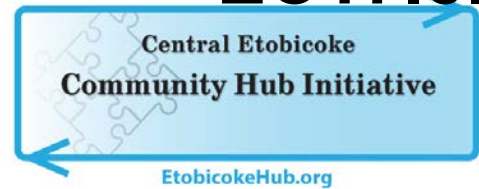


Economic and Community Development Committee
Toronto City Council
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

EC17.5.1



11 November, 2020

RE: EC17.5 Opportunities for Community Spaces in Central Etobicoke (Ward 2)

On behalf of the Central Etobicoke Community Hub Initiative and the many agencies, community associations, and residents who have long advocated for the creation of new community spaces in Central Etobicoke, I would like to thank the Economic and Community Development Committee (ECDC) for their consideration of this important issue.

The decision by the ECDC in June of 2016 to authorize a feasibility study for a Central Etobicoke Community Hub, a document which clearly identified multiple gaps in social, health, and recreational services in Ward 2, and the ECDC's continued interest in this endeavour, are greatly appreciated. The full study, available at www.EtobicokeHub.org, clearly highlighted a large vulnerable population of seniors, youths, visible minorities, and new-Canadians experiencing significant barriers to support services resulting from a lower number of available programming spaces compared to other areas of the City.

On behalf of all those who have worked towards the creation of new programming spaces and the expansion of support services to vulnerable residents in our community, I would like to express our thanks and our gratitude to our Ward 2 Councillor, Deputy Mayor Stephen Holyday, for all his efforts towards the improvement of services in our community; to all of the Members of the ECDC, especially our Etobicoke Councillors Michael Ford (Ward 1) and Mark Grimes (Ward 3), for their continued support and interest in this endeavour; and to the many City of Toronto staff members, particularly those at Social Development, Finance and Administration, CreateTO, and Parks, Forestry and Recreation, who have taken the time to meet often with members of our community, and who have worked diligently to study this issue and to prepare the recommendations presented for your consideration.

Each of the recommendations has important implications for our community. Each of the recommendations, if adopted, will lead us on a path to improved service provision, and aid in improving access to social, health, and recreational service gaps for the residents of our City.

We are grateful for your continued interest and for your willingness to consider the means by which additional community spaces can be created, to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of Etobicoke. We ask, and we hope, that all Councillors will support the recommendations of the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Colin Mang
Chair, Central Etobicoke Community Hub Initiative