

**Jane Finch Initiative:  
Inclusive Economic  
Engagement Roundtable  
Meeting**

**June 22nd, 10:30-12pm**



**Summary Report by the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre**

## **BACKGROUND**

The [Jane Finch Initiative](#) is about planning for the future of the area and how best to leverage the investment in light rail transit (LRT) for the benefit of local communities. It is a collaborative community planning exercise in 'Neighbourhood 24 - Black Creek' and 'Neighbourhood 25 - Glenfield-Jane Heights' (see [Neighbourhood Profiles](#)), centered 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**.

The City is working in collaboration with the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre who will support community engagement and facilitate different community consultations to collect feedback.

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

On June 22, 2022, the Jane Finch Initiative Inclusive Economic Development Roundtable was hosted by the Jane Finch Community and Family (JFCF) Centre in partnership and 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 agenda can be viewed in Appendix 1 on page 6

The purpose of the event was to:

- Receive feedback on the main ideas in the Ideas Report as they relate to inclusive employment opportunities, inclusive entrepreneurship opportunities, and resources, partnerships, and governance.
- Receive direction from roundtable members on focus areas for phase 2 engagement.

## **ATTENDEES:**

- 2 JFCF staff, Denelle Carvalho, Clara Stewart Robertson
- 1 City of Toronto Staff, Dan Rosen
- 12 community members, Kevin Klayman, Imani Kyei, Mike Elliot, Elena Jara,

Olusegun Villasa, Byron Gray, Barry Rieder, Cleverene Frazer, Jackson Igbinosun, Butterfly Gopaul, Kemisha Thomas, Troy Budhu

## HOW WE ENGAGED

- Clara Stewart Robertson shared welcoming remarks and the agenda for the meeting.
- Denelle Carvalho shared a land acknowledgement.
- Dan Rosen shared a presentation on the Ideas Report directions which came out of Phase 1 engagement, a planned timeline for the next phases of the Jane Finch Initiative Community Development Plan, and the planned role for the Inclusive Economic Opportunities Roundtable through the engagement process.
- Time was allotted for questions on the presentation and the relevant Ideas Report Booklets.
- Time was allotted for general discussion.

## WHAT WE HEARD

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

- Question: Is the timeline of the plan in sync with current development proposals in the community? For example, will the Jane Finch Mall and Yorkgate Mall be completed before the plan is in effect?
  - Response from Dan Rosen: The Jane Finch Initiative includes two main components: the community development plan and the land use plan. Although the two teams are working together, any new developments will be almost exclusively shaped by the land use plan. Any development now will need to comply with the future land use plan, even if it won't be completed until 2023. One example of crossover where the community development themes could influence land use policies is the idea to provide and preserve space for locally owned businesses. For example, by requiring any redevelopment to replace equivalent or increased space for commercial businesses, and/or limiting the size of commercial units, space could be more accessible for locally owned small businesses.
- Question: Has this passed through Confronting Anti-Black Racism, and have they taken an Anti-Black Racism look at it?
  - Response from Dan Rosen: One of the Jane Finch Initiative leads from the social development division is from the CABR office.
- Comment: it would be useful to reference the influence of Confronting Anti-Black Racism in the report, as it is not clear.
- Comment: Recently attended a consultation on the Jane Finch Mall redevelopment, and was concerned about gentrification.
- Comment: Regarding the Jane Finch Mall, there is a lot of concern about gentrification through this development because the mall is a central community space. There is a need for physical spaces to host workshops, conferences, and

events.

