

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Finch-Warden Revitalization Study Working Group Meetings **Urban Form**

- Meeting started at 7:00 p.m. ended at 9:45 p.m.
- Approximately 40 to 50 people attended the meeting
- Both Councillor Del Grande and Councillor Kelly were present
- A representative from Malibu Investments Inc. and a representative from Stand Up Bridletowne were present
- It was around 1C with some flurries/wet snow outside
- Presentation was given by City Planner, Mike Mestyan introducing the study and the objectives of the working group meetings, definitions, outline of study, and the timeframe

Strength/Opportunities (Feedback from the community)

- Feels like it's the country, its quite/peaceful, not congested
- Enjoy the park/bike path across from hospital – its nice for walks
- Green spaces, not downtown – no traffic, it feels like you are in Algonquin Park
- Feels like the suburbs, not like downtown – have a variety of different species of birds in the community (would like to see bird friendly development)
- Have a mainstream mall (i.e. Agincourt and Bridletowne) not 'cultural'(i.e. Pacific Mall)
- The mall is great – people who live close to it say its quite
- Elbow room – lawn around buildings, its not like Yonge/Eglinton
- Rush-hour is not bad, if it gets backed up you can take a side street and keep moving

Future Meetings (What community would like to see)

- Send out agenda before hand so people know what questions to ask/prepare – topics are listed on the timeline
- Give notice as to who the speakers will be at the meeting – would like a speaker from the hospital
- Get in touch with the Hospital
- People are okay with meetings being extended to 2.5 hours
- Mike Mestyan suggested a walking tour of the study area

Presentations

- Presentation was given by Principal Urban Designer, Rob Stephens on density
- Presentation was given by Planner, Christopher Dunn on The Mayors Towers Renewal Project

Comments/Feedback

- Concern the density may lead to another St. James Town, Crescent Town, Jane/Finch

- Fear of isolation if there isn't enough services/business to accommodate the growth of population that is proposed (mention several times)
 - Fear of not having the appropriate services in the community
 - Concern with form – setbacks should match existing setbacks, not be right up to the street (safety concerns)
 - Concern with access to business/services
 - Concerns relating to density of proposal at 2900 Warden Avenue
 - Concern with the lack of sidewalk space, seniors need wider sidewalk space
 - Concern with the targeted market for 2900 Warden Avenue application
 - Fear of the Yonge/Sheppard 'disaster' – too congested, a nightmare for cars
 - Concerned with the 2900 Warden Avenue application – fear accessibility to the mall, proposed buildings in the South end of the site would block of access to the mall
 - Connectivity – fear of visual barrier to services
 - Form – would like to see trees in centre of main roads, would be an attractive look for the community, would increase value of homes
 - Do not want roads that look like throughways
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- An update on the 2900 Warden Avenue applications was given by Senior Planner, Renrick Ashby
 - People formed groups by location and were encourage to selected a spokesperson to represent their location at future meetings