



Humber Bay Parks Project - Master Plan Development

Community Resource Group Meeting #1

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Storefront Humber, 2445 Lake Shore Boulevard West
Etobicoke, Ontario M8V 1C5

Meeting Summary

1. Agenda Review, Opening Remarks and Introductions

Liz Nield, Lura Consulting, welcomed participants to the first Community Resource Group (CRG) meeting for the Humber Bay Parks Project. Ms. Nield led a round of introductions and reviewed the meeting agenda. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- Introduce the project, proposed approach, timing, activities and next steps;
- Confirm membership for Community Resource Group;
- Discuss next steps for the Master Plan Development and to provide an overview of what we have heard to date; and
- Present, discuss, and get feedback on the draft principles and objectives.

The meeting agenda is attached as Appendix A, while a list of attending CRG members can be found in Appendix B.

2. Project Update

Netami Stuart, City of Toronto, provided a Project Update presentation which included an overview of how the Master Plan Project began and next steps in the planning process. She also provided a summary of the feedback received at the public meeting held on February 16, 2016. Ms. Stuart emphasized that based on community feedback further consultation on a building within the park is required. She confirmed that the architects are not going to be doing any design work in the park and the project team is going to take the time required to understand what kind of indoor activities belong in HBP East or West.

A summary of the discussion on the project update is provided below. Questions are noted with **Q**, responses are noted by **A**, and comments are noted by **C**. Please note this is not a verbatim summary.

Q. What was the pavilion that was being proposed? Was it at the Eau de Soleil site?

A. The possibility of a building in the park remains, but we need to know what kind of building. There were a lot of misconceptions about what was being proposed. To be clear, the intention is not to provide a facility for large events or banquets in the park.

This project is focusing on Humber Bay Parks. The Eau de Soleil site is outside the park and the feasibility of its re-purposing as a city-owned community centre is currently being evaluated by the City (Etobicoke York Community Council Decision EY12.33, February 23, 2016).

C. I appreciate that you are taking a step back and re-evaluating the pavilion. I keep hearing that a building is a necessary and mandatory part of this project. I hope that you ask the community whether the park needs a building.

A. The question we are asking is what indoor activities should happen in the park, if any. In the community survey, a list of activities will be provided and there will also be the option of selecting no indoor activities. We are not asking 'should there be a building'.

C. As a teacher, I would like to see a building in the park. It is a great opportunity for school groups to use the park in the winter or when it is raining. A small presentation space could also bring the community together.

Q. What has City Council approved from a funding perspective?

A. We have funding to do a Master Plan for this park and a little bit of detailed design. The Master Plan includes cost estimates and phasing that will inform how funding is assigned for construction. There is funding for the first phase of trail improvements in Humber Bay Shores. Council has also approved funding for a pavilion as part of the Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Capital Plan.

C. You stated there was a broad consensus that the pavilion, as proposed, wasn't what people wanted. We were told by Councillor Grimes that if that is the case, he would cancel the pavilion. Why were we not brought in for the final decision on the pavilion?

A. What we heard was that there was no desire for a 12,000 square foot event facility. We believe that architectural improvements are needed and desirable in the park and we would like to explore what that looks like. We are taking a step back based on what we have heard and we are going to continue to consult the community.

C. Are there guidelines from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) that impact any planning and development in the parks?

A. Yes, this will be discussed in the presentation coming up.

Q. What is the vision for the park? Every park is unique. It is an exciting opportunity.

A. We have draft guiding principles and objectives that we would like your input on today. We will also discuss the park vision.

3. Overview of Terms of Reference for the Community Resource Group

Ms. Nield provided an overview of the CRG Terms of Reference document which provides guidelines for how the CRG will operate. A summary of the discussion on the Terms of Reference is provided below.

- There is inconsistency regarding references to decision making within the document (Section 4 and Section 7). This will be clarified and reworded to include "recommendations" rather than "decisions" in Section 7.
- Local resident representatives also have the opportunity to send an alternate to meetings. One person should be assigned as an alternate rather than a new person at each meeting. This will help ensure the process moves forward as the schedule dictates.
- The word "pavilion" is used within the document. It was suggested that this be changed as it has a negative connotation within the community.

- There was discussion about whether CRG members are comfortable with meetings being open to the public. It was decided that as long as observers are not able to participate in discussions and have a separate seating area, the group is comfortable with allowing observers.
- During the meetings, any form of recording (video, audio, photographic) is not permitted without consent from participants. The meeting minutes will be the formal record of the meeting and will be posted on the project website.
- Social media used during and after meetings is permitted as long as it does not disrupt the meeting.

