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Dear Mayor Chow and Toronto City Councillors,

I am Terri Hawkes, a resident of the Annex, in University-Rosedale, Ward 11. I write as a resident who sees Queen's Park North as an exceptional treasure in the heart of an intensely densifying urban area. It is a park to be honoured for its rare grove of old-growth trees – quite different from various pocket parks and green spaces sought for their useful exercise or playground structures. Queen's Park North is not animated, mobilized or developed; it is different. With a different purpose. A different but essential value. A respite. A jewel in the Crown that is Queen's Park North.

Over the last year countless Residents' Associations have raised their voices at community consultations and at City Hall to express their interest in keeping the park as a sanctuary – maintaining it in as natural a state as possible. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, nearly 25 deputantes expressed an almost universal desire to see the trees in Queen's Park North revitalized and protected, with as little development as possible. And because of those residents' voices

and the active engagement of numbers of Councillors across the City, progress was made, with heritage analysis and forest management now part of the conversation, and the *Infrastructure and Environment Committee* managing the discourse.

Yet despite this progress, the proposed design for development in the park is not markedly different than it was when it was released over a year ago alongside the press announcement of the Weston Family's generous donation offer (March 2025). At that point a design was imagined, drawn, and shared with the public before Torontonians had any say in the matter. Subsequently, regardless of thousands of objections to substantial development in the park, this design, while mitigated, still does not seem to honour those voices.

I am curious as to why the Weston family (generous and known for their philanthropic work with green spaces and parks beyond even this province), the well-intentioned City Staff, Janet Rosenberg & Studio - landscape architects, and the City Councillor for Ward 11 still seem not to fully acknowledge the predominant concerns as represented by numerous Residents' Associations and residents.

Has Councillor Matlow's request for information on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 been answered in any meeting or distribution: i.e. were requirements attached to accepting this generous donation from the Westons? And if

so, what are they? Or... who is at the root (excuse the pun) of these plans for substantial development in the park?

I appreciate Councillor Fletcher and her colleagues' attempts to find compromises within the plan for this green oasis – honouring its sense of place and character while preserving its cultural heritage and ecological significance. Acknowledging that, I still respectfully suggest that addressing and correcting a lack of transparency as to any potential commitments that the City may have given to the donors might a) facilitate the effectiveness of the “working group” and b) help the stakeholders understand this seeming disconnect in communication concerning the existential future of Queen’s Park North, which, according to the vast majority of deputantes, they revere as a sanctuary and respite - not only for the residents of University-Rosedale and the surrounding neighbourhoods, but for all Torontonians, visitors, age groups, abilities and generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Terri Hawkes