TORONTO Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM55.49	ACTION			Ward:19

Proposed Improvements to Bill Johnston Park and Liberty Village Park in Liberty Village - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Ceta Ramkhalawansingh

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Acting General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to work in consultation with the local Councillor toward the construction of a unique, enclosed dog off-leash area in Bill Johnston Park, and on general improvements to Liberty Village Park.

Summary

Liberty Village is a unique neighbourhood in one of the densest areas of Toronto. The need to ensure that our green spaces function to meet the needs of our residents is magnified when there is limited space to share and enjoy.

Since 2012, Councillor Layton's office has been working closely with local residents to determine their priorities for parks via community meetings and public surveys. The support for an enclosed dogs off-leash area (DOLA) in Bill Johnston Park, and playground and aesthetic improvements in Liberty Village Park is overwhelming.

While the proposed enclosed DOLA does not meet the People, Dogs and Parks - Off-Leash Policy, it is important to note that many of the concerns listed in this policy are negated by the unique character of the neighbourhood this DOLA would be located within. With respect to its appearance, there is a comparable private DOLA facility on Joe Shuster Way in Ward 14.

Liberty Village Park has become a hub for social activity in Liberty Village, hosting Arts festivals, movie nights and other community initiated events. Improving the park and onsite playground to meet the demands on the space is of the utmost importance to local residents.

Funding for the hiring of a consultant to design these two plans was approved by City Council during the 2014 Operating and Capital Budget discussions.

(Submitted to City Council on August 25 and 26, 2014 as MM55.49)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM55.49