

City of Toronto, Waterfront Secretariat
Western Waterfront Master Plan Public Meeting

November 26, 2007, 6:30 – 9:00 pm
City Hall, Committee Room 2

MEETING RECORD

This Meeting Record represents a brief summary of the Public Meeting. It is based on the materials presented and feedback received, both during and after the meeting. This Meeting Record will be posted online. If you have any questions about this Meeting Record, please contact Graeme Burt at the planningAlliance (gburt@planningalliance.ca or 416-593-6499)

Introduction

The meeting began with opening words from Elaine Baxter, Director of the Waterfront Secretariat. Ms. Baxter introduced the newly appointed consultant team, as well as their presentation, and invited comments from the audience regarding:

1. Proposed civic engagement strategy
2. Identified opportunities and constraints
3. Draft problem/opportunity statement for a Municipal Class EA related to potential infrastructural improvements.

Both Councillors, Bill Saunderson (Ward 13) and Gord Perks (Ward 14) contributed opening remarks.

The presentation by John van Nostrand (planningAlliance) commenced after the opening remarks. The presentation included an overview of the study, the proposed civic engagement strategy, a background review and analysis, an overview of the municipal class environment assessment process, and a description of the next steps. After the presentation John van Nostrand led the project team through public questions and comments.

Issues / Questions

The following summary highlights the key issues and questions of participants at the meeting, as well as written remarks provided on comment sheets. The comments outlined have been grouped thematically and do not reflect the order in which they were raised throughout the meeting.

Western Waterfront Transit EA

1. Status of the Western Waterfront Transit EA and the east/west link
 - A public meeting on the Western Waterfront Transit EA is expected in January 2008, with expected completion date of EA for spring'08
 - The western waterfront master planning process will dovetail closely with TTC's plans

1987 OAA Waterfront Plan and 1988 DTAH Plan

2. Inclusion of the 1987 Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) Waterfront Plan and the 1988 du Toit Allsop Hillier (DTAH) Plan in the master planning process
 - *Both plans were incorporated into the plan completed by planningAlliance in 1992 – and continue to be referenced today*

Humber River / Deflector Arm

3. Status of the Humber River Plume and Deflector Arm proposal
 - *TRCA is hoping to mitigate and/or minimize the Humber Plume through mitigation upstream*
 - *Deflector Arm is one proposal on the table, but TRCA is focusing on upstream mitigation through their Humber River Watershed Plan*
4. Humber River is the only River with Canadian Heritage River Designation in Toronto – implementation of the deflector arm may impact this designation

Nature

5. Are the fish in the lake edible? Could they be edible in the future?
 - *Fish and potential human consumption have not been analyzed for this study*
 - *Ministry of the Environment puts out a 'Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish' that identifies which fish are appropriate to eat and in what quantities*
6. Views toward the environment have changed drastically in the past 15 years – and habitat creation / enhancement should now be encouraged.

Parks and Connections

7. Possibility of providing a stronger link between Lake Ontario and Grenadier Pond in High Park – and between ecosystems along the entire waterfront.
8. Marilyn Bell Park – historically this piece of land is very important in Canadian History. It is assumed that the invading American forces landed within the present day park (War of 1812).
9. Connections to and within the study area are ill-defined and few and far between.
10. It will be important to balance Parks functions both locally and regionally.
11. Streetscape improvements on key north-south connections should be encouraged.

Leases

12. What is the status and future of leases in the western waterfront area?
 - *Most leases are for a maximum of 20 years. The leases are reviewed at that time and, renewed, if appropriate.*
 - *Lease renewal and capital investment approvals are based on many factors, including the historical significance of the establishment.*
 - *Leased land is public because the City owns it*
13. Conflicts between leased areas (private land use) and unleased areas (public land use).
 - *Important to note that leased areas provide important amenities for people, including food and beverage provision*

Parkdale – High Park Residents Waterfront Group

14. Circulated a handout at the beginning of the presentation that proposes Terms of Reference to be included in the Plan. Much of the presentation covered these Terms of Reference. Two points were highlighted:
 - *Noise mitigation along the transportation corridor should be considered*
 - *Conflicts between cars and other modes of transportation, as well as between active and passive uses.*

Traffic Operations

15. The master plan should address whether the Gardiner Expressway should be removed, transformed, etc. in this area.
16. Possibility of speed reductions on the Lakeshore should be examined.

Heritage

17. French History in the study area should be celebrated.

Civic Engagement Strategy

18. Community Advisory Group meetings should be held in evenings to maximize attendance.
19. High resolution drawing and plans should be posted to the project website.