4. Presentation – Process and Master Plan Approach, James Roche, DTAH

James Roche, DTAH, provided a presentation on the Master Plan approach, scope, and timeline. The presentation included an overview of the existing conditions related to existing buildings, structures, parking, trails and circulation, open spaces and vegetation communities, habitat sensitivity, ponds and water bodies, and park programming. The presentation will be available for download on the project website at www.toronto.ca/humberbayparks. A set of draft guiding principles and objectives for the Master Plan were presented for feedback.

The following discussion questions were used to guide the conversation facilitated by Ms. Nield:

- What do you like about the principles and objectives for the Humber Bay Parks Project? What concerns do you have?
- What changes would you make to either the draft principles or objectives?
- What advice do you have for the project team on the public engagement strategy?

A summary of feedback on the Master Plan guiding principles, objectives, and engagement strategy is provided below:

Vision

- It was suggested that two different visions be developed for HBP East and West as they have different identities. This may help to understand the need for a building.
- There was discussion on an overarching vision statement for the parks as a starting point for the Master Plan. A draft vision statement will be presented for comment at the next CRG meeting.

Guiding Principles and Objectives

- One of the great aspects of the parks is that they provide public access to the water (both physical and visual access). It was suggested that the protection of access to the water be included in the objectives.
- Language about balancing a range of interests in the parks should be included in the guiding principles.
- It was suggested that a guiding principle be included that addresses the need to encourage people to use HBP West as it is underused compared to HBP East. This could be achieved through signage and trail connections. This concept could be incorporated into the “Innovate and Evolve” guiding principle.
- The guiding principles need to address community stewardship and the notion that we all need to take ownership of the parks.

- The guiding principles could have more emphasis on accessibility. There is often a need for accessibility information on trail signage.
- An objective related to operations and maintenance of the park will be added.

Other Feedback

- Signs advertising the Master Plan project should be posted in the park to increase awareness. Potential locations for signs include the park entrances, the farmer's market parking lot, the flagpole, the ponds, and the off-leash dog park entrance. The goal is to have the signs posted before the launch of the public survey.
- Recreational paddling could be added to the inventory of circulation routes. It was suggested that a data layer be added to the aerial map denoting circulation of light watercraft.
- It was suggested that the park be identified as part of a wider transportation corridor, including trails for cycling and walking/jogging. The Master Plan should clearly designate trail classifications including denoting which trails are accessible.
- The City and TRCA are working on a trail that goes up Mimico Creek. HBP will be connecting to it and cognizant of that fact that it is happening. There is no timeline for the trail implementation yet.
- There is an interest in understanding how people are accessing the parks and what parking facilities are required.
- There is active scuba diving in HBP West; however users don't have good access to the water. (City staff noted that this is not permitted.)
- There are issues related to campfires in the parks (e.g., inadequately extinguished fires, trees used for burning, litter left behind, burnt park benches and tables). Campfires are currently not permitted within HBP East or West. It was suggested that more enforcement is needed to prevent unsafe and unpermitted fires. The campfire program at Dufferin Grove Park was mentioned as an example of a successful campfire program.
- There are issues with trail erosion along the waterfront of HBP East.
- With respect to signage in the parks, it was expressed that there is a fine balance between being informative and creating visual pollution and surfaces for graffiti.
- Explore the opportunity to improve the site of the weekly farmer's market (e.g. more seating and picnic tables, a shelter for vendors, more attractive and better connection to greenspace).
- There is interest in supporting nature programming for children in the parks, similar to programming at the High Park Children's Garden. A natural amphitheatre could provide opportunities for outdoor programming.

Comments Regarding the Dogs Off Leash Area (submitted after the meeting by a CRG member)

- A number of improvements to the dogs off leash area (DOLA) were suggested following the meeting:
 - Improvements to the condition and connectivity of the path leading to the DOLA are required.
 - There are concerns with soil erosion and drainage in the DOLA as it is often very muddy during and after rainfall.
 - It was suggested that a circular path of wood chips be added around the perimeter of the DOLA, addition to the entrance where it is very muddy.
 - Consider a different structure to create shelter from the elements during the winter.

- Improved signage leading to and at the entrance of the DOLA is required as users are often unsure which areas are on-leash versus off-leash.
- Additional lighting at the DOLA would be welcomed.
- A bulletin board at the DOLA was suggested to share community information.

