| Jane Finch Initiative Phase 1, Virtual Public Meeting #3 |
|---|
| Part 1 : Presentation by the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre on the community engagement work and what we've heard so far |
| Part 2 : Presentation by the City of Toronto on early policy ideas for the community development plan and land use plan |
| M TORONTO |

Welcome!

There are two parts to the presentation. Part 1 by the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre and Part 2 by the City of Toronto. We'll pause for feedback, questions, comments at several points along the way and have some time for discussion after the presentation too.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We 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.

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.

We acknowledge all Treaty peoples- including those who came here as settlers – as migrants either in this generation or in generations past – and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.

Read by Maymun Abukar, Jane Finch Initiative Coordinator at the Jane Finch Centre

COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We want to take a moment and honor all the past and current work that has been done by local community agencies and groups around Jane and Finch. The work that is being done to develop these City of Toronto plans is deeply informed by and aims to build on and amplify the work of local community agencies and groups who have been working for many years to make Jane and Finch thrive.

Read by Maymun Abukar

What is Different about this Engagement Process?

Our commitments to this process include:

- Working with a local community agency, the Jane/Finch Centre (JFC).
- Engagement is informed by the **Principles for Conducting Researching in the Jane-Finch Community**, specifically the Jane Finch Community Research Partnership (JFCRP).
- Engagement is informed by Toronto's Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism (CABR).
- Recognizing and honoring people's input, time, effort, and energy through honoraria.
- Partnering with community members to co-facilitate meetings and events.
- · Commitment to share what we've heard and early policy ideas.
- Summarizing all meetings and posting them online .
- Jane/Finch Centre's Phase 1 Engagement Report will go to City Council.

Zahra Joseph-Wilson, City Planning Division.

- On this slide you'll see some of the commitments the City staff team has made throughout this process. One thing we've heard loud and clear is that we need to earn the trust of the communities where we're working, and so we have reviewed our processes and adapted to try to make the process is as inclusive and respectful as possible. These commitments include but are not limited to:
 - Investing in and acknowledging the expertise in the community by working with local community agencies like the Jane Finch Centre and partnering with community members to co-facilitate meetings and events
 - And I would just like to acknowledge Kemisha Thomas who is a member of the Community Advisory Committee who is here as a co-facilitator this evening thanks for your time Kemisha!
 - Incorporating into our approach the Principles for Conducting Researching in the Jane-Finch Community published by the Jane Finch Community Research Partnership.
 - Recognizing and honoring people's input, time, effort, and energy through honoraria.
 - Summarizing all meetings and posting them online so people know their input has been captured. You can find those meeting summaries on project website, under the meetings and events section.

- Reframing our approach through key actions outlined in Toronto's Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism (CABR).
- Commitment to share what we've heard and early policy ideas for feedback and that is the purpose of tonight.
- Lastly, the JFC is reporting on all Phase 1 Engagement to City Council with us early next year.



The Jane Finch Initiative is a study led by the City of Toronto to plan for the future of the area as it changes over time with the introduction of the Finch West light rail transit. The Jane Finch Initiative is a resident-informed project to plan for the future of the area so that residents and businesses are supported as the area changes over time.

Together with Jane and Finch communities, an inter-divisional City staff team is developing a community development plan and a land use plan for the area.



This is the study area for the Jane Finch Initiative. It goes generally from Steeles down to Sheppard and from the 400 over to Black Creek. Along Finch there will be four new LRT stops in the study area. The boundary for the new land use plan will be smaller - that's the red line on the map. That's where we anticipate updating the policies that govern land use because we expect redevelopment to occur closer to the new LRT line.



The project has three streams of work, all shown on the slide here.

The orange box shows the Community Development Plan. That plan will combine local social and economic development strategies to guide how communities are supported when growth and development occur.

It will focus on the social inclusion and civic participation of residents and other community stakeholders, as well as programs, partnerships and initiatives to expand economic opportunities for area residents.

The Planning Framework (blue box) will be a land use plan to guide how the area should grow over time. With a new LRT line coming in we can expect some growth and the land use plan will guide where that growth should go and what forms it should take. It will also identify investment needed in community facilities and infrastructure to serve current residents and support future growth.

Both new plans are being developed with community consultation and engagement at their core. That's the green box on top. The same community engagement process is informing both plans that will be developed over the next couple of years.

Community Engagement Approach



- Partnership with the Jane Finch Community & Family Centre
- Community-based facilitation building on the area's history of community-led organizing
- Integrated consultation on all aspects of the initiative

Read by Maymun

Jane Finch Community & Family Centre



A multi-service, community-based organization with a strong focus on poverty reduction through resident engagement, capacity building and anti-oppression.

