environmental action
- Community responsible
- Waste diversion at community level