

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

## **Finch-Warden Revitalization Study Working Group Meetings** **Recap of Previous Meetings**

- Approximately 35 to 40 people attended the meeting

Introductions were given by City Planner, Mike Mestyan and he discussed what happened at the last 4 working group meeting

Presentation was given by Principal Urban Designer Robert Stephens from Urban Design on Urban Design and Community Safety

### Comments (Feedback from the community)

- Excellent presentation about safety, but you did not mention putting a business in an underground parking lot to create public safety (like the Police mentioned)
- Resident asks staff which parking solution is better surface and underground parking?
  - Robert suggests you can't compare the two, it depends on the site, vulnerability is up to how the public space is presented
- Resident suggests surface parking has more eyes than underground
  - Robert suggests example of Scarborough Town Centre – its surface parking and its very vulnerable
- Business on parking level is good as long as it has people coming and going all day long, helping to have “eyes on the street”.
- Medical offices have people coming and going, but may have limited hours
- Suggestion to locate public library in underground to provide “eyes on the street” and support safer condition.

Presentation was given by Susan Bookbinder on Community Service

### Comments (Feedback from the community)

- Seems from the city perspective we have gone from a desirable neighbourhood to a priority (problem) community where United Way is stepping in to help out
- My observations is the activities we offer are available for everyone from the city, half the people from the programs are not from our community, want to limit the enrolment by postal codes than people that live here could actually be in the programs
- Planning has the role to plan and this issue with people coming from other areas to use our programs should be part of the planning
- Schools you only let kids go there that live there
- What happens to money that is generated by Development fees, does it go directly to community where development occurs or City wide?
  - It all goes to City Treasurer.

- Suggest little improvements recently in community, while the need is great. Suggestion that community needs to become vocal in its attempts to get more attention and money.
- Expansion and need – areas that get development should have get a percentage of the money going to it.

Presentation was given by Mario Silvo (TDSB) on Schools

Comments (Feedback from the community)

- The senior school is included in the study area but the junior school, which is right beside it is not and its right in the middle of the area
  - Senior schools boundaries are larger and junior schools have smaller boundaries
- Capacity and enrolment are major issue
- If the school is 98% we should expand the school where are the new kids going to go?
- Community understands Beverly Glen its not at full capacity because its French immersion so they can't accept English students there, have some concern over this.
- Concerned the board doesn't make projections far enough out to accurately reflect growth.
- Important to keep in mind that the schools they are thinking of closing will be needed in the next couple of years.
- Concerned over impact of potential development on school population
- Timothy Eaton's article in The Star need for this type of school, we need to market schools like this so parents know to enrol their kids there
- Suggestion to have students from new development enrolled at Timothy Eaton school.

Presentation was given by Toronto Hydro on Hydro

Comments (Feedback from the community)

- Clarification on tree trimming provided.
- Much of area does not have overhead wires, however main feeders are overhead and require tree trimming
- Residents still concerned with power outages.
- There has been nothing done to the feeder since the outages
- Suggestion that power outages could be due to work by Toronto Water in the neighbourhood.
- Questioned Hydro on process of obtaining a permit from the City to dig on City property.

Presentation was given by Toronto Water on Water

Comments (Feedback from the community)

- Some condo units were flooded but never reported to the city
- What about condos that have flat roofs, can't disconnect the downspout
- When will the study of Basement Flooding be completed, will it be done prior to the approval to this project?
- Raised issue of basement flooding at 3131 Bridletowne Circle
- The board says they talked to the City and nothing was done, there is a crack in the foundation
  - Councillor Del Grande –haven't received any information about this before
- Storm systems leaks into the sanitary and causes floods, the sanitary doesn't look like its adequate and the new development will for sure have an effect on this

Presentation was given on Transportation and TTC

Comments (Feedback from the community)

- Residents not satisfied with practice and frequency of traffic counts
- Resident wants bus bays at every stop before the intersection. Ones after the intersection cause cars to line up behind the bus within the intersection on a red light.
- Concerned if LRT is built on Sheppard Finch Ave bus service will get worse?
- People use Finch rather than Sheppard because of the express bus that's on Finch (its more convenient for the riders to take the express)
- Question why doesn't the No. 139 bus go down the DVP?
- Residents question numbers of LRT riders vs subway riders on Sheppard and would like to see data and how its modelled.
- Resident beleive service will be slow on LRT and riders would rather drive to Fairview Station.

Presentation was given by Ralph Gain on YouthLink

Comments (Feedback from the community)

- What is the commitment from United Way for initial capital?
  - \$1 million
- Entirely for the hub but the addition of new people will put stress on the demand for the hub, you will have people looking for the services that you provide
- If you have were offered space at Finch and Warden, what would be affordable for you guys?
  - \$26/sq ft isn't reasonable, something in the range of \$10-\$15/sq ft would be feasible but its hard to find space that would be accessible
- People coming to these hubs, how do they get there?
  - Many walk or use public transit