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Date: May 25, 2022

To: Liberty Village Public Realm and Community Services Study  
From: Aviva Pelt, Senior Planner

Re: Notes from Community Consultation Meeting #2 held on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Meeting Time: May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (7pm – 9pm)  
Meeting Location: WebEx Events

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Attendees: Members from:

- City Planning
  - Community Planning
  - Urban Design
  - Transportation Planning
- Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- Transportation Services
- Councillor's Office
- CreateTO

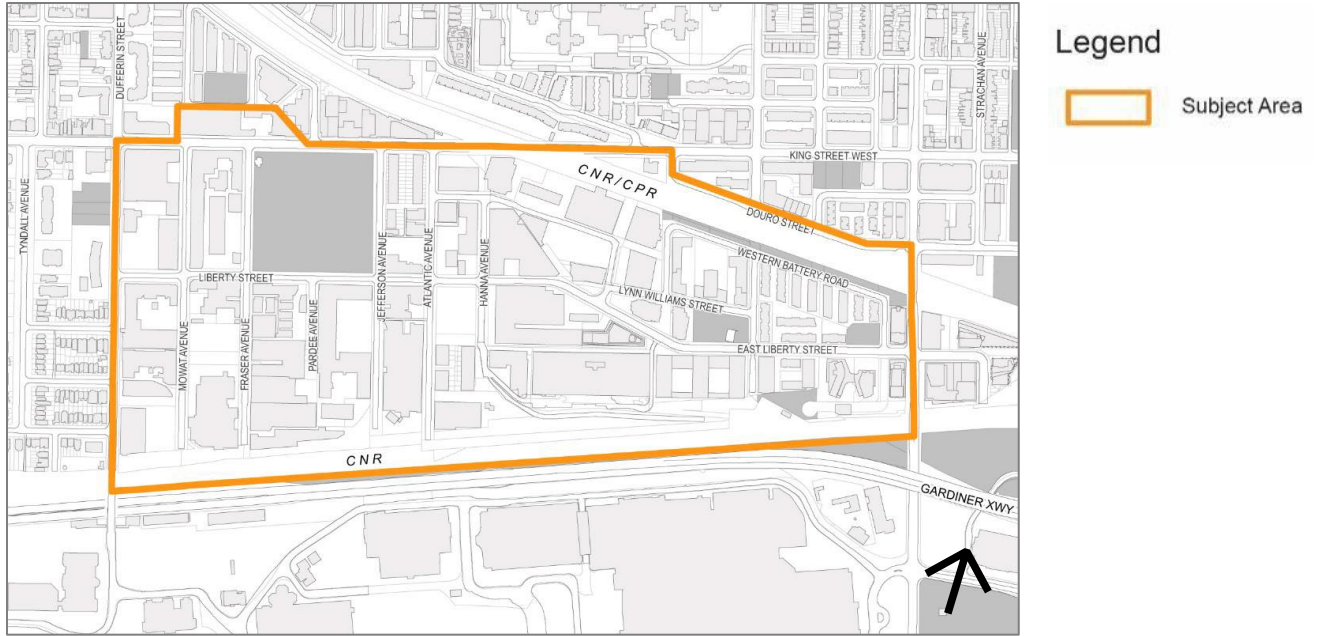
Approximately 45 members of the public attended on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Introduction

The City is undertaking a study to address the need for more open space and community services and facilities in Liberty Village. The Study will help formulate a Public Realm and Community Services Plan that will include principles, guidelines and an implementation strategy that can be achieved for future public realm improvements, help address the community service needs for the Liberty Village study area and provide direction for future development applications.

## Study Area

Liberty Village was historically an industrial/manufacturing district. The study area has two distinct areas. Over the last two decades the overall study area has transitioned away from industrial and employment uses with the construction of a number of residential buildings on the east side of Liberty Village between Hanna Avenue and Strachan Avenue, and the adaptive reuse of existing buildings as new office, creative and information technology spaces, primarily on the west side of the study area, between Dufferin Street to Hanna Avenue.



## Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on community consultation and progress, present an overview of the Draft Public Realm Strategy and conclude with a facilitated discussion with the community to gain feedback.

## Summary of Feedback

Following the presentations delivered by Aviva Pelt from Community Planning and Janet Lee from Urban Design, the following issues were raised:

### 1.0 Community Services

#### Potential for Community Services

- a) **Question** - Are there any future plans for community infrastructure such as public libraries, day cares or schools?

**Response from City Staff** – A large component of the Study is community services and looking at the needs for Liberty Village. There are currently no schools, libraries or day cares in Liberty Village. Research on this aspect of the study is still underway as the 2021 census still does not have the full demographic numbers. People walk between areas and the provision of services is important. It is important to note that there is a threshold for different services. At the moment, the study's analysis has indicated that 2.5 day cares are warranted. The analysis is ongoing and will determine whether there are any other additional community infrastructure uses that are needed in the area.

## 2.0 Transportation

### Safety

- a) **Question** - Can you speak more to the possible safety improvements where vehicles turn off East Liberty towards Metro/Lynn Williams? Can there be a “yield to pedestrians” sign?

**Response from City Staff** - This has been flagged as an area of concern. The development application at 61-85 Hanna Avenue and 120 Lynn Williams, adjacent to the Metro Grocery Store and parking lot is looking at improvements to safety through its proposed development.

