

March 23, 2026

To: Toronto City Council

Re: 2026.EX 29.3 – Update on Weston Foundation Donation for Queen’s Park North Revitalization

Dear Councillors,

The motion before you includes approval of a Governance model which includes a yet-to-be defined role for the community. This has yet to be fully discussed in the consultation process and is vital to the public process in dealing with this sensitive park and its ongoing viability.

We recommend you approve the negotiation of the grant and leave the remainder of the motion to return May 6 or later, to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

Our reasons are these:

The Queen’s Park North (QPN) revitalization represents a high-stakes inflection point for Toronto’s urban stewardship. Underpinned by a \$50 million capital injection and a 20-year, \$43 million operational endowment, the project promises success.

However, the long-term viability of QPN hinges not on the cash flow, but on the integrity of its governance architecture. Without structural transparency, the project risks a serious breach of fiduciary duty to the civic commons.

To ensure the Queen’s Park North revitalization maintains its social license and ecological viability, we recommend the following conditions for governance approval.

**1. Codification of Independent, Voting Resident Seats:**

Formally mandate voting seats for established resident associations on the Advisory Board. This ensures direct, ongoing and unfiltered accountability and prevents the Executive Director from acting as an institutional gatekeeper.

**2. Independent Forestry Oversight:**

Establish a panel of forestry experts unaffiliated with the project’s design team. This panel must conduct a public-facing review of all impacts to ensure that ecology dictates design limits, rather than design forcing ecological compromise.

**3. Post-Testing Technical Ratification:**

Council require that final design approval is withheld until a credible Forestry Management Plan and any requisite technical testing—including air spading, root mapping, and sonic tomography—is completed to ensure the design concept can be reconciled with the results.

These governance pivots are essential to transform the Queen’s Park North revitalization into a global model for sustainable, inclusive, and transparent public-private partnerships.

The City must ensure that this \$50 million investment preserves the park as a civic commons, not just a donor-funded asset.

Al Rezowski,

Friends of Queen’s Park North

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