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**Sent:** Monday, May 1, 2017 11:49 AM  
**To:** North York Community Council; Councillor Carmichael Greb; Al Rezoski; Ben DiRaimo  
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**Subject:** NYCC May 2 2017 Agenda Item NY22.6 The Status Report on the Implementation of the Avenue Road Avenue Study  
**Attachments:** SAHRA Comments NYCC May 2 2017 ARAS Review.docx

Attached is a letter FROM THE South Armour Heights Residents' Association (SAHRA) on Agenda Item NY22.6 for distribution to the Councillors for the May 2, 2017 meeting. It would be appreciated if you would attend to distribution and inclusion on the Public Record. I will be attending to Depute on this item.  
Sheila Dunlop – Secretary (416-485-6718)

# SAHRA



South Armour Heights Residents' Association

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May 1, 2107

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## NYCC May 2 2017 Agenda Item NY22.6 The Status Report on the implementation of the Avenue Road Avenue Study

The South Armour Heights Residents' Association ("SAHRA") is pleased that the City has completed a review of the 14 outstanding Recommendations from the Avenue Road Avenue Study report prepared in 2009.

Since the time of the initiation of the Review directed by City Council in May, 2015 some Public Realm improvements (Astral street furniture, TTC shelters, bicycle rings, tree care) have been completed.

The Recommendations list a number of additional 'easy' (funding exists/not expensive projects/standard improvements that the City should provide for an Avenue/can be done in the near future) Public Realm improvements that we hope will be completed in 2017 (painting of traffic control boxes, planting of trees at specific locations, on-going Brookdale Park improvements, tree planting at the 401/Avenue Road interchange).

Avenue Road is disfigured by Boulevard parking – 20 locations for over 69 parking spaces but often the actual number of cars is in excess of the permitted number. Recommendation 1 (b) calls for the conversion of commercial boulevard parking permits. It will not be easy to revoke these permits as the store owners and tenants all want parking for themselves and their customers. But hopefully, over time starting with permit renewals in January 2018, the Councillor and the City can eliminate boulevard parking at these 12 corners to convert the areas into pedestrian friendly, attractive landscaped areas.

SAHRA is concerned that the 'Recommendations' section only addresses 'quick' or 'easy' tasks which are sub-tasks within the 14 outstanding Recommendations. Planning has stated that the Recommendations remain in effect but they are now just listed under 'Ongoing Initiatives'. These are the more important/more difficult Recommendations (costly projects/requires funding/involved with future developments/will take longer to complete). SAHRA and OOGRA (Old Orchard Grove Resident' Association) will continue to ask our Councillor and the City departments to follow-through on these Recommendations.

The City has also defined 'Other Initiatives' – new ideas for improvements – with thoughts on what could/should be done. In Attachment 6: Greening and amenity improvements progress list', Planning has also provided ideas on possible improvements for specific sites.

As the Report states, the Avenue Road corridor could be "visually improved and its pedestrian amenity increased" by:

- the provision of more parkland within the areas west and east of Avenue Road (the lowest and second lowest quintiles of parkland respectively) - the SAHRA area has NO parks
- Potential use of boulevards on flanking streets for parkettes and informal seating areas
- Increased tree canopy, achieved through additional street tree planting and improvements to growing conditions - "Avenue Road has a very low tree canopy of LESS THAN 10% - this is lower than many other commercial main street areas in Toronto".



As Upper Avenue is tree canopy deficient and park deficient, SAHRA believes that all Recommendations related to trees and parks should be considered as **PRIORITY** items. We would ask that Council direct the City to take action not only on the Recommendations but also on the On-going Initiatives and Other Initiatives listed below.

#### Recommendations

- 1(b) Conversion of commercial boulevard parking (12 sites)
- 2 Tree planting at 2175, 2177, 2181 and 1997 Avenue Road  
Improvements to Cranbrooke Avenue entrance to Brookdale Park and park improvements  
On-going improvements and installation of a pedestrian trail in Brookdale Park
- 3 Tree planting at the 401/Avenue Road interchange under the Highway of Heroes Tribute program

#### On-going Initiatives

- #10 Acquire Roe Avenue Bus Loop should it be declared surplus by the TTC and create a parkette
- #12 Green fingers (part of boulevard conversion task) for 15 sites
- #11 Alternative beautification of Dunblaine Avenue corners

#### Other Initiatives

- Gateway landscaping and open space reorganization at Armour Heights Community Recreation Centre and Library and the TCHC building at 192 Wilson Avenue
- Roe TPA Parking Lot street planting and landscape screening
- Create a landscaped and lighted pedestrian walkway to Avenue Rd at the 246 Brooke TPA Parking Lot
- Develop and implement a streetscape and greening plan for Upper Avenue

#10 The Roe Avenue Bus Loop parkette possibility is of great concern to SAHRA and OOGRA as it is the only possible parkette site on Upper Avenue. Councillor Carmichael Greb stated on April 28, 2017 that she is committed to turning the Roe loop into a parkette. Once the TTC declares the property surplus, she will work with Parks staff and the community to move this vision forward. She is working with Parks to come up with funding to conduct site remediation and build a parkette.

We wish to thank Councillor Carmichael Greb, Planning and all the City Departments who have been involved with this Review for their concern for Upper Avenue.

The Avenue Road Avenue Study although prepared in 2009 continues to be a 'living' document.

We look forward to on-going progress on the Recommendations and Initiatives to ensure that Upper Avenue continues to be a vibrant area for our commercial enterprises as well as for our residents.

Yours truly

Sheila Dunlop, Secretary

<p>Email: Joe Nanos (Planning) Elyse Parker (Public Realm) Jennifer Keesmaat (Chief Planner) John Livey (Deputy City Manager) Ron Johnson, Bob Williams, Jim Sadler, Gary Langdon, Anne Nizet-Bauraind (SAHRA) France Rochette, Pam Main, Debra Satok (OOGRA) G. T. Ronan, James LeNoury, Heather Crawford, S. Gladstone, J. Ballard</p>	<p>J. White (Transportation Services) Richard Ubens (Parks) Mayor John Tory</p>
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