For over 40 years, the Jane Finch Centre has been strategically building the health and wellbeing of Jane and Finch in collaboration with residents, community leaders, community groups, organizations and partners from within the local community and beyond.

- A multi-service, community- based organization with a strong focus on poverty reduction through resident engagement, capacity building and anti-oppression.
- Incorporated in 1976 through resident involvement, the centre has been serving the community for 45 years.
- With a resident-led Board of Directors, the Centre has always been a passionate and strategic organization which has won numerous best practice awards.



The Jane Finch Initiative Community Advisory Committee (CAC) - Presented by Kemisha Thomas, CAC member

- The CAC is 15 to 25 members -- interested residents and representatives of local stakeholder groups and businesses that meet monthly
- Selected a diverse and representative Community Advisory Committee through, in part, a civic lottery
- Venue for community members to exchange ideas and provide advice and feedback to City staff on planning and engagement as the project proceeds
- Members are compensated for their time and expertise through honoraria



These are the guiding principles for the project that we have developed over the course of Phase 1 in conversations with community members and particularly with the Community Advisory Committee.

Community Conversations: Vision

- · Residents and businesses are growing in place
- · Parks and public spaces are beautiful, connected, welcoming
- · It's easy for everyone to get around in all seasons
- · Access to a range of well-maintained community facilities / services
- Arts and culture are supported, celebrated and encouraged
- A vibrant atmosphere: shops, restaurants, services in walking distance
- Current and future residents have access to affordable and good housing
- Community initiatives address climate action & environmental racism
- A place full of opportunities and supports necessary for people and businesses to thrive
- Neighbourhood change process is transparent, collaborative and responsive

These are people's visions for the future of the area. We've summarized them based on conversations with community members. Summaries of all the meetings that we've held so far are available at www.toronto.ca/janefinch.



These are images of places around Jane and Finch that people have told us they care about. These are some of the special places in the neighbourhood that matter.

















Pause for feedback - Kemisha hosts a short conversation about people's favourite places around Jane and Finch.



Hi everyone, this is Zahra again. In this next part of the presentation we're going to share the early policy ideas that we're developing for the Community Development Plan and the land use plan – based on all the input that we've received from community members so far.



This slide shows the project phasing. We are currently coming wrapping up end of the first of 3 phases. Over the last year, but especially in the last 6 months, we have heard from community members at over 20 virtual meetings, through our online engagement portal, on social media and by email and phone.

We are taking everything we've heard and putting it into an Ideas Report that will go before City Council in April of next year. At that time we hope to get direction from Council to further develop those ideas into a Draft Secondary Plan (which is part of the land use plan) and a Draft Community Development Plan. Each step along the way will have many more opportunities for community feedback and input.



These are the themes that we've been developing policy ideas for – because these are the themes that we've been hearing about in our consultations so far.

We're going to present one or two slides on each of these themes and we'll be pausing for your feedback, comments and input as we go.

I'm going to turn it over to my colleague Dan who will tell you about early policy ideas related to inclusive economic development.



Dan Rosen, Economic Development and Culture Division

- Maintaining and supporting community-serving businesses
- Community benefits and social procurement
- Engaging large employers
- Workforce development supports
- Entrepreneurship support, social enterprise and space
- Ongoing partnerships and resources required to realize inclusive economic development opportunities

Example of idea development and further engagement - *maintaining and supporting community serving businesses*:

- Official Plan policy that requires the replacement of commercial space in any redevelopment (including small storefronts).
- Publicizing and supporting applications to new Main Street Recovery and Rebuild Initiative programs.
- Possible learning and application of other local retail support initiatives (as being studied in Little Jamaica).
- Possible pilot programming in Jane Finch as part of the City's Black Food Sovereignty Plan and alternatives to payday lenders.
- Overlap with 'Entrepreneurship Support, Social Enterprise and Space' policy idea



John Smith, Social Development, Finance & Administration Division

- Prioritize opportunities and investments for equity-deserving groups,
- Prioritize Resident and Grassroots Groups participation in decision making in JFI and other community plans and investments,
- Invest in creating welcoming Community for Newcomers,
- Invest in programs and access for children and youth living with a disability,
- Improve access to community spaces for grassroots groups and non-profit organizations and social enterprise initiatives,
- Develop evaluation matrix for community investments and funding.



John Smith, Social Development, Finance & Administration Division

- Improve access to outdoor and indoor spaces and program for all ages,
- Invest in education programs including ongoing science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) training, employment skills and certification programs for Residents,
- Invest in spaces for food access and community led food initiatives,
- Invest in free access to Wi-Fi, tech equipment and programs,
- Invest in local led Community Safety Initiatives.



