

**Jane Finch
Initiative: Community
Advisory Committee Meeting
November 15th, 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 November 15th, 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 6 of this document.

The purpose of the event was to:

- Update members on completed and planned youth engagement.
- Inform members of the proposed approach for Deep Dialogues engagements.
- Receive feedback on the proposed approach for Deep Dialogues engagements.

ATTENDEES:

- 2 JFCF centre staff, Amadeo Ventura and Denelle Carvalho.
- 2 City of Toronto staff, Zahra Joseph-Wilson and Jedrick So.
- 11 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members: William Ballard, Maize Blanchard, Devayani Chitnis, Veronica Eastman, Jennifer Boakye, Christine Le, Terryl Knox, Maria B, Sharon Taylor, Troy Budhu, and Mena Hervieux.

HOW WE ENGAGED

- Denelle Carvalho shared welcoming remarks and a land acknowledgement.
- Denelle Carvalho shared a presentation on the Jane Finch Initiative youth engagement stream, especially the youth ambassador engagement events that are being run by engagement partner Urban Minds.
- Jedrick So shared a presentation on the proposed approach for the Deep Dialogues, a series of meetings intended to facilitate collaboration between City staff, potential funding partners, Jane and Finch organizations, and residents. Through the meetings, participants will co-craft recommendations for the community development plan.
- Time was allotted for questions and comments on the proposed approach for the Deep Dialogues
- Jedrick So and Denelle Carvalho facilitated a discussion on comprehensive outreach, meaningful collaboration, and co-design strategies for the Deep Dialogues.

WHAT WE HEARD

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

- Question: Are there any themes that youth are bringing up so far in the youth engagement events?
 - Response from Denelle Carvalho: Only one event has happened thus far, so Urban Minds hasn't identified any themes yet. We will update CAC members as more feedback comes in.
- Prompt: Are there significant community events and/or moments that we should align with or steer clear of out of respect?
 - There are some significant events in the community where JFI representatives can do some outreach for the DDs.
 - Political events.
 - Drop-in times for ping-pong at Driftwood.
 - Sunday market at Jane Finch Mall.
 - Councillor's toy drive.
 - Yorkgate mall events.
- Prompt: How can we make collaboration and co-design rich and meaningful for all?
 - Preference for hybrid meetings to maximize comfort of all participants.
 - Create asynchronous opportunities for participants to get involved in the deep dialogues, such as sharing surveys widely after the meetings.
 - Some people experience barriers accessing in-person, and some experience barriers accessing virtual meetings.
 - Prioritize comfort of youth participants.

- Youth facilitators will make youth more comfortable participating in the deep dialogues.
 - It's hard to control the other voices in the room. We need to think about how the power dynamics might affect youth voices.
 - Youth must be respected & voices must not be dismissed.
 - Youth tend to participate more in-person.
 - Effective outreach strategies.
 - Use visual pictures of diversity in the outreach flyers.
 - Elected officials can support outreach. They will send out end of year or beginning of year newsletters.
 - Meet at-risk youth where they are (ex. detention, school classes). This approach is true for meeting demographics who are hard to reach.
 - Flyers can be shared through Canada Post.
 - Physical flyers/ brochures should be shared early.
 - Flyers left with local school offices to distribute to the children to take home to their parents.
 - Brochures can be shared in places where people often wait, like Jane Medical centre for example.
 - Local door to door outreach gives residents the opportunity to ask questions right at their doors and to learn about what they are being invited to participate in.
 - Make a physical flyer to share, post in public spaces. CAC members can help share flyers.
 - Try to avoid conversations that will not add value to the project development by having a strong facilitator steer conversation.
 - Be mindful of the time and location of meetings. Meetings should be in the evening as fewer people work in the evening, and if they are in-person they should be held in a central location.
- Prompt: Who is not usually in the room for engagements like these and how can we get them to participate?
 - Parents, including single parents. Raising children requires a "village" and the variety of social infrastructure impacts early childhood experiences and life long success. This is also an equity and accessibility issue.
 - Business owners.
 - Local community organizations.
 - Immigrants who don't speak English as a first language.
 - Representative from the local Employment and Social Services office.
 - Any group of residents that are considered marginalized or "on the fringe of the mainstream".
 - Religious organizations.
 - The local LGBTQ2 community.
 - School communities, including parents, teachers, students, and administration.
 - The healthcare industry should be involved in these deep dialogue sessions, including staff at long term care facilities.

- Residents living with or supporting mental wellness issues.
- Local affordable housing providers such as Co-ops and TCHC.
- Caseworkers.
- To reach youth at risk, we can outreach to parole officers, CAMH, and local youth organizations.
- Groups of residents who may be suffering from isolation, such as seniors and those who find it difficult to navigate their community for whatever reason.
- Health care providers.
- Tenants of the private rental property who often get left out of these conversations.
- Seniors, including Downsview Services to Seniors.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

6:00 Participants Join
6:05 Welcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions, land acknowledgement, agenda [Denelle] <p>*Begin recording</p>
6:10 Youth Engagement Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 minutes: Youth engagement update [Denelle]• 5 minutes: Q&A [All]
6:30 CDP Deep Dialogues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 minutes: Presentation on upcoming Deep Dialogues (Jedrick)• 5 minutes Q&A [All]
6:50 Discussion on Deep Dialogues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion [All]
7:30 Closing notes and next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing notes TBD [Denelle]