

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Dufferin Grove Park North-west Corner and Clubhouse Improvements

Community Resource Group Meeting Summary

March 25, 2020

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Attended By:

Community Resource Group Members:

Andrea Holtslander
Anne Freeman
Daniel Halpert
David Anderson
Ellen Manney
Erella Ganon
Erin George
Irena Hrzina
Shane Morgan
Skylar hill-jackson
Tamara Romanchuk
Yves Bonnardeaux

City of Toronto:

Krista Carroll– Sr. Project Coordinator
Peter Didiano – Program Manager, Capital Projects
Peter White - Manager Parks, Community & Social Services
Cheryl MacDonald - Manager, Community Recreation
Sofia Oliveira - Community Recreation Programmer,
Alex Lavasidis – Sr. Consultation Coordinator

Design Team (Consultants) – DTAH

Megan Torza – Architect

Other

Deputy Mayor Bailao
2 members of the public

These minutes are not intended to provide verbatim accounts of discussions. Rather, they summarize and document the key points made during the discussions, as well as the outcomes and actions arising from the CRG meeting.

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the Dufferin Grove Park North-west Corner and Clubhouse Improvements Community Resource Group virtual meeting that was held on March 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

More information about the project can be found on the project webpage at www.toronto.ca/dufferingroveimprovements/

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to provide an overview of the updated construction process and timeline for the improvements and have the project team answer questions of clarification.

Feedback Summary

Project staff presented a project update. The meeting presentation is available on the [project webpage](#). Following the presentation, participants provided questions and comments. These questions (Q), answers (A) comments (C), and responses from staff (R) presented below, by meeting section:

Q. Will the large shed be moved?

A. We don't have an actual move date for the large sheds. They'll be within the construction zone so it'll be up to the contractor on the sequencing of that. They will not be accessible throughout the course of construction. Note that the bake oven is in the process of being relocated.

Q. When will the ice rink and the change rooms be open?

A. We are targeting for the rinks to reopen for the 2022-2023 season. Clubhouse access is planned for February of 2023. We will have to determine how and where skaters will change closer to the rink reopening.

C. The alternative Market setup at St. Anne's is not permanent. They could ask us to go at any time. We understood at our last call that the market may have access to the change rooms once they are open.

R. It is possible that I wasn't clear in that meeting. We did talk about the fact that it would be very difficult for you to have the Market go through another winter season without a new location. We will continue to assess the situation to determine what we can do to accommodate the Market. The building is unlikely to be complete before February 2023.

C. November 2022 is the twentieth anniversary of the farmers market. I would really like to be back in the Clubhouse in November of that year to celebrate that anniversary with the grand opening up the new building renovated building. Could the target for reopening be November, because we're going to have a really tough time opening a market in February and can't really survive outdoors until then?

R. The reality of the construction contract is that the contractor has the right to extend the construction by the amount of time we delay them starting. So, because we had the rink operating this season, the contractor could not start his work. That's why we're seeing the shift at the end of the season to February. Everybody will try to progress the project, but I don't want to make a commitment. On behalf of anyone, we will do the best that we can, but the contractor has the right to complete that work up until February of 2023.

C. Okay, if you can just please share that information with them and let everybody know that a November start would make a big difference to us.

Q. It looks like Hoarding site A clips the park pathway on the south-west side, can that be moved?

A. The line is just thick on the map – the path is not blocked in Hoarding site A. That is why we have a hoarding site B, which will only be closed when required.

Q. Why does the construction require the loss of some trees on the Dufferin Street side of the Clubhouse?

A. As discussed in the public meeting, part of the project is to create a wheelchair accessible entrance from the north-west corner. In order to create that diagonal accessible path we have to do a bit of regrading. The trees that we are removing are in that zone. We did our best to preserve as many trees as possible. We are adding additional trees on top of the ones that we remove.