We're going to pause for feedback on those two topics – inclusive economic development and social development. I'm going to drop two links in the chat that take us back to the jamboard where you can put sticky notes on top of the slides you just saw.

Inclusive Economic Development - <u>https://bit.ly/JFI_InclusiveEcDev</u> Social Development - <u>https://bit.ly/JFI_SocialDevelopment</u>

If you would prefer to comment out loud, please raise your hand and you can speak here and we'll capture that input. Or you can drop comments in the chat anytime and we'll make sure that's captured too. If you are joining solely by phone please press *9 to raise your hand and *6 to mute/unmute.



Dan Rosen, Economic Development and Culture Division

Support local arts & culture programming

- Sustain resources, partnerships and mentorship commitments to advance local arts and culture opportunities and programming
- Reduce barriers for applicants seeking project and operating funds; develop of microfunding platform to seed local initiatives
- Investigate potential of a north-serving Local Arts Service Organization (LASO) to support local artists, organizations and creatives. Eg: Create a satellite office of an existing LASO, staffed by local community.
- Explore potential for City programs like Cultural Hotspot or Nuit Blanche neighbourhood at Jane and Finch

Retain existing public art and promote new art in public spaces:

- Engage local artists in creation of community murals and public art
- Explore opportunities, funds and space for local festivals
- Advance the City's Public Art Strategy; creating opportunities for public art in local neighbourhoods
- Explore opportunities to fund diverse forms of public art through development Improve access to space:
- Look at potential access to affordable space through Community Space Tenancy program
- Broker relationships with local space providers to provide access for arts organizations
- Develop a plan with the community to build the Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts



Kemisha – okay – we're going to pause for feedback on the topic of arts & culture. I'm going to drop a link in the chat that takes us back to the jamboard where you can put sticky notes on top of the slide you just saw.

Arts and Culture - https://bit.ly/JFI Arts

If you don't want to comment on the jamboard, please raise your hand and you can speak here and we'll capture that input. Or you can drop comments in the chat anytime and we'll make sure that's captured too.



Zahra: What we heard loud and clear in all the consultations is that people want safe, beautiful, clean and fun parks. People really value the parks that are here and want to make sure they're protected, enhanced and better connected. So we have three main policy ideas:

Grow the parks and open space network:

- Build a new park near the Jane and Finch intersection as the area is redeveloped. We know this is something people want because of the success of the Corner Commons which of you will have either worked to create or have visited this past summer.
- Design new parks for people of all ages and abilities to use year-round and would consider the needs of the diverse communities of Jane and Finch in the design of public space. We heard clearly that not everyone has equitable access to parks and to the facilities in parks so we intend to ensure that community voices are heard when it comes to designing and programming any new parks.

Improve existing parks:

- Introduce new active recreation facilities and more spaces for community gathering. we heard that people want skate parks, they want outdoor gyms, places to rest, play areas for different ages, places for high school kids to gather etc..
- Recognize and celebrate Indigenous identities in public spaces.

Build connections between public spaces, parks and trails:

- Ensure pathways and trails are accessible, usable in all seasons, well-lit, and feel safe for all users. There are wonderful ravine trails and we want to be sure that everyone feels safe and comfortable using them.
- Fill in gaps in the paths and trails system such as building the northerly extension of the Black Creek Trail and connections to the Humber River trail system.



Zahra: On the topic of mobility – so that's getting around on foot, using mobility devices, on transit, by bike, by car – we heard that we need to apply an equity lens to all decision-making. So that means looking first where existing needs aren't being met and improving those conditions when areas undergo change. This means we're looking at things like wait times, travel times, connections, and working on how to improve access so that people have more equitable transportation options. Some of these efforts are led by other agencies like the TTC or Metrolinx and in that case we are looking at how city policies and procedures can support that work.

- Create Complete Streets: A complete street is safe and comfortable for people on foot, on transit, on bikes, in cars, and using mobility devices. As new streets get built, perhaps as some of the larger sites near the intersection are redeveloped, or as existing streets are improved, we'll be building them to be complete streets for all users.
- Make walking and cycling infrastructure safer and more accessible: e.g: year-round maintenance of sidewalks, bike routes and streets and improving the public realm along major streets including near transit stops
- Provide more mobility choices and improve multi-modal connectivity: One thing we're looking at to improve mobility options is to get Bike Share facilities near new transit stops and throughout the neighbourhood
- New development should support direct and safe walking and cycling connections to transit, shopping, services, and local destinations: When we get development applications, we can ensure that the design and configuration of the buildings and sites contribute to good walking, cycling and transit connections.