5. Draft Survey Review and Comment

Ms. Stuart reviewed the draft community survey with CRG members and asked for their input on the questions. The following suggestions for modification to the draft survey were provided:

- How do you travel to Humber Bay Parks?
 - Add: non-motorized watercraft, motorized watercraft, public transit
- When do you normally visit Humber Bay Parks...?
 - Add: holidays
- How often do you visit Humber Bay Parks?
 - Change option to 0 visits, as opposed to no visits
- Why do you visit Humber Bay Parks?
 - Add: sailing club, view the skyline, photography, to paddle, kite flying (this was noted as possibly illegal at the meeting; kite flying is permitted under certain parameters in City of Toronto parks), use washroom
- How could your visits to Humber Bay Parks be improved?
 - Add: improved washrooms, better access to the water, better shorelines
 - Change wording to “more bike parking” rather than “more bike racks”
 - Ornamental planting and wayfinding may not be understood. Suggestion to use different terminology (e.g., flower beds)
 - Differentiate dog related categories (off-leash vs. on-leash area)
- What kinds of new outdoor recreational activities, services and features do you think should be available in the Humber Bay Parks?
 - Change “nature-based play” to “playground”
 - Add: bike share facilities, rental for canoe/kayak, outdoor performance and presentation, park stewardship activities
 - There was discussion on whether swimming could be incorporated as an option. It was noted that swimming is ecologically and financially challenging for the City to provide. There are no natural beaches in HPB East and West and there are significant drop-offs close to the shoreline that can make swimming dangerous.
- What kinds of indoor recreational services and activities do you think should be available in the Humber Bay Parks?
 - Add: school trips as an additional example of “classes”
 - There was a discussion on the possibility of watercraft storage in the park. Ms. Stuart will inquire if Parks, Forestry, and Recreation division is willing to consider this. It was noted that any private organization can propose the use of a storage container in a park through a separate process.
- Additional question to add: Who do you go to the parks with?
- The survey will be available in alternative formats. Ms. Stuart will follow up on whether it can be made available in other languages.

- A question was raised regarding the connection between the parks and the city and the possibility for expansion of the parks. It was explained that expansion of the land based of the parks is not part of the scope of the Master Plan. It was also noted that the City would like to create a network of waterfront parks and a connection to adjacent transportation networks.

6. Summary and Next Steps

Ms. Nield thanked CRG members for contributing their feedback. Participants were encouraged to provide additional comments on the material presented until April 13, 2016.

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AGENDA***Meeting Purpose:***

- To introduce the project, proposed approach, timing, activities and next steps
- To confirm membership for Community Resource Group
- To discuss next steps for the Master Plan Development and to provide an overview of what we have heard to date
- To present the draft principles and objectives
- To discuss and get feedback on the draft principles and objectives

6:30 pm Agenda Review, Opening Remarks and Introductions

- Liz Nield, Lura Consulting, Facilitator

6:40 pm Project Update

- Netami Stuart, City of Toronto
- Discussion

7:20 pm Overview of Terms of Reference for the Community Resource Group

- Purpose, Mandate and Schedule
- Discussion

7:40pm Presentation – Process and Master Plan Approach, James Roche, DTAH

- Project Approach and Scope, Timeline and Schedule
- Site Overview and Conditions
- Public Engagement Strategy
- Draft Principles and Objectives

8:00 pm Discussion

- What do you like about the principles and objectives for the Humber Bay Parks Project? What concerns do you have?
- What changes would you make to either the draft principles or objectives?
- What advice do you have for the project team on the public engagement strategy?

8:40pm Draft Survey Review and Comment

- Reviewing the draft survey, what advice or feedback do you have for the project team?

8:55 pm Summary and Next Steps**9:00 pm Adjourn**

Appendix B – List of Attendees

CRG Members:

Angela Brooks – Toronto Ornithological Club
Anne Powell – Toronto Field Naturalists
Brian Bailey – Citizens Concerned for the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW)
Chris Moore – Mimico Residents Association
David Clark – Toronto Urban Fishing Ambassador
Eric Code – Dog Park Users Representative
Garth Riley – Local Resident
Jane Darragh – Local Resident
Klaus Dunker – Local Resident
Lucy Harris – Local Resident
Mary Bella – Local Resident
Randy Barba – Friends of Humber Bay Park
Richard Jackson – Local Resident
Rick Levick – Metro Marine Modellers
Ted Mann – South Etobicoke Cycling Committee
Thomas Hasan – Local Resident

Councillor's Office:

Kim Edgar

Project Team Staff and Consultants:

Jorge Ture – City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation (PFR)
Lori Ellis – City of Toronto, PFR
Netami Stuart – City of Toronto, PFR
Peter Klambauer – City of Toronto, PFR
Susan Korrick – City of Toronto, PFR
Karen McDonald – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
Nancy Gaffney – TRCA
James Roche – DTAH
Tanya Brown – DTAH
Leah Winter – Lura Consulting
Liz Nield – Lura Consulting