- Comment: Considering the issues with the existing two BIAs, especially the Duke Heights BIA, adding a third BIA in Jane and Finch without addressing the existing issues would be replicating a system that is already not working for residents. Concerned that the focus of BIAs is business improvement rather than
- Community improvement through business, and worried about the lack of “teeth” in the Ideas Report as it relates to a future BIA.
  - Response from Dan Rosen: Agrees that specific policy tools are not in the Ideas Report, but this is an area that we can discuss more throughout Phase 2. There is potential to modify the terms of reference for a new BIA, and through Phase 2 we can investigate the potential for different BIA structures.
- Question: Where will the Indigenous Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship be built, and when will it be completed?
  - Response from Dan Rosen: It will be close to Dundas and Sherbourne. The city has several incubators, and there could be one in the Jane and Finch area in the future.
- Comment: If a BIA is created in Jane and Finch, will property owners (including owners of residential property) automatically become a part of the BIA?
  - Response from Dan Rosen: To create a BIA, there is a vote among business owners in the area for an additional business tax levy which will fund the activities of the BIA.
- Comment: One of the issues with the BIA model is that they tend to be overrun with the property owners, and there isn't a counter for renters. This can create a power imbalance.
  - Response from Dan Rosen: Dan will review the membership process for BIA members.
- Comment: A lot of the topics around community benefits are related to public funding and encouraging employment in the private sector. How can we co-collaborate on creating employment opportunities in development projects?
  - Response from Dan Rosen: Under section 37, community amenities have been secured through negotiations between the city and the developer. Section 37 is being replaced, and in the next roundtable meeting we will update members on this. The city also has a community benefit framework office which is being expanded to work with unions and monitor targets. The community benefits framework office is working on the process to secure job and training opportunities through upcoming capital projects.
- Comment: Work is being done on local hiring, particularly for the long term care facility (Humber Meadows), York University, and Metrolinx. One of the biggest roadblocks is getting involved in the hiring process for the long term care homes before they open. Something as simple as finding out what the jobs will be is difficult, and we are receiving generic answers. The city needs to support this work.
- Comment: Unless there are teeth to support the implementation of the ideas in

the ideas report, the promises will be unfulfilled. Hoping that new policies and procedures can be implemented.

- Comment: Capacity building is a crucial element of inclusive economic development, and the City should identify physical locations for capacity building work to be done.
- Comment: There is a need to thoroughly understand what the problem is. There seem to be two main ideas: to put more jobs into the community, and to train and upskills job seekers so that they are equipped for the jobs already in the community. The financial and time risk should not always fall on job seekers to upskill themselves, it should also fall on employers who have a safety net and can afford to outreach to local job seekers, or to non-profits and the city to form connections between job seekers and employers.
- Question: What were the outcomes from similar reports in Lawrence Heights and other communities? We can review existing resources.
  - Response from Dan Rosen: We can review those reports to see if there are relevant ideas and outcomes.
- Comment: We shouldn't get too stuck on learning and best practices. We should focus on teeth in terms of policy and procedures. The report is a great start, but it doesn't capture all of the nuances.
- Comment: Where are independent contractors in this? Are they small businesses, contractors, or something else?
  - Response from Dan Rosen: This is not a category that we have a specific idea to address other than the directions in the ideas report to support small businesses, social procurement etc.

## **APPENDIX 1: AGENDA**

<b>10:30 Participants Join</b>
<b>10:35</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome [Clara]</li><li>• Land acknowledgement [Denelle]</li><li>• <b>*Begin recording</b></li></ul>
<b>10:40 Introductions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions/ Check-ins</li></ul>
<b>10:55 Dan's presentation</b>
<b>11:10 Discussion</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (15 minutes) Ideas Report: Do you have any feedback on the Ideas Report?</li><li>• (15 minutes) Community Updates: What are you working on now and where could City/JFI resources, policy levers, or other supports be helpful?</li><li>• (15 minutes) Phase 2 Roles, Capacity &amp; Engagement: What is your interest and capacity to participate in regular meetings? What should broader community engagement during Phase 2 look like?</li></ul>
<b>11:55 Meeting wrap up</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Next steps<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Denelle to share meeting summary and honorarium form</li><li>○ Dan to follow up with some members individually</li><li>○ Denelle to reconvene members in the Fall for more updates and discussion.</li></ul></li></ul>