

Emery Village - First Nations Park Hydro One Negotiations Update

Date: March 15, 2018
To: Etobicoke York Community Council
From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards: Ward 7 - York West

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the status of negotiations with Hydro One for the licensing of a portion of hydro right-of-way (ROW) for park use within the Emery Village Neighbourhood.



Figure 1. Entirety of hydro right-of-way between Weston Road and the rail corridor. The eastern portion is requested to be licensed by PFR for the Emery Village BIA First Nations Park project.

Emery Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) has produced detailed design drawings of a proposed park on the hydro ROW that would pay tribute to the First Nations history in the area. These park plans have changed slightly based on initial feedback from Hydro One. Emery Village BIA has scheduled three meetings with the First Nation communities for review. If the proposed park is approved by the three groups, the Emery Village BIA will submit a formal application to Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) for submission to Hydro One.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council adopted the Emery Village Secondary Plan at its meeting of December 4, 5, and 6, 2001.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2001/agendas/council/cc011204/ny9rpt/cl011.pdf>

At its meeting of August 5, 2009, City Council adopted the recommendations in the Emery Village Transportation Master Plan and Official Plan Amendment, through item PG26.8. The Official Plan Amendment for the new infrastructure was then approved by City Council on August 25, 2010.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/pg/bgrd/backgroundfile-21347.pdf>

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/pg/bgrd/backgroundfile-32841.pdf>

At its meeting of September 6, 2017, Etobicoke York Community Council, through item EY24.49, requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to Etobicoke York Community Council with a status update on the negotiations with Hydro One for the use of hydro ROW for a First Nations Park.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EY24.49>

At its meeting of February 21, 2018, through item EY28.1, Etobicoke York Community Council requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to Etobicoke York Community Council on April 4, 2018 with a status update on the negotiations with Hydro One for the use of hydro ROW for a First Nations Park.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.EY28.1>

COMMENTS

Hydro One ROW lands are used across the City for recreational purposes. There are currently 67 licenses that make up the master license agreement between Hydro One and PFR, comprising 346.25 hectares of land.

This site, south of Finch Avenue West and east of Weston Road, was identified in a study done by Terraplan, under the direction of the Emery Village BIA, as a location to connect the bike paths on Finch Avenue to the existing bicycle network within the West Humber Parkland to the west. The Emery Village BIA engaged the Huron Wendat, Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation to help design a potential park and bike path connection on the site as further investigation found there was evidence of historic First Nations habitation within the surrounding neighbourhood. The concept was supported by all First Nations groups that were approached as well as the local Councillor, who brought the motion forward to Etobicoke York Community

Council. This report will update Community Council on the status of the negotiations with Hydro One for the licensing of the property.

Process for the Emery Village BIA Proposal

City staff, the Emery Village BIA and Hydro One met November 23, 2017 to get initial feedback on the design from Hydro One, as well as the proposals next steps. The Emery Village BIA showed updated engineered drawings of the proposal, which mitigated some of the potential issues previously identified by City staff. Hydro One gave positive feedback on the design, but had some reservations regarding the proposed playground.

As a result of this feedback, the BIA made slight alterations to the design to ensure it was more in-line with the requirements of Hydro One. Because of these changes, the BIA felt it was best to meet with each of the three First Nation communities involved with the initial design to ensure the changes would meet their approval.

Additionally, Transportation Services has been advised by Hydro One that their policies have changed since the Transportation Master Plan was adopted and Hydro One is now opposed to a longitudinal road through a hydro corridor. The alternative alignments for the future road look to minimize encroachments into Hydro One's corridor and, thereby, impacts on a planned First Nations Park.

Once the design changes have met with approval from the three First Nation communities, the Emery Village BIA will formally submit a proposal for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to bring forward to Hydro One. This would then move through Parks, Forestry and Recreation's park design process with extensive public consultation.

CONTACT

Randy Jones, Manager, Planning, Design and Development, Tel: 416-395-7899, Email: Randy.Jones@toronto.ca

Daniel Mclaughlin, Acting Director, Parks Development and Capital Projects, Tel: 416-395-7908, Email: Daniel.Mclaughlin@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Janie Romoff
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation