

**Jane Finch Initiative:
Community Advisory
Committee Meeting
December 20th, 2022
6:00-8:00pm**



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](#)), 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**.

The City is working in collaboration with the Jane Finch Community and Family Centre who are supporting community engagement and facilitating community consultations to collect feedback.

MEETING SUMMARY

On December 20th, 2022, the Jane Finch Initiative Community Advisory Committee 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 agenda can be viewed in Appendix 1 on page 5 of this document.

The purpose of the event was to:

- Update members on planned wayfinding signage along Black Creek.
- Receive feedback on how residents access Black Creek, and how signage can be improved for wayfinding.
- Share outcomes and takeaways from the Park Perceptions and Racialized Realities research.
- Receive feedback on the proposed approach for upcoming heritage consultation.

ATTENDEES:

- 3 JFCF centre staff, Amadeo Ventura, Clara Stewart Robertson, and Denelle Carvalho.
- 7 City of Toronto staff, James Young, Gary Miedema, Tatum Taylor Chaubal, Zahra Joseph-Wilson, Heather Oliver, Kim Behrouzian, Daniel Hahn.
- 2 Community Researchers, Minakshi Das, Sayem Khan.
- 14 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members, John Romano, Devayani Chitnis, William Ballard, Kemisha Thomas, Veronica Eastman, Edna Cofles Gualtero, Maria B., Christine Le, Troy Budhu, Terryl Knox, Allan Ramsarran, Kayzie Sutton, Sharon Taylor, Jennifer Boakye.

HOW WE ENGAGED

- Denelle Carvalho shared welcoming remarks and a land acknowledgement.
- James Young and Kim Behrouzian shared a presentation on the wayfinding signage along Black Creek.
- Clara Stewart Robertson, Minakshi Das, and Sayem Khan shared a presentation on the Park Perceptions and Racialized Realities research.
- Gary Miedema and Tatum Taylor Chaubal shared a presentation on the Heritage engagement stream.
- Time was allotted for questions and comments on each of the topics.
- Time was allotted for breakout rooms.

WHAT WE HEARD

This section includes the summaries of the feedback collected from the discussions during the Zoom meeting.

- Comment: Overly loud religious speech at the corner of Jane and Finch near Corner Commons has become an issue. How can this be addressed?
 - Response from Jane Finch Centre staff: This has been an ongoing issue for Corner Commons, and staff have tried to find ways to compromise with the groups. The Jane Finch Mall cannot intervene because the speakers are technically on public property.

Black Creek Trail Wayfinding Signage

Some comments in this breakout room were recorded in a publicly available [Social Pinpoint exercise](#).

Comments:

- Signage should include information on the plantings (such as native/invasive species and those that might be harmful to pets) along the trail.
- A TRCA trail connects Black Creek directly to the Black Creek Pioneer Village. It needs more maintenance to feel safe (dark & closed in), signs can indicate permission to access.
- LRT construction makes it hard to navigate around Tobermory.
- Signs can be illuminated or placed near street/trail lighting so they can be viewed in the dark/at night.
- Sentinel Rd and Shepherd Ave W crossing from Downsview Dells is confusing and busy. There is a lot of road traffic and it is not safe for kids and cyclists to cross.
- It would be good if there was an app/webpage to have this information on your phone along the trail (so you can plan ahead for trail conditions and wayfinding).
- It would be good if there was an indication of cell reception strength in the deeper parts of the trail, so you can make informed safety decisions. The City should work with service providers to get cell towers in the trail system.
- Suggested locations for additional signage include:
 - The entrance to the trail system on Shoreham Drive.
 - Access points from main roads to the Finch Hydro Corridor, and access from the Finch Hydro Corridor to the Black Creek Parklands.
 - Commemorative signage at Rudy's Garden, slightly north of the Finch Hydro Corridor along Black Creek.
 - Calico and Giltspur, as kids often enter the trail from Calico school.
 - Signage should be added in areas where the trail has a steep decline where cyclists should dismount such as the entrance to the trail from Clubhouse Court.

Heritage Breakout Room

Comments:

- Northwood Community Centre has historically supported several community service agencies. Northwood Neighbourhood services, Information Downsview, Downsview Seniors (meals on wheels) and Asian Community Center first found spaces at Northwood Community Centre. This can be commemorated by signage.
- Information Downsview was a kiosk in Jane Finch Mall with information about the local community.
- Potential contacts for cultural heritage interviews include founding members of co-ops, representatives from Black Creek Community Health, Northwood Neighbourhood services, community centres, and more. Real history keepers are representatives who have been in organizations for decades.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

6:00 Participants Join
6:05 Welcome
*Begin recording <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions, land acknowledgement, agenda [Denelle]
6:10 Black Creek Trail Signage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 minutes: Black Creek Wayfinding Presentation [James and Kim]
6:25 Park Perceptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 minutes: Park Perceptions and Racialized Realities Presentation [Clara and Nadha]
6:40 Heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 minutes: Heritage Presentation [Gary and Tatum]
7:00 Breakout Rooms
Jamboard link for Heritage breakout room: [redacted]
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25 minutes: Breakout Rooms (Session 1)• 25 minutes: Breakout Rooms (Session 2)
7:50 Closing Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing notes TBD [Denelle]

APPENDIX 2: JAMBOARD

include information on the plantings (such as native/invasive species and those that might be harmful to pets) along the trail

the LRT construction makes it hard to navigate around Tobermory cause there's construction right now

confusing and busy around sentinel rd and shepherd ave w crossing from downview dells - there's a lot of road traffic and it's not safe for kids and cyclists to cross

kids access the trail at calico and giltspur from calico school

would be good if there was an app/webpage to have this information on your phone along the trail (e.g. so you can plan ahead for trail conditions and wayfinding)

would be good if there was an indication of cell reception strength in the deeper parts of the trail, so you can make informed safety decisions

a TRCA trail connects Black Creek directly to the Black creek pioneer village. It needs more maintenance to feel safe (dark & closed in), signs would indicate permission to access

can signs be illuminated or placed near street/trail lighting so they can be viewed in the dark/at night?

Northwood CC offered Asian Community Centre and Information Downview their first free spaces. there should be a sign to commemorate that

information Downview was a kiosk in JFM with information about the local community

work with service providers to get cell towers in the trail system

northwood neighbourhood services, information downview, downview seniors (mealsonwheels) + asian community ctr got first spaces at Northwood CC

Parks **Heritage** **CSF** **Mobility** **Other**

Black Creek Signage

Link to the Social Pinpoint activity: <https://toronto.mysocialpinpoint.ca/black-creek-trail-wayfinding#/>