Q. Do the large sheds have to be emptied before they removed?

A. We have emptied most of it out already and those will be handled as required.

C. Thanks for keeping the rinks open this past season.

Q. When will the rinks be open for summer uses?

A. The first summer season will be the summer 2023 season.

C. Please communicate to the construction crews that the gardens and rose bushes have been there for many years, their lives nourish the human community as well as sustain many wild creatures and beings. It is important that the machinery does not damage them.

R. Thank you, the gardens are going to be protected and we have been communicating that to the contractor. We will continue to monitor the situation. They will be fencing in those areas.

Q. Can you ensure park-user friendly communications about any work happening in the park?

A. Yes, we will have monthly updates sent out to the CRG members, anyone signed up for email updates, and posted to the project webpage. Then if anything specific pops up that we need to let folks know about there might be more updates in a month. We have 311 set up for any questions as well as the DGconstruction@toronto.ca email address.

R. Anyone who's done construction knows that it's very hard to give exact dates as it's often weather dependent, materials dependent, and labor dependent. What we've committed to is providing you updates when major things are happening and to keep you up to date on how things are progressing through the project.

Q. What is happening with food programming and fire pits?

A. We're not running any food programming in in our parks, nor are fire pits in use, based on COVID restrictions. It is a situation that's constantly monitored and updated.

Q. Don't we have a bulletin board we can update in the park?

A. Yes, that is a good idea we can try that.

Q. Can the information from this presentation be part of a community update?

A. That's a great suggestion. We are planning another large update shortly, that will include this information and a more user friendly version of what the site is going to look like in the future.

Q. Can you clarify if the sugar maple that was taken down was related to this construction project?

A. No, it was likely a tree deemed to be hazardous and it was taken down.

Q. Is there water access for the garden or public at the field house?

A. Yes, we have provided water access for the garden and there will be water fountains open by the splash pad.

Q. People have been asking about the sand pit and if it will get more sand. Kids who have been locked up for a year are itching to get out into the park and explore and the big sand pit by the wading pool.

A. We do plan to add more sand to the pit. I've talked to my staff about it already. In addition to that, we actually did a lot of work last fall, at the bottom end of the pit, where we installed new drainage and a berm to keep the water and the and the material from flowing out into the laneway as well. So, it should function much better this year.

C. That's good news. I'm, I'm actually very, very happy. My neighbor has 5 kids and they're all interested, so thank you.

Q. If the washrooms are closed in the evening would there still be water access on site?

A. Yes, we will ensure that there is always access to water.

Q. Is there any word on the prospect of paving the dirt, east-west pathway from Havelock?

A. That is outside the scope of this project.

A. The Councillor's office will follow up and check in with the community member on that.

Q. Can the signage in the park be larger, more visual, and provide more information about this project?

A. That's a great suggestion. We can definitely work on that.

C. I must say that I'm very excited about the changes that everyone has worked so hard on. Between the encampments and the construction, and the pandemic people are feeling like, they really need to own the park again. Once the hoarding goes up we will get some resentment because people are tired from the pandemic. I'm appreciative of all that is going on. What we're going to end up with is a lot better.

Q. Perhaps you can have local artists, youth and kids paint murals on the hoarding?

A. Art on the hoarding is something we can look into.

C. Consider Clay and Paper Theatre.

R. Good suggestion.

C. Thanks so much for hosting this. I hope that your team is prepared for the potential encampments and summer living that may be coming to the park now that the weather is warming again. We expect for you and all city staff to treat these people humanely and with the utmost respect.

R. Thank you for that comment.

Q. Can we continue to have more CRG meetings?

A. This is that last planned CRG meeting. We are planning on providing e-updates moving forward through construction. It is something we can revisit if our approach is not working. Just because we're not having these CRG meetings, doesn't mean we won't still be connecting with all of you. Our emails are always open.

Next Steps

This is the final CRG meeting. Short monthly construction updates will be provide to CRG members, project e-update subscribers, and will be posted to the [project webpage](#).

There will be ongoing discussion between recreation and park user groups regarding the relocation of impacted park activities. Construction information or feedback should be directed to 311 or DGConstruction@toronto.ca.

Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

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