July 7, 2014

Deputation for Toronto City Council Agenda Item TE33.16

Final Report - Queen Street East Visioning Study (Coxwell Avenue to Nursewood Road) - City-Initiated Official Plan Amendment

- The Greater Beach Neighbourhood Association (GBNA) is an umbrella initiative by the major resident associations in the Greater Beach area.
- GBNA participated in the 2012 Visioning study for Queen Street East and supported the adoption by City Council of the subsequent Queen Street East Urban Design Guidelines (UDG).
- The community, having participated in the process of developing the UDG, have the hope and expectation that the UDG would serve as the guiding principles for new development on Queen Street East, which would respect and reinforce the existing character of the area.
- It is therefore important to the community that these principles be recognized in the City's Official Plan in order to assure that they will be effective in guiding future development. For example, a recent decision of the Ontario Municipal Board allowing an appeal of a development proposal at a prominent location in our community (SE corner of Queen Street East and Woodbine Avenue) stated that,
"The Board notes the absence of any official plan policy directive to 'maintain the existing character of this portion of Queen Street East'."

- GBNA therefore strongly supports the recommendation of the City Planning Division for adoption of a City initiated Official Plan Amendment which would create Area Specific Official Plan Policy No. 466.
- Your vote will demonstrate Council’s commitment to the community to uphold the vision for Queen Street East that is embodied in the UDG.

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About GBNA

- Greater Beach Neighbourhood Association (GBNA) is an umbrella group of multiple resident associations in the Greater Beach area of the City of Toronto. GBNA believes in responsible property development policies and practices.

- In 2012 a number of resident associations in Ward 32 in the City of Toronto covering the greater Beach area from Coxwell Avenue to Victoria Park Avenue and from Lake Ontario to the railway corridor south of Danforth Avenue came together to form GBNA. GBNA is a non-profit umbrella organization representing our community in matters related to the land-use planning policies that influence development in our neighbourhoods, including their administration and impact on infrastructure and services.

- GBNA’s member groups include:
  
  - Beach Triangle Residents Association
  - Kew Beach Neighbourhood Association
  - Toronto Beach East Residents Association
  - Friends of Glen Davis Ravine
  - Norwood Park Residents Association
  - Beach Waterfront Community Association
  - Balmy Beach Neighbourhood Association

- GBNA’s objectives include:

  1. working with elected and non-elected members of the City and Provincial government as well as the media to ensure that public policies are compatible with our neighbourhoods and the needs of our residents,

  2. standing together as a group to ensure that any property development and redevelopment is in keeping with the Official Plan, Zoning By-Laws and other applicable legislation, policies or guidelines irrespective of the local association area in which an application is made,

  3. working together to ensure genuine participation by our residents in the review of the City’s Official Plan and in the formulation of other development policies and practices affecting our area, and

  4. working with other like organizations across Toronto and the Province to coordinate residents’ viewpoints and positions across City and Provincial levels of government.