Kemisha – okay – we're going to pause for feedback on the topic of parks and mobility. We're going to drop a link in the chat that takes us back to the jamboard where you can put sticky notes on top of the slide you just saw.

If you don't want to comment on the jamboard, please raise your hand and you can speak here and we'll capture that input. Or you can drop comments in the chat anytime and we'll make sure that's captured too.

Parks and Public Realm – <u>https://bit.ly/JFI_Parks_PublicRealm</u> Mobility - <u>https://bit.ly/JFI_GettingAround</u>



Zahra: Housing is a crucial issue and we've been hearing that people are very concerned about affordability and about being able to stay and thrive in the area even as it changes with the new LRT coming in. We will use the suite of existing and new policies and programs to address displacement, improve and protect existing rental housing and create new affordable housing. There is a list of housing polices on the slide.

- Inclusionary zoning is a new policy that is going to City Council for approval. This policy will make it mandatory for certain new developments to provide affordable housing. The affordable housing would be secured for 99 years.
- Rental Replacement this is a policy that is already in place in our Official Plan when there is a proposal to demolish 6 or more rental units to build something else, this policy requires that those rental units are replaced in the new development (like for like replacement) and existing tenants are compensated and provided with the right to return at similar rents
- Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition to protect existing affordable homes (MURA) This
 program will provide grant funding incentives like exemptions from property taxes
 application fees to qualified non-profit and Indigenous housing groups to support them
 to purchase and renovate existing market rental properties to ensure they remain
 permanently affordable for people with low-and-moderate incomes.
- Rental intensification on sites where a new condominium or rental building is proposed on the same lot as an existing rental building (think tower in the park), we
secure the tenure of the existing rental building for at least 20 years and improvements to benefit the tenants of the existing rental building (e.g. new amenities, improvements to the laundry room, accessibility-related improvements)

 Large Sites and Section 37 – planning tool to secure new affordable housing as a community benefit when a development proposes additional density beyond as-of-right zoning permissions. Large site policy requires affordable housing as the first priority community benefit on sites larger than 5 hectares (con't on next slide)



(continued from last slide)

- Social housing replacement Development applications that propose to demolish six or more existing social housing units (e.g. TCH) must replace the same number, size and type of social housing units ('like-for-like' replacement)
- Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods initiative to increase housing options that fit with the current scale of Toronto's residential neighborhoods to permit new types of housing such as garden suites in back yards, duplexes, triplexes, and other forms of multi-unit houses in areas of the City where they are currently not permitted
- Housing Now (city-owned land) the City leverages City-owned development sites to create mixed-income developments.
- Subcommittee on protection of affordable housing intended to support tenants facing evictions. The City is also looking into developing a renoviction policy framework to govern an interdivisional response to situations where tenants are facing illegal renovations and evictions
- Modular Supportive Housing: City Council has approved the construction of the first 250
 modular homes on City-owned sites in 2020 and 2021. The first two modular buildings
 are already completed providing 100 new homes with support services for people
 experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Open Door Affordable Housing Program Through this program, the City provides waivers of development charges, planning and building fees, property tax exemptions, and capital funding for projects providing affordable rental housing

These are the ideas (on the slide) that we want feedback on for Jane and Finch specifically.



Kemisha – okay – we're going to pause for feedback on the topic of housing. We're going to drop a link in the chat that takes us back to the jamboard where you can put

sticky notes on top of the slide you just saw.

If you don't want to comment on the jamboard, please raise your hand and you can speak here and we'll capture that input. Or you can drop comments in the chat anytime and we'll make sure that's captured too.

Housing - https://bit.ly/JFI_Housing



Zahra: Community Services and Facilities – these are things like child care centres, libraries, community centres, schools, and public services like public health, employment services. We do studies like this in parts of the city where growth is expected to examine what community services and facilities are needed in the area already and what new ones might be needed. The policy ideas here are to:

Maintain and enhance existing community services & facilities

• E.g.: Improvements to York Woods district library: major renovation including an interior redesign, upgrades to the theatre and reprogramming to meet updated needs.

Create new community service facilities to meet existing needs and accommodate growth

- Priorities for the Jane Finch area include more affordable multi-purpose community space, accessible and welcoming spaces for youth, gathering spaces for seniors and affordable space for artists.
- The Jane Finch area is identified by Children's Services as a high priority area for new non-profit licensed child care spaces.

