

Friday, September 25, 2020

Heritage Preservation Board Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

RE: Agenda Item Number PB17.4

BCCA request for delay of the Heritage Preservation Board approval of the U of T proposal for 78 to 90 Avenue Road, the Ontario Planetarium Site

To the Members of the Heritage Preservation Board:

This planetarium site is adjacent to the catchment area of our Bay Cloverhill Community Association (BCCA).

The BCCA supports a delay in the approvals for this site located at 78 to 90 Avenue Road.

The existing proposed U of T design is not in keeping with its heritage surroundings in either compatible design nor height nor materials. We believe that revisions are needed on the U of T proposal for this site. Such revisions will require some additional acknowledgement by the U of T that this site is an important part of the heritage of the Ontario Capital Precinct.

We say that the needed improvements can be achieved through meaningful participation of the stakeholders' discussions

We urge you, the members of the Heritage Preservation Board, to vote for a delay in your approval on this agenda item.

Secondary Issue:Protection of the Ontario Legislative Precinct

Further, the BCCA strongly supports the creation of a body responsible for the protection and oversight of this Ontario Legislative Precinct similar to the National Capital Precinct in Ottawa.

Since amalgamation of the cities and boroughs into the City of Toronto in 1999,no governmental body has been tasked with the responsibility of the protection of the critical area in proximity to our provincial capital buildings. In 2011, a small group of dedicated area residents took the lead on the protection of the Legislative View Corridor. Now, in 2020, a group of local residents is leading in the protection of the heritage nature of our provincial Legislature.

We say it is time for our city to take action to create an official body responsible for the well-being of the Ontario Legislative Capital Precinct.

Again, the BCCA urges you, our leaders in the protection of important provincial heritage sites, to delay approval of this proposal in order to allow stakeholders to understand completely the implications of this proposal on this specific site.

Respectfully,

The BCCA Executive: Marilyn Tait-McClellan, President; Cathy Carnevali, Secretary; Norman Waite, Treasurer; Jack Candido and Kathryn Holden, Members at large.

CC: Councillor Michael Layton, Ward 11
Christine Burke, Director, Campus & Facilities Planning, U of T
Linda MacDonald, Director, Downtown Toronto
David Sit, Planning Manager, Downtown Toronto
Paul M. Johnson, Senior Planner, City of Toronto
Greg Lintern, Chief Planner, City of Toronto
Queen's Park Precinct Coalition