

PG29.4.70

West Don Lands Committee

April 30, 2017

By Email to: pgmc@toronto.ca

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

Goodeham & Worts Neighbourhood
Association

Little Trinity Anglican Church

St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BI

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood
Association

Bring Back the Don

Planning and Growth Management Committee
City of Toronto

Dear Chair and Members:

Re: PG29.4- Downtown Official Plan Amendment

We are writing on behalf of the West Don Lands Committee, a coalition of community based resident, business, service, environmental and heritage organizations to express support for the TO Core review and the Downtown Official Plan Amendment.

Our members have been actively involved in various aspects of the TOCore consultations and have contributed to the shaping of the recommendations. We would like to commend the City staff for the breadth and quality of the review and the accompanying policy recommendations.

While very supportive of this critically important initiative, we also share in the concerns raised by the Toronto Noise Coalition that a more structured process is needed to ensure that live music venues and outdoor events can be supported without compromising the quality of life for downtown residents – the very “liveability” that is the central theme of the plan. To that end we support the TNC recommendations and the call for creation of a noise mitigation working group that includes the TNC and representatives from particularly affected neighbourhood associations.

On a positive note, we want to particularly recognize the strengths of the parks and public realm strategy. This strategy is built around two key concepts – the Core Circle and Great Streets. The Core Circle locates TO Core within its biophysical environment and recognizes the singularity of this place – set between the Lake Ontario waterfront and the geological shoreline escarpment, between the Don Watershed ravine system and the Garrison Creek remnant ravine system. This creates multiple opportunities to strengthen the Core’s interface with the natural world. One such opportunity is the designation of Bayview Avenue as one of the Great Streets. We hope to see it transformed into a “natural corridor” binding the Core to the Don Valley (a.k.a. Wonscotonach) Parklands.

We would add to parks and public realm recommendations the desirability of establishing a City Parks standard that would aim to ensure every resident is no more than a 5-10 minute walk from

public green space. Such a standard would encourage the intermingling of cultural and natural realms.

Yours truly,

Handwritten signatures of Cynthia Wilkey and John Wilson. Cynthia's signature is on the left, and John's is on the right.

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Co-Chairs, West Don Lands Committee

cc. Councillor Lucy Troisi