

**Jane Finch Initiative:
Community Advisory
Committee Meeting #4
September 21st, 2021
6pm-8pm**



Summary Report by the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre

ATTENDEES:

- **2 JFCF centre staff;** Amadeo Ventura (Manager of Strategic Development), Maymun Abukar (Jane Finch Initiative Coordinator).
- **6 City of Toronto Staff;** Ashely Kakuk (Community Development Officer, SDFA), Gary Miedema (Project Manager, Heritage Planning), Leah Birnbaum (Senior Planner, City Planning), Tatum Taylor (Heritage Planner, City Planning), Temesgen Ghebremicael (Community Development Officer, SDFA), Zahra Joseph-Wilson (Assistant Planner, City Planning).
- **16 community members;** Allan Ramsarran, Christine Le, Devayani Chitnis, Edna Cofles Gualtero (Stephanie), Jennifer Boakye, John Romano, Kayzie Sutton, Kemisha Thomas, Maize Blanchard, Maria Bazilevskaya, Sharon Taylor, Terryl Knox Magbanua, Troy Budhu, Veronica Eastman, William Ballard, William Lopez.

MEETING SUMMARY

- Maymun welcomes everyone, reads the Land Acknowledgement, and goes over the evening agenda.
- City staff, Jane Finch Community & Family (JFCF) Centre staff and the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members briefly re-introduce themselves. Send-off of former Jane Finch Initiative (JFI) Coordinator, Berta Kaisr.
- With the assistance from Temesgen and Ashley from the City's Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP), City staff, JFCF Centre staff and members of the CAC remember former CAC member Sam Boakye – sharing reflections and memories.
- Leah and CAC members confirm the previous meeting minutes and the updated Terms of Reference.
- Leah leads the discussion with the CAC members regarding the Vision and Guiding Principles.
- Tatum presents to the CAC about the Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment (CHRA) and introduces the engagement of the heritage focus group. Maymun discusses the recruitment process and opens the floor for recommendations from the CAC members.
- Gary answers any follow-up questions pertaining to the heritage presentation and the heritage assessment of Jane Finch.
- Leah and Maymun discuss the other items with the CAC, which include collecting member bios for the JFI website and scheduling a visit from Mayor Tory in early 2022.

WHAT WE HEARD

This section includes the summaries of the feedback collected from the discussions during the Zoom meeting.

Vision and Guiding Principles Discussion

- Have a look at what works and doesn't work from other city development guidelines. Incorporating ideas that have worked from previous developments into the Vision and Guiding Principles.
 - An example of what members want to see is following how the Downtown west (Bathurst and Front) utilizes spaces in-between buildings with parks and playgrounds.
 - An example of what members do not want to see included is the intensification of Yonge and Bloor- buildings with little greenspace.
- Preserving existing greenspaces in the community.
 - Including rooftop gardens on newly developed towers, shade trees etc.
- The under-use of (green)space in the area.

- The City and the community can promote these spaces through community walks, like Jane’s Walk, which would highlight trails and greenspaces in the area.
- Animating spaces in the community, like Corner Commons, so that residents are aware of the available public spaces.
- Community safety
 - The reputation of Jane Finch as “violent” has played a part in why residents do not want to use the public space in the community.
 - Establishing a neighbourhood watch/ incentivizing way to reduce crime in the community.
 - Hosting accessible public events to reduce the stigma of violence can help to relieve this issue.
 - The need for proper lighting and cameras in the area, as well as emergency phone poles, like York University’s Keele campus.
 - Working on building trust between the police and the community – there is history between police and racialized communities that needs to be addressed and resolved before trust can be built.
 - Community safety mechanisms can be included during the design process.
- Inclusion of Youth
 - Stronger relationship building for the youth like mentorship and leadership programs.
 - International level sports coaching facilities for kids and youth, an example is Hockey Heroes.
 - Involving the youth in political and planning processes, creating a platform for participation.
 - Supporting the youth in creating diverse programs for them to focus on positive outlets – cooking programs, basketball, sewing programs etc.

Heritage Presentation/ Discussion

- Using the heritage assessment to understand the history of the demographics in the Jane Finch area.
- The overall potential of the Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment (CHRA) and the heritage of the city.
 - CAC member indicated the loss of many historical landmarks and buildings in the past and present, and whether this would potentially happen in the community.
- The history of Jane Finch in schools and being presented in public showcases and exhibits in the future.
 - The CHRA will provide a foundation for raising public awareness through education and exhibits of neighbourhoods in the city.
 - The production of a historical context statement document, providing an overview history of Jane Finch – indicating historical properties and buildings that will eventually be displayed at the public library.
- Indigenous input in heritage engagement.

- The Huron- Wendat trail and archeological dig in the area are important to include in the heritage assessment.
- A CAC member noted that they appreciated the drumming and ceremonies being held near the Black Creek ravine, which are as important spaces to the Indigenous community.

The main questions asked of the participants were the following:

Vision and Guiding Principles Discussion

- Does the Vision and Guiding Principles reflect what you have been hearing [in consultations/past meetings]?
- What do you think is missing [from the Vision and Guiding Principles]?
- Overall thoughts of the Vision and Guiding Principles?

Heritage Presentation/ Discussion

- Do you [the CAC] have any recommendations on who we should be reaching out to [be a part of the Heritage Focus Group]?

Discussion Theme

Discussion themes that were noted from this meeting include;

- The use of public space in the community
- Preserving and promoting existing spaces through animation
- Community safety
- Inclusion of Youth
- The Heritage of Jane Finch
- Indigenous engagement in Heritage

The next meeting is scheduled for October 19th, 2021, at 6pm by Zoom.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

5:55 Pre-meeting Huddle/Tech Check
6:00 Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Introductions (Berta and Maymun)
<p>I would like to provide a land acknowledgement at the beginning of this meeting as a way to give us a moment for reflection and to demonstrate our recognition of Indigenous lands, treaties and peoples. Let us think about what happened in the past and what changes can be made going forward in order to further the reconciliation process and address the injustices of the past and present.</p> <p>We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit and is within the territory of the Dish With One Spoon treaty.</p> <p>We are all Treaty people. Many of us have come here as settlers, immigrants, newcomers in this generation or generations past. We'd like to also acknowledge and honour those who came here involuntarily, particularly those who are descended from those brought here through enslavement.</p>
6:05 Remembering Sam Boakye (Temesgen)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing reflections (optional)
6:30 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes (Maymun)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm the completeness of the meeting minutes and highlight updated TOR formatting
6:35 Vision and Guiding Principles Discussion (All)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussions and suggestions on the draft vision and guiding principles that were shared by email
7:05 Presentation from Heritage Staff (Tatum and Gary)
7:35 Other Items (Maymun)
7:40 Meeting Wrap Up
7:45 Internal Staff Debrief

Roles

Facilitator: Maymun Abukar (with handoff from Berta Kaisr)

City of Toronto Crisis Response Team Member: Temesgen Ghebremicael

City staff attending: Leah Birnbaum, Zahra Joseph-Wilson, Gary Miedema, Tatum Taylor (City Planning Division)