

High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area Character Study

Working Group Meeting #2: Existing Conditions, Findings (Part 1), 2D Workshop – Natural Environment & Open Space Area Characteristics, Routes, Views and Noteworthy Aspects

February 5, 2018



Meeting Summary

Monday, February 5, 2018
6:00pm – 8:15pm
Annette Public Library

Working Group Attendance

Local Councillor, Sarah Doucette – Ward 13
Sarah Henstock, Manager, Etobicoke York District
Elisabeth Silva Stewart, Planner, Etobicoke York District
Allison Reid, Senior Urban Designer, Etobicoke York District
Jane Weninger, Senior Planner - Environmental Policy, Strategic Initiatives
Pourya Nazemi, Preservation Services
7 High Park Area Residents
4 Study Area Land Owner Representatives
1 High Park Tenants Association Representative
1 Bloor West Village Rate Payers Association Representative
1 High Park Community Alliance Representative
1 High Park Natural Environmental Committee Representative
1 Oakview Tenants Association Representative
Regrets:
1 Land Owner Representative
1 High Park Residents Association Representative

Summary of Meeting

On Monday February 5, 2018, the City of Toronto hosted the second Working Group Meeting for the High Park Apartment Neighbourhood Area Character Study. The purpose of this meeting was to present existing conditions and begin to workshop ideas on priorities to guide change and compatible infill development.

Staff provided a summary of community responses from the Social Pinpoint online survey and an overview of existing study area conditions. Jane Weninger presented the

natural environmental issues including preliminary findings from the Natural Heritage Impact Study and Hydrogeological Investigation from the Bloor West Village Avenue Study. Pourya Nazemi presented the historical development of the area, including information on designated heritage properties, and information on the cultural heritage assessment process. Staff provided draft findings on Public Realm and Open Space within the study area.

The last 30 minutes of the meeting involved a 2D workshop session. Working Group members arranged themselves into 3 groups and identified: potentially significant natural features, pockets of trees or mature specimens, infiltration areas, well-used outdoor spaces, important through-connections (vehicular, pedestrian, visual), significant views from the public realm, and other noteworthy aspects related to the 2D view of the study area.

Key Messages

Most questions and discussion topics during presentations focused on:

- Water issues and the natural environment of High Park
- Tree by-law and tree replacement over parking structures
- Was the study area master-planned?

Comments/observations made during the workshops:

1. Open Spaces and Natural Features

- Extent of underground parking areas were outlined
- Open space areas for water infiltration were identified
- Under-utilized areas that present opportunities were identified

2. Routes and Connections

- Popular pedestrian pathways were identified (pathways to the subway, grocery)
- Pedestrian constraints were identified (muddy areas, tight sidewalks, dark pathways)
- Busy vehicular and bicycle routes were identified

Next Steps

Working Group Members were made aware of upcoming meetings including the upcoming Design Review Panel meeting on February 22nd, 2018.

The possibility of adding another meeting was suggested as there is a lot more information to be presented than originally anticipated

Working Group members were asked to think about what the Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives should be for: Natural Environment, Public Realm and Open Spaces (today's topic areas). Working Group members were requested to email their responses to staff by February 12, 2018.