- b) **Question** - With respect to bridge safety, can the access to under the bridge on the south side (where the fire occurred) be fenced off? People still attempt to camp there and collect/store items there because there are openings.

**Response from City Staff** - The City has heard complaints about safety. City Staff will contact bridge staff about these concerns. Also, StreetARToronto (StART) is installing a mural project to improve the bridge: <https://akimbo.ca/listings/call-for-mural-proposals-2022-just-us-art-project/>

### Impact of Liberty New Street

- c) **Question** - I've seen concept photos of walkways/park space between north of CNR & south of Liberty Street condos. Will New Liberty Street (east of Pirandello towards Strachan) eliminate this possibility?

**Response from City Staff** - Liberty New Street will include a multiuse path on the south side. The north side will include a sidewalk with a few pinch points. Where those pinch points have less impact, the street will be designed for planting zones.

### Traffic

- d) **Question** - Has there been a study on bus routes? The 504 bus makes a hard right turn off of King onto Strachan. Studies done on synchronizing lights, speed bumps, or East Liberty itself? Seems like a pretty good area for speeders.

**Response from City Staff** - The City has received similar comments in previous meetings about signal improvements. There is possibility for better synchronization and reduction of speeding. The City is in the process of developing a "Streets Plan" specific to the study area. The work is currently ongoing and all items mentioned will be considered as a part of the study. The City is collecting new data on East Liberty to help with the analysis.

- e) **Question** – TTC bus is parking on Atlantic and constantly creating traffic issues. Could they park a little bit down further down Atlantic?

**Response from City Staff** – City Staff have heard the comment and will be flagged for TTC partners.

- f) Question – There are safety issues on the King-Liberty Pedestrian Bridge. Is it possible to get more lighting on the bridge?

**Response from City Staff** – The City understands there are safety concerns. Lighting is something that the City will take back to bridge staff.

### 3.0 Public Realm

#### Boulevard Improvements

- a) **Question** - Will there be boulevard improvements on the south side of East Liberty Street, in front of Liberty Park? Why is this not prioritized/budgeted for yet? What is the timeline? There should be an immediate/short-term fix. There are also huge safety issues as the boulevards are significantly lower than the sidewalks and are very muddy during rain. This includes new ones landscaped only months ago which are already bad.

**Response from City Staff** – These are areas that the City is investigating. There is currently work being done on the north side of East Liberty and looking at opportunities for south. Funding is limited, however the City is looking at improvements that need to be made in the short-term.

It is important to note that maintenance requests are not part of this study. However, City staff will ensure that any maintenance requests are communicated to the appropriate staff. The best way for the public to address maintenance issues is to call 311 or through the City's [311 website](#), or the [311 Toronto Mobile App](#), where you can add a request and monitor its progress.

### 4.0 Parks

#### Growing Pet Population

- a) **Question** - You mentioned "controlling the dogs" (from leaving waste on greenery). How do we keep green space open to people and restricted from dogs?

**Response from City Staff** – This requires programming within parks. Adequate dog amenities and appropriate greenspace are needed to create a better environment for the public. The City has developed [Pet Friendly Design Guidelines for High Density Communities](#), to support the growing pet population and incorporate dog amenities within new developments. Pet relief areas, off-leash areas and pet washing stations would relieve pressure from the public realm including streets and parks.

#### New Playgrounds

- b) **Question** - Is there any intention to build new playgrounds?

**Response from City Staff** – Liberty Village Park is currently under renovation and improvements are being made to the play area. The east side of Lamport Stadium (up against Jefferson) is also on the list for updated improvements. In addition, at 19 Western Battery, there is a day care secured within the building and land outside to the north which will be given to the City as parkland (adding to Bill Johnston Park). There is still some remediation work required to do by the original property owner before a playground can be built there. The day care will not operational until this playground is complete.

## 5.0 Development

### Private vs. Public

- a) **Question** - Are all the development areas outlined on the presentation private property? Could any of these areas be repurposed for community infrastructure? For example, the building 70 East Liberty Street or the Heritage Building on 80 Lynn Williams Street?

**Response from City Staff** – The developments that were shown are all private properties. The City is working with developers to secure future day cares.

For the heritage building on 70 East Liberty (old chapel), the City has a long term lease and is working through finalizing a Site Plan application, so the renovations can start as soon as possible. The lessee has proposed to put in a public art gallery (a restaurant was proposed previously). City Staff have provided comments on the proposal and are waiting for a resubmission with revised plans and drawings. The Site Plan application is still active and can be found on the City's [Application Information Centre \(AIC\)](#).

80-86 Lynn Williams is also a heritage building that has an inactive Site Plan application on file with the City. The property has a height permission for a 16-storey residential building with the retention of the southern portion of the heritage building. The owners have not progressed the application.

### First Capital Application

- b) **Question** - Is there an update on the First Capital application (Hanna Avenue and Lynn Williams)?

**Response from City Staff** - The application is still under review on no final decisions have been made (identified as #5 on map on slide 18). City Staff are currently waiting for a revised submission from the applicant. All materials can be found on [AIC](#).

## 6.0 Metrolinx/Transit-Oriented Communities

### Timelines

- a) **Question** – Is there an established timeline on the construction of the new transit lines/stations?

**Response from City Staff** – City staff are working with Metrolinx on the Ontario Line and the King Liberty Smart Track projects. There is already demolition on the Ontario line to enable initial works to be done preparing the area. Tunnelling is separate contract that has not started and is expected to begin in 2023.