

West Don Lands Committee

June 17, 2014

Citizens for the Old Town /
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

Corktown Residents & Business
Association

Distillery Historic District

Dixon Hall

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation

Friends of Corktown Common

Goederham & Worts Neighbourhood
Association

Little Trinity Anglican Church

St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood
Association

Task Force to Bring Back the Don

Members of the Planning and Growth Management Committee

Councillors:

Re. Item PG34.11 – Port Lands Acceleration Initiative Phase 2 – Progress Report

The West Don Lands Committee commends staff for their excellent work in preparing this robust Progress Report and Land Use Direction. We urge the Planning and Growth Management Committee to endorse and adopt the recommendations set out in the report. We also wish to highlight for Council and staff several commitments and directions relating to ongoing Port Lands

planning that are of great importance to us as stakeholders. We request that Council take note of these highlighted points in their direction to staff.

The West Don Lands Committee has participated vigorously and enthusiastically in every phase of planning for the Port Lands since Waterfront Revitalization began almost 15 years ago. We are a coalition of resident, business, environmental, heritage and civil society organizations, working to build a vibrant, sustainable community in the West Don Lands and adjacent waterfront areas. We have contributed to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and to all the Public Meetings in this phase of Port Lands Acceleration.

We are gratified to see that the Progress Report addresses the following matters and wish to reinforce staff's and our own commitments to give them prominence through the completion of the Port Lands Framework, precinct plans and related planning studies:

- Finding compelling and transformative adaptive uses for the Hearn;
- Completing the Greenway link south of the Ship Channel as a biological corridor between the natural areas of the Mouth of the Don and Lake Ontario/Tommy Thompson Park;
- Greening the city-owned lands of the west side of Leslie Street, south of Commissioners, at the head of the Ship Channel;
- Strengthening the green space south of the Ship Channel by pursuing opportunities to straighten Unwin Avenue and protect the natural areas south of Unwin.

We also wish to reinforce several matters we have discussed with staff in our role as Stakeholders and to confirm the commitment from staff to continue working towards positive outcomes through the Port Lands Acceleration process:

- Planning charrette on the Ship Channel to find compatible public access and uses that gain full advantage of the incredible place-making potential of this water feature;
- Planning charrette to determine best, potentially innovative new public access routes between City and South of Ship Channel;

- Development of a robust Biodiversity framework specific to the Port Lands, recognizing its unique position as an interface between dense urban fabric and outstanding natural habitat;
- Continued pursuit of state of the art sustainability guidelines for the area, which we wish to see directed towards a goal of zero net energy import with zero waste export;
 - Specifically to address the waste management concerns, we would urge the consideration and study of the newest generation of waste management technologies in or in conjunction with Port Lands revitalization.

We urge councillors to consider specific directions to staff to work on these matters within the overall framework of the recommendations set out in the staff report before you.

Finally we entirely support the recommendation to initiate discussions with the Federal and Provincial governments with respect to one-third funding contributions to Port Lands flood protection and related infrastructure. The transformative potential of the Port Lands has been clearly identified through the PLAI. The substantial costs to effect the transformation should be shared with the other levels of government, who respectively stand to benefit substantially from development of the Port Lands.

Yours truly,



Cynthia Wilkey
Chair, West Don Lands Committee
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cc. Councillor Paula Fletcher