

David Crombie Park Revitalization Design
Project Kick-off
SUMMARY

Date and Location

Project Kick-off

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

St. Lawrence Market Temporary Tent

7:00 pm

Notification of the Meetings

- 8000 flyers distributed through mail drop
- flyers distributed to businesses, condos, apartment buildings in the area around the Park
- flyer emailed to the Community Resource Group members who distributed it to their network of contacts
- emailed to professional organizations and universities
- posted on the City's project web site
- posted through City's social media

Introduction

The first community consultation event for David Crombie Park Revitalization Design was held in November 2018. A kick-off event entitled *David Crombie Park Looking Back, Looking Forward* was held with a panel discussion and presentation to set the stage for the first community workshop that followed a week later. Approximately 150 people attended the event.

The panel discussion was moderated by Jane Farrow, an author and former CBC broadcaster, in conversation with David Crombie, the namesake of the Park and mayor when the innovative St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood was conceived, and Janie Romoff, the City's General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. The panel included Renee Daoust, a Governor General award-winning architect and urban designer from Montreal who presented images and insights on great parks from around the world. The evening included Q+A from the audience.

Kick-off Event Question and Answer

Following the panel discussion and presentation the floor was open for participants to ask questions of the panel.

Q1 - How do you design a great park?

- This is how, by engaging the community - park design starts by talking with people.
- An interesting thing about David Crombie Park, initially there was no community to talk to.
- Have to understand all of the community's needs, but you can't necessarily address everyone's.
- Consider more simple gestures to ensure elements still look good over time.
- Parks are great for people to visit, but are also great for people to move through.

- Programming is very important, there is a lot of opportunity to do that here. The arts have become a core component of the park, and will have to work out how to connect the community recreation centre. Schools share the parkland too, and the park acts as an extension. It will be interesting to see what these connections will be.
- You've seen the city double in size since the 1970's. Need to consider how to accommodate a growing number of new users.
- It's important to link parks to other recreation opportunities. The important thing to remember is that this park will carry a heavy load, but that connectivity is key.
- People often want a playground. But sometimes, you don't need it, a space doesn't need to be over programmed. You could have a fountain for example. The power of water is really extraordinary and sometimes it's better to work with water because it could work for everyone.
- They moved the Henry Moore sculpture to Grange Park and kids love climbing on it.

Q2 - Why aren't the fountains on?

- There's maintenance issues.

Q3 - Great to hear your comments. Currently there are areas that are heavily-used and areas that are under-used. Want to say that the wading pond is very important, and understand if there are safety concerns, but we love it and the existing seating that wraps around the pool works really well.

- City is replacing many wading pools in favour of splash pads because splash pads offer longer hours of operation (9 am to 9 pm, 7 days a week) and a longer season of use (May to September)

Q4 - I'd like to see parkland. Is St. James Park part of the 'green jewel'?

- Yes

Q5 - Consistently design parks for summer. Does winter design come into play here?

- Some underutilized spaces become utilized during events. Important to have high-quality installations for the winter.

Q6 - Grew up here and love the greenery. There are areas that are currently underutilized, and lots of dogs. How will the new tower address new pressures from dog owners, and traffic?

- High level park system will provide opportunities to address dog parks.
- The community process will bring all of these ideas onto the table
- How do you get people and dogs to get along? Dog parks have to be done.

Q7 - Roads were never meant to be a thoroughfare to the Gardiner. Can we talk about traffic?

- Can't speak for the transportation division team right now, but traffic issues will be considered and we will work collaboratively with our other divisions

Comment: Development is traumatic with large trucks and narrowed sidewalks. People are trying to take their kids to school and it's very uncomfortable - traffic issues make the neighborhood unsafe. Development is an issue and people aren't feeling safe.

Comment: Started the Friends of David Crombie Park. Saw the area not just as an area for people to walk through, but as a space for use in the winter, spring and summer. Noticed nothing was going up for the holidays, so we started the Holiday Wreath Program. The community, people, dog owners, businesses and developers all need to work together.

Q10 - Have been here for almost 40 years. There are problems with kids running onto Jarvis Street on the west side. Would be great to extend the park to the west.

- It's a challenge to acquire more land for parks. Crombie Park is currently one of the largest parks in this area of the city.

Q11 - What is the timeline for the project? How long will the construction process take?

- Have spoken with many people to discuss ideas and the overview of the timeline. Detailed design that will lead to construction will be a number of years.
- We are starting with this master plan process which will take one year. Detail design will follow after that and then construction which will take number of years to phase in and manage the disruption to the park use."

Q12 - How long did Berczy Park take?

- 10 years - hopefully it won't take that long.
- Most parks are produced during a short time frame so that you can enjoy the park in a few years.
- For the Promenade for Samuel de Champlain we had to find funding and realize the project by a certain time.

Q13 - Why not make the spot the market tent is on an extension of the park?

- Great comment and idea. It really is all about connectivity, will definitely have a look at that during the planning process.
- Take all of the ideas you heard tonight and turn it into something tangible, you have to hustle city hall.