

WESTON PARK

BAPTIST CHURCH

Receiving Grace Giving Grace

November 1, 2023

TO: City of Toronto
RE: Weston Park Baptist Church, 1871, 1879 and 1885 Weston Rd

To whom it may concern,

In 2008 Weston Park Baptist Church sought to expand its vision to serve the Weston community by utilizing its lands. The church invited 30 community leaders to a consultation forum. At that meeting, the concept of a Centre for the Community was born. The church demonstrated a long record of responding to community needs by launching two community organizations, the Frontlines Youth Centre and secondly, it joined with the other churches in the area to establish the Weston Area Emergency Support community food bank. WPBC maintained its support by providing space free of charge, staff and volunteers for these two community agencies for over 25 years.

In that same year, WPBC became a partner in a Community Charrette and Technical Advisory Panel. Councillor Nunziata enlisted the City staff and the Weston Village Residents' Assoc. who engaged technical experts from the Urban Land Institute. This initiative expanded the scope for redevelopment of the community to include all the lands surrounding the Weston Station.

The two foundational elements of the Weston Park redevelopment is to provide a program that includes two anchor facilities, a high school sized gymnasium and a combined worship-theatre space to seat 400 people, believing that these two facilities will enrich the Weston community.

In 2015, the church issued an RFP with support from the Councillor. The development community response was robust and in 2017 WPBC entered into a LOI with Castlepoint Numa.

From the first meeting we knew we had a great partner in Castlepoint Numa. Their commitment to the project's vision was clear by their proven best in class city building, their insistence that both heritage buildings be maintained, and their complete alignment on the importance of the transformative power of the centre for the community.

This journey was not a straight line, many times both the heritage structures and the community program were thrown into jeopardy. As a great partner does, Castlepoint Numa tactfully guided their project team to deliver the entirety of the program and the WPBC vision.

Today is a great milestone, we stand closer to realizing a dream that has emerged from a church that that has served Weston for 116 years.

The church wants to express our gratitude to Councillor Nunziata, City Staff, and the Weston community for their support and the WPBC looks forward to a timely start and delivery of the centre of the community.

Sincerely,



John Frogley-Rawson
Weston Park Baptist Church Re-development Chair

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