

From: [Andrew Stewart](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Cc: [Don Cranston](#); [Robert Bell \(robert@fortyorkfoundation.ca\)](#); [Jeff Evenson](#); [andew@strata-geotech.ca](#)
Subject: My comments for 2020.TE18.42 on September 30, 2020 City Council
Date: September 18, 2020 8:34:24 AM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the September 30, 2020 City Council meeting on item 2020.TE18.42, Exhibition Place Master Plan - Phase 1 Proposals Report

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

The **Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common**, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing and promoting Fort York and the Garrison Common. We are writing to express our continued interest in the Exhibition Place Master Plan process and our support for the *Next Place Plan Phase 1 Proposals Report*.

We support the view that Fort York and Exhibition Place should be considered part of a single physical framework as we work to support economic recovery, the restoration of publicly accessible open spaces and resilience in the use of civic assets. This is consistent with the Design Review Panel's recommendation that the Master Plan needs to show more of the surrounding city context and pay attention to the edges of the site, including Strachan Ave and the Princes' Gate forecourt.

Important considerations in this physical framework are:

- the proximity of Exhibition Place to Fort York National Historic Site;
- the historical connection to the Battle of York, which took place on both sites, but mostly on the Exhibition Place site; and
- the historical connection between the "Old Fort" (Fort York) and the "New Fort" (Stanley Barracks and associated archaeological remains at Exhibition Place).

1. The Friends support the Guidelines for Master Plan development with particular interest in:
 - a. **Guideline 4.1.1-** implement the recommendations of the Cultural Heritage Landscape Assessment as a key framework guiding the physical management of the Exhibition Place grounds. We would ask that any future initiatives consider:
 - i. A plan to interpret the Battle of York and individual events and sites associated with the battle into the master plan of Exhibition Place. The battle, a formative event in the history of Toronto, whose story is authoritatively told in Robert Malcomson's *Capital in Flames: the American Attack on York, 1813* (Robin Brass Studio,

Montreal and Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, 2008), ranged from Humber Bay to Fort York. The entire length of Exhibition Place, from west to east, includes this battlefield and potential archaeological resources, including human remains, associated with the battle. The suggestion that parking can be placed below ground (p. 74 of Phase 1 Engagement Report) needs to be considered in light of the importance of the battlefield.

ii. A plan to preserve and interpret Stanley Barracks, as well as associated archaeological and historic resources of the New Fort, within a fully accessible public-realm setting. Interpretation should include the former Garrison Road connection between the Old and New Forts, taking advantage of the wealth of current knowledge about the history of the New Fort.

b. **Guideline 4.1.4** - enhance and create new gateways linking the grounds to surrounding parks and open spaces, neighbourhoods, Ontario Place and the waterfront. Specifically, we suggest:

i. improvements to the public realm at the east end of Exhibition Place and immediately outside Exhibition Place along Strachan Ave, between Exhibition Place and Fort York National Historic Site. Improvements should enable easy pedestrian movement between the two sites, both to encourage access and to allow interpretation of the Battle of York (1813), which ranged across both sites, and Garrison Road, which connected the two sites in the nineteenth century. The existence and ongoing development of The Bentway has made this connection (between the east and west sides of Strachan Ave) much more logical and easier to envision. For its part, Fort York has begun this process with improvements to the parking lot at the northeast corner of Fleet St and Strachan Ave. This parking lot (800 Fleet St), which is part of Fort York National Historic Site under the control of Economic Development and Culture, has recently benefitted from two additions: an interpretive wayfinding post commemorating and interpreting the site of the Western Battery; and an earthen berm with perennial plantings to soften the western edge of the parking.

2. The Friends are supportive and willing to participate in further studies to test ideas and implementation steps. Specifically, we support 4.2.3 Economic Impact / Opportunities Study and would appreciate being involved in the “cost/benefit analysis of implementing the heritage, parks and public realm strategies articulated in the draft Structure Plan”.

3. The Friends support the improvements detailed in two ‘quick start’ initiatives - **4.3.4** East Gateway (Princes' Gates) and **4.3.5** Under Gardiner enhancements. We would be interested in participating in these initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Cranston (chair) and Andrew Stewart (vice-chair)
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