



July 11, 2022

Executive Committee, City of Toronto

Dear Committee Members,

Re: Agenda Item EX34.4, Priority Downtown Parks and Public Realm Opportunities - Report for Action

I am writing on behalf of the Sir William Campbell Foundation, which operates Campbell House Museum at the northwest corner of University and Queen. The Foundation has an interest in EX34.4 because Campbell House Museum is part of the landmark intersection at University and Queen, which will be an important element of University Park. But Campbell House Museum is more than simply an adjacent stakeholder: It has a significant interest in seeing University Park realized for two reasons.

Firstly, the museum's mission is to inform and inspire visitors through its "unique context in the heart of downtown Toronto." As a result, the museum is deeply engaged with the local community, including as a co-partner with the Grange Community Association (GCA) on a public realm improvement project called Relic Linear Park, part of the City Council-approved Grange Green Plan. The southern element of Relic Linear Park, which begins construction this season, runs north-south on Simcoe Street, one block to the west of University Park. Campbell House Museum and the GCA imagine connecting points between Relic Linear Park and University Park. We had an exploratory meeting with Evergreen and the Michael Young Foundation just before the pandemic struck.

Secondly, I have recently expressed the Sir William Campbell Foundation's concerns about Metrolinx's plan to locate the Ontario Line's Osgoode Station infrastructure in the heritage-designated Osgoode Hall Garden, in a presentation to the Planning and Housing Committee on May 31 and in a letter to City Council for its June 15 meeting. Implementation of University Park at the intersection of University and Queen would provide a potential alternative location for the Ontario Line infrastructure and avoid irreversible negative impacts to the Osgoode Garden.

Given the Ontario Line's timeline and anticipated damage to the Osgoode Garden, I am writing to express **strong support for the Report for Action: Priority Downtown Parks and Public Realm Opportunities, in particular:**

- The identification of University Park as one of the three priority parks to be developed
- The stage-gated approach and "potentially incremental endeavour" for advancing University Park
- The proposed near-term next steps (p 15), especially the "Capital Project Coordination Strategy: continued coordination with adjacent public and private capital projects in order to protect and support future opportunities for transformation. This will include coordination on the design and construction of the Ontario Line's Osgoode Station, civil infrastructure rehabilitation including roads, bridges and/or utilities, and other capital projects throughout the study area" (emphasis added).

We are encouraged by the Mayor's stated commitment to find an alternative location for the Osgoode Station infrastructure and welcome the new momentum for University Park.

Sincerely,

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