City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Kidstown Water Park

Public Meeting 1

September 30, 2020

Feedback Summary

Kaila Johnson, Senior Project Coordinator
Jane Farrow, Public Engagement Consultant,
Department of Words and Deeds

Contents

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the first Public Meeting for the Kidstown Water Park Redesign that was held of September 30, 2020.

More information about the project can be found of the project webpage
toronto.ca/KidstownRedesign

Public Meeting 1

The purpose of this first meeting was to confirm how the water park is used now and to identify some overall goals and objectives that will establish priorities for the park's renovations.

The meeting was held on Zoom and facilitated by Jane Farrow from the Department of Words & Deeds. Following a land acknowledgement by Kaila Johnson from the City of Toronto, introductions were made and an overview of the consultation process and schedule were presented. Then, PMA Landscape Architects' Fung Lee presented an overview of the project background, site analysis and preliminary design goals with precedents. In discussion, the seven participants were asked to share what is currently working and not working, how the site functions and what they want to see in the future. Discussion was limited, but participants were encouraged to share their feedback via the online survey and stay involved as the process unfolds.

The Deptment of Words & Deeds produced this summary of key points and themes from the discussion.

Meeting Attendees

The Public

Seven members of the public

City Staff

Kaila Johnson
Alex Lavasidis
Joe Ferrara
Katy Aminian
Gary Sanger
Scott Topping
Robert Wright

Ward 22 Staff

Joanne Fusillo Adamaj
Nikolaos Mantas

Design Team

Fung Lee
Mehran Ataee
Waiyee Chou

Facilitation Team

Jane Farrow
Mia Hunt
Andrea Bennett

Feedback Summary

Summary of Key Points

- There is interest in a mix of spraying and standing water
- The park should continue catering to a wide range of ages
- Interactivity and dynamic play opportunities are important
- Crowd management should be considered in the redesign
- The park should have sunny and shaded areas

Detailed Feedback

Opportunities for a Combination of Water Treatments

Gary Sanger, the Kidstown aquatics supervisor who was in attendance, shared that standing water is what makes Kidstown unique. Many splash pads have spraying water, but standing water provides opportunities for greater play.

Providing for all ages

A participant told us that they appreciate having features for a wide range of age groups. Young kids like to see "cause and effect" features – like something happening at the push of a button – whereas older kids may like larger features like waterslides.

Entry and Congestion

Gary Sanger noted that the biggest challenge in the redesign will be managing crowds, which is a challenge in Covid and non-Covid times. He said that because Kidstown is such a popular attraction, congestion has long been an issue at the entry line and in the water park itself. He suggested that making the space bigger or opening up the fencing may help, so kids can come and go between the water and surrounding picnic areas. This is a design challenge, however, as the area still needs to be confined so the standing water is in a secured area and so numbers are controlled.

Safety and Comfort

A member of public told us that areas of both sun and shade are needed, including play areas that are shaded.

Next Steps

Participants were encouraged to complete the online survey and participate in future public meetings as the waterpark design options are developed.