

**Jane Finch Initiative:
Community Advisory
Committee Meeting
March 29, 2022
6pm-8pm**



Summary Report by the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre

BACKGROUND

The [Jane Finch Initiative](#) (JFI) is a resident-informed project to plan for the future of the Jane and Finch area. Together, we are developing a community development plan and a land-use plan so that residents and businesses are supported as the area changes over time with the opening of the Finch West LRT. It is a collaborative community planning exercise in 'Neighbourhood 24 - Black Creek' and 'Neighbourhood 25 - Glenfield-Jane Heights' (see [Neighbourhood Profiles](#)), centred on the intersection of Jane Street and Finch Avenue West.

The initiative involves three integrated streams of work:

- 1) **Comprehensive engagement** (ongoing)
- 2) A **community development plan** including a local economic opportunities plan;
- 3) An update to the **land use planning framework**.

Community engagement is at the heart of the Jane Finch Initiative. The City is working in collaboration with the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre, which is supporting community engagement and facilitating different community conversations to collect ideas and feedback. This includes facilitating monthly meetings of a Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

MEETING SUMMARY

On Tuesday, March 29th, 2022, from 6pm to 8pm, the Jane Finch Initiative (JFI) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) monthly meeting was hosted by the Jane Finch Community and Family (JFCF) Centre with support from the City of Toronto. This consultation is part of the Jane Finch Initiative's comprehensive engagement stream, and it was held online over Zoom.

The purpose of the event was to:

- Provide updates on reports going to Etobicoke York Community Council
- Inform members on the City Council/ Committee decision making process through a presentation by a guest from the City Clerk's Office.
- Encourage members to participate in upcoming Committee meetings

ATTENDEES:

- **1 JFCF Centre staff** : Denelle Carvalho (Jane Finch Initiative Coordinator)

- **4 City of Toronto staff:** Dan Rosen (Senior Policy Advisor, Economic Development & Culture), John Smith (Manager, Social Development Finance & Administration), Leah Birnbaum (Senior Planner, City Planning), Matthew Cowley (Public Appointments Secretariat, City Clerk's Office)
- **13 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members:** Susel Munoz, Allan Ramsarran, Devayani Chitnis, Jennifer Boakye, John Romano, Kayzie Sutton, Kemisha Thomas, Mena Hervieux, Sharon Taylor, Terryl Knox, Troy Budhu, Veronica Eastman, William Lopez.

MEETING SUMMARY

- Leah welcomes everyone, provides an update on the state of the engagement process
- Denelle introduces herself, provides a land acknowledgement.
- Leah, Dan, and Denelle update Members on the status of JFI reports to committees and council.
- Leah proposes no CAC meeting in April, to allow Members time to review the reports.
- Denelle introduces Matthew Cowley from the City Clerk's office
- Matthew Cowley provides a presentation on municipal decision making.
- Q&A with Matthew Cowley regarding opportunities to get involved in municipal decision making

WHAT WE HEARD

This section includes the summaries of the feedback, questions and answers collected from the discussions during the Zoom meeting. City staff responded to the questions asked in this section.

Q: In the new hybrid setup, are members of the public required to share their camera while speaking?

Response from Matthew: Members of the public who speak at the meeting are invited to share their camera, but it is not required.

Q: Where will CAC members be able to access the Ideas report?

Response from City staff: Anyone who has applied for a-updates for the Jane Finch Initiative, or a-updates for the Etobicoke York Community Council will

receive updates by email. Members of the CAC will also receive an update from City staff or the Jane Finch Centre when the reports are made public.

Q: Are there any other areas to improve accessibility and public engagement for these committees?

Response from Matthew: City staff is working on using more plain language in reports. City staff are also improving AODA accessibility in public documents and in livestreams with automated live captioning. Hope that the hybrid committee meeting format is also improving accessibility. City is always open to feedback.

Comment: Recordings with captioning is valuable for accessibility

Response from Matthew: Agrees that recording has been useful for accessibility. Also note that there is a staff contact for each committee who manages the agenda for committee meetings, so members of the public can reach out to these staff members for more information on items which were discussed in the meeting.

Comment: Suggestions for improving accessibility in council and committee meetings: (1) creating an audio version of the reports so that visually impaired people can access them, (2) dividing the meeting recordings on YouTube into chapters so that people can select the agenda item they are interested in watching, (3) publishing agendas earlier in advance, to allow community members more time to organize a response.

Response from City staff: Appreciates suggestions on accessibility - will note and follow up on the suggestions. Note that indexing and chapters are created after the minutes are published.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 17th, 2022