Explore opportunities to introduce new active recreation facilities in new or existing parks within or close to the study area

• And just as a reminder, priorities already identified by the community include outdoor gyms and fitness equipment, skateboard parks, splash pads, playgrounds and basketball courts for all ages and abilities.

Leverage development to achieve community benefits

- Development can contribute to new and improved facilities either on-site or off-site, such as The Hub.
- Ensure that existing non-profit community facilities are maintained or replaced.
- Encourage partnerships and co-location opportunities between the public, private and non-profit sectors.



Zahra: As new buildings are proposed, we look at elements of the design and placement of the buildings to ensure that they respond to local conditions and contribute to the neighbourhood in ways that go beyond just the building itself. So we want new buildings to:

- Create a vibrant public realm which means making sure that buildings are designed to frame public streets, parks and open spaces and have active uses at ground level so it's pedestrian-friendly. And we want the public realm sidewalks and streets to be able to accommodate trees, planters, public art and amenities like seating and lighting
- New development should respond to the local context so that means providing a mix of building types and scales, such as townhouses, low-rise apartment buildings and midrise buildings along the street edges, and carefully-placed towers at key locations near transit, that respond to the needs of the community and compliment the look and feel of the surrounding neighbourhoods in Jane and Finch.
- Building design should contribute to a comfortable environment meaning that buildings are located in ways that protects access to sun light, reduces and mitigates wind impacts, provides enough privacy and safe connections to parks and open spaces.
- Create beautiful, safe and accessible spaces and places this means looking at how buildings and the spaces around them are designed to create spaces that are inclusive and accessible, well-lit, safe and inviting and open to the community by discouraging barriers to entry such as gates and fences. This also includes highlighting the area's distinct history and cultural diversity, and create pride of place through high standards of design including heritage conservation, and spaces to showcase the talents of local artists. These design considerations will be part of the detailed consultations we'll do over the next year or so.



Kemisha – okay – we're going to pause for feedback on the topic of community services and facilities and urban design.

We're going to drop a link in the chat that takes us back to the jamboard where you can put sticky notes on top of the slide you just saw.

If you don't want to comment on the jamboard, please raise your hand and you can speak here and we'll capture that input. Or you can drop comments in the chat anytime and we'll make sure that's captured too.

Community Services & Facilities - <u>https://bit.ly/JFI_CommunityServices_Facilities</u> Urban Design - <u>https://bit.ly/JFI_UrbanDesign</u>



As part of planning studies like the Jane Finch Initiative, City Planning regularly conducts heritage surveys called Cultural Heritage Resource Assessments, because understanding the heritage of an area is an integral part of planning for that area's future. The Jane and Finch Cultural Heritage Assessment, which is currently underway with the collaboration of community historian, will establish an understanding of the area's history, building on previous work by community members and researchers. A key component is understanding what community members value about the area's heritage, and working with them to identify potential heritage resources. Ultimately, this work will bring awareness to the history of Jane and Finch, and will inform future planning policies in the area. It will also identify properties to be protected under the Ontario Heritage Act through inclusion on the City's Heritage Register, or through other planning tools.



Zahra: In order to address the climate emergency we have several City policies that we can apply to new buildings. The first is the Toronto Green Standard which has 63 required performance measures that new buildings have to meet in order to get permits. The standards relate to air quality, energy, emissions & resilience, water quality, ecology & biodiversity. Standards are becoming more rigorous over time and are moving toward Net Zero by 2030.

We have higher expectations for how large sites get developed to address the climate emergency so we can require things like low carbon energy systems and materials, more resilient buildings and sites; expanding the tree canopy, creating cool and comfortable public spaces and contributing to enhancing biodiversity.



Heritage - <u>https://bit.ly/JFI_Heritage</u> Climate Action - <u>https://bit.ly/JFI_Climate</u>

Unmute for questions/comments? 30 seconds Go to jamboard and type in comments (click the link in the chat) Type comments in the chat Have we missed anything? (we didn't get it right or something needs to be added)



Provide your input by online or by phone by December 5^{th} for inclusion in the Phase 1 report from JFC



Add to the Jamboard: <u>https://bit.ly/JFI_Phase1PolicyIdeas</u> (open until Dec 5th)

Email us: janefinch@toronto.ca

Visit the online engagement page at <u>www.toronto.ca/janefinch</u> (open until Dec 5th)

Call us: 416 338-0775

Planner office hours: speak to a member of the project team during office hours December 1, 2, and 3 from 4:00-6:00pm. If we miss your call, please leave a message. All voicemails will be returned in the following days.



Thanks for coming! You can stay updated on project milestones by signing up for eupdates at toronto.ca/janefinch.