



May 4, 2015

Re: May 5&6, 2015 Toronto City Council Meeting

Agenda Item GM3.11

**Lease of Pantry Park in Exchange for the Release of Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
Option on 80 Northern Dancer Boulevard**

To: Mayor Tory and City Council

Greater Beach Neighbourhood Association (GBNA) is writing to request that the above-noted Item GM3.11 be deferred until there has been further public consultation about the nature and potential implications of this very important issue for our community.

Agenda Item GM3.11 concerns the future of very important green space in the Beach neighbourhood – Pantry Park and Woodbine Park. The significance of this issue to our community was illustrated by the large crowd that attended an information session on April 28 at Kew Beach School about the proposed lease and land swap.

This was the only community consultation about the transactions, and it left many attendees with further questions and concerns.

This issue has moved extremely quickly. The report of the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation outlining the proposed land swap and Pantry Park lease was prepared on March 19, 2015. The report was considered by General Government Committee less than 3 weeks later (April 8, 2015), and will be before City Council less than 7 weeks after the report was written.

GBNA is noting three points of community concern:

1. While the terms of the proposed lease will maintain public access to the site during non-school hours, details such as fencing, methods of access, fees for sports events, etc. have not been disclosed.
2. The lease is part of a “swap” wherein TDSB releases its option on a parcel of land in Woodbine Park. The details of the option which the TDSB currently holds over this parcel are not clear, nor has the need for the transaction to proceed so quickly been explained.

3. The implications of the Pantry Park lease on the existing Kew Beach School playground, which is currently enjoyed as open space along Queen St., are not clear. Could this land be subject to development if it was to be declared surplus to TDSB needs?

In summary:

- These transactions are very important to the community, as they affect significant green space and park land.
- No explanation has been given as to why there is a need for the City to complete the land swap and Pantry Park lease in such an urgent manner.
- The need for the transactions, and their potential effects, are not well understood by the community.

GBNA therefore respectfully requests that Agenda Item 3.11 be deferred until further community consultation has been undertaken.

Thank you

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cc. Councillor McMahon

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 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 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

Associate Members:

- Beach Hill Neighbourhood Association
- Kingston Road Village 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. 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
3. working with other like organizations across Toronto and the Province to coordinate residents' viewpoints and positions across City and Provincial levels of government.