

PARKSnotCondos

Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood

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June 1, 2017

Mr. Gregg Lintern
 Director, Community Planning
 Toronto and East York District
 City of Toronto

via email: susan.mcalpine@toronto.ca

Re: Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Plan

Dear Mr Lintern:

Thank you for arranging a meeting of ParksNOTCondos (PnC) with your planning staff regarding the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Plan study. As you know PnC was excluded from involvement at the November 28th, 2016 meeting called by councillor Cressy where the final Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Plan was presented to the community, most of which were present to support the PnC plan.

The planning consultation process surrounding the Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Plan has been lengthy. The planner responsible for Bathurst Quay stated she has been working on this file for 23 years. This timeline has been far too long and appears to be continuing at a glacial pace.

The Waterfront Secretariat provided us with an 'interim' (10 years+) streetscaping plan for Bathurst Quay. PnC is not interested in this, sees it as a delay tactic, and does not support a 10 year plan of any type. It has been 30 years since the Federal Government licensed Bathurst Quay to the city of Toronto **as parkland** and part of the Harbourfront redevelopment.

It is important to note that during this 30 year period Waterfront Toronto was conceived, funded by three levels of government, and has transformed the Toronto waterfront. What's the delay by the City?

PnC was born out of the community's frustration with Planning's proposal to have mixed-use development on Bathurst Quay showing large towers appearing on land licensed to the City by the Federal Government to be specifically used as parkland.

PnC was not permitted to present their plan at the Nov 28th, 2017 meeting and were relegated to presenting in a congested hallway outside the meeting room. It is also significant to acknowledge that most of the attendees at the meeting were there because PnC volunteers communicated the time and place of the public meeting. An overwhelming majority of attendees voted in favour of the PnC plan making Bathurst Quay a park, with all airport traffic and parking



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placed underground – similar to the Nathan Phillips Square, Dundas Square, and Harbourfront public realms.

Residents, and PnC, focus on transportation issues with the ultimate use of the Bathurst Quay public realm as parkland. The City's response is to ignore our requests to work together on this. There is no inter-modal connection between the Harbourfront public transit system and the airport! Bike share would be nice except most airport users have luggage which is too large to transport by bicycle. It is desirable to have the TTC connected to the airport to support an alternative transportation mode beside cars and taxis, also making wayfinding easy for tourists.

Councillor Cressy has publicly stated he wants to see a development similar to the Evergreen Brickworks or the Distillery District on Bathurst Quay. How your previous plan for Bathurst Quay, which included three large mixed use towers has now morphed into a large Aquatic Centre, when the community overwhelmingly wants a park, is beyond belief and probably disregards all professional planning tenants. There is simply too much density in each of these plans, however, we would like to address the larger issues listed in your letter of April 13, 2017, and they are:

1. A focus on parks, open space, arts culture and community uses

PnC is in agreement with this similar to Nathan Phillips Square and Dundas Square – having cultural activities above ground – parking and traffic below ground.

2. Stadium Road Surface Parking

PnC wants this area returned to parkland and the current parking moved underground in conjunction with the airport traffic and taxi corral. This will reduce airport traffic in the residential neighbourhood on Stadium Road.

3. The adaptive reuse of the silos and Executive Building

PnC is in agreement as long as the adaptive reuse happens within 24 months of full council approval of the Neighbourhood Plan. If there is no concrete proposal within 24 months, the silos should be reduced in size, leaving only enough of the structure for nostalgic viewing.

4. Ireland Park

PnC supports the expansion of Ireland Park to include the Silos Executive building as an interpretive centre.

5. Marina Quay West.

PnC agrees with this if there are no structures higher than 10 metres and it provides for washroom and laundry facilities for the residents of Marina Quay west.



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6. An aquatic centre with community services/facilities on the Silos site

PnC agrees and supports a reasonable pool facility attached to the community centre but not a massive aquatic centre as done in Regent Park which would infringe on the park and open space.

7. A bridge to link the Silos site and Marina Quay West

PnC agrees with this as it will compliment the blue waterfront pedestrian connectivity.

8. A new waterfront park, promenade, and Portland Slip Wave Deck.

PnC agrees.

Our goal is to move our Bathurst Quay neighbourhood forward as soon as possible.

We are disappointed that the planning department and our Councillor continue to ignore our presence.

If ParkNOTCondos had not informed local residents and demonstrated the wishes of this community, the lands at Bathurst Quay would have been sold and/or rezoned for mixed-use and not for park, as it is supposed to be.

We insist that our recommendations, which were overwhelmingly supported at Councillor Cressy's one and only open public meeting, be included in any report to Council. Any attempt **to not do so** would be misleading to Council and will be reported to the integrity Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Ian Rankin, Spokesperson

PnC Member

PS: This photo was taken on May 19/17 at 11:30am. It's shameful. Bathurst Quay welcomes 2.5 million visitors a year from the airport. While Toronto is making a name for itself in innovation, this gateway is derelict. Simply putting lights on the crumbling silo structures for the next 10+ years, and adding a few shrubs does not improve this in any way. Even the kids are playing on cement in the foreground.

