

councilmeeting

From: John Carley <johnrcarley@gmail.com>
Sent: April 21, 2026 2:07 PM
To: councilmeeting
Cc: 'Heather Broughton'; 'Jessica Campbell'; 'Steve Hulford'; 'Alan Lysne'; 'Mark Mattson'; 'Julia McNally'; 'Jennifer Penney'; 'Mike Tindall'; 'OHSF Commodore'; Councillor Morley; Councillor Perks; Councillor Malik; Councillor Fletcher; Councillor Bradford; Councillor Kandavel; 'Mike Riehl'; 'Jane Anderson'
Subject: [External Sender] City Council April 22 EX30.2 - Toronto Personal Watercraft Safety Plan
Categories: Communication (New)

Re: EX30.2 - Toronto Personal Watercraft Safety Plan, April 22-24 meeting of City Council

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Personal watercraft have long been a problem in the waters of the Leslie Street Spit, parts of which are known as Tommy Thompson Park, and around the perimeter of that landform. The operators of these watercraft disrupt the wildlife of the nature reserve, the watercraft wake damages the shoreline, the craft themselves are often operated recklessly, and the noise is a true problem for those human visitors to the site, let alone the wildlife.

We strongly believe that the Motorized Watercraft Exclusion Zone (MWEZ) should include the waters of the Outer Harbour, and the waters around and contained within the Leslie Street Spit/Tommy Thompson Park.

These waters were excluded from the Stakeholder Forum Exclusion Zone prioritization activity, and were not included in the staff recommendations of Item 2026.EX30.2.

We recognize Councillor Fletcher's leadership and the Executive Committee's unanimous support to include these waters via an amendment to the item.

We urge City Council to implement a Motorized Watercraft Exclusion Zone at the Outer Harbour without delay. This is essential to protect public safety, reduce user conflict, and safeguard this heavily used waterfront.

We support the Executive Committee's direction with respect to Cherry Beach and the Outer Harbour:

1. City Council request the Toronto Port Authority, in consultation the General Manager Parks and Recreation and the local Councillor, to implement a Motorized Watercraft Exclusion Zone for Cherry Beach and the Outer Harbour, at the earliest opportunity, and to develop an ongoing seasonal implementation plan such as those at Humber Bay Shores, Hanlan's Point Beach, Woodbine Beach, Marie Curtis Park and Bluffers Park Beach.
2. City Council request the City Manager to report to the May 6, 2026 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on implementation of Motorized Watercraft Exclusion Zone for the 2026 summer season and subsequent years.
3. City Council, as part of the consultation process, request the appropriate City staff or Agency to convene a Stakeholder Advisory Committee in order to consult and advise on the details of the Motorized Watercraft Exclusion Zone at Cherry Beach and the Outer Harbour, including key members of the Outer Harbour Sailing Federation.

Please include Friends of the Spit in Stakeholder Advisory Committee noted in 3. above.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Carley, Co-Chair, Friends of the Spit

Celebrating 49 years: since 1977, Friends has been advocating for the entire Leslie Street Spit and Baselands to be a car-free Public Urban Wilderness.

Without Friends of the Spit advocacy, The Spit and Baselands would not exist as they do today: a wonderful urban wilderness, enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of visitors yearly.

cc:

FoCBOH Steering Committee: Jane Anderson, Heather Broughton, Jessica Campbell, Steve Hulford, Alan Lysne, Mark Mattson, Julia McNally, Jennifer Penney, Mike Tindall

Outer Harbour Sailing Federation

City of Toronto Waterfront Councillors (Councillor Morley, Councillor Perks, Councillor Malik, Councillor Fletcher, Councillor Bradford, Councillor Kandavel)

Toronto Port Authority