

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Box 68522, 360A Bloor St. W.
Toronto, ON M5S 1X1



To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

Re: item IE30.8 Queen's Park North Donation

June 9, 2026.

The arrival of a 54-page staff report with multiple appendices 24 hours before this committee meets has limited the ability of the community to respond in detail. Residents will not have time to go through the report. Or to respond by way of a letter or deputation.

Committee should understand that dozens of residents have answered surveys, attended meetings, participated in stakeholder groups, met at Executive Committee. All have been keen to improve and protect the park. At the last public engagement, not a person spoke in favour of the designs.

As a member of both the board of Harbord Village Residents' Association and Friends of Queen's Park North, we can, on brief reading, evaluate whether the report has addressed the concerns we have had since August of 2025.

Our first objective has been to ensure a robust statement of values for the park be set in place so elements can be fully evaluated. This has led to our three-pillar concept:

--the park needs first to be established as a green oasis, an exceptional place of respite, of shelter under ancient trees; a place of glades and tranquility in the heart of a busy modern city; confirmed as the first priority in 89% of respondents;

--second, the park as it honours its cultural heritage

-- third, the park as a place of ancient forests.

We were hoping for a fulsome statement of the significance of the park from which elements would naturally flow. Instead, the report presents the character of the park in scattered lists spread between main text and assorted appendices.

Our second objective has been to create independent review of the plans, and create necessary changes to ensure park protection and enhancement—and preserve its character. Heritage began to play a significant role in the process. Then, with the assistance of Councillor Fletcher and the Executive Committee, the Forestry Management

Plan was set in place. What remained was the size, placing, and cumulative impact of the changes. To protect the green oasis.

The key to this next phase is an effective working group including the community and independent professionals that is free of outside obligations to make its recommendations. There should be provision for a recommendation to report back to council at the beginning of the next term for final design approval. Instead, the staff report has neither defined terms of reference for the working group, nor is there any reference for a process to reduce or eliminate elements should the cumulative impact of plans disrupt the nature of the park. The only return to council contemplated in the staff report is by calendar date, not by stage in process. This appears to greenlight staff approval for all elements (including starting work on the north in late 2026, months before Council returns).

Finally, from the beginning of consultations eight months ago, we have been concerned about whether the grant was conditional on the donor's plan being adopted. We hope this is not the City's position.

With thanks,

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Harbord Village Residents' Association.

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