

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Six Points Parks District

Community Advisory Committee Meeting 1 Meeting Summary

June 14, 2023

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Introduction

This document provides a summary of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting that was held virtually on Wednesday, June 14, 2022 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

More information about the project can be found on the [project webpage](#).

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Welcome and introduce CAC members & the project team
- Confirm Terms of Reference
- Present a project overview and history
- Gather CAC members' visioning ideas and feedback on pre-engagement findings and summaries
- Share next steps

Attendance

CAC Members Present

- 32 CAC members were in attendance

Project Staff Present

- Eli Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
- Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator, Capital Projects
- Eric Klaver, Partner PLANT Architect, LA Design Lead
- Mary Tremain, Partner PLANT Architect, Engagement Lead

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference was reviewed by CAC members in advance of the meeting. Members made no suggested edits or comments. The Terms of Reference was signed and approved by all CAC members present.

CAC members absent from the meeting will review and confirm the Terms of Reference through email.

Presentation

Project staff presented:

- An overview of the Six Points Parks District engagement and design process.
- An overview of the project timeline, history and existing site conditions.
- An introduction to the design consultant team, PLANT Architect Inc.
- A summary of what the engagement team has heard throughout the pre-engagement activities (two public surveys).

The full presentation is available on the [project webpage](#).

Discussion

A discussion period followed the presentation. Guiding discussion questions included:

1. What are you most excited about for the new parks?
2. How would you describe your vision for one or all three of the parks (Dunkip, Six Points Expansion and/or Etobicoke Centre Park) in 1 to 2 sentences?

Q & A

Questions (Q) posed by City Staff and Design Consultants. Responses (R) from CAC. These are not verbatim:

Q: What are you most excited about for the new parks?

- R:**
- Accessibility
 - Increased green space, shade, and gathering areas
 - Ensuring ample play spaces for all, including youth and families in condos and housing
 - Recognizing the need for outdoor areas in light of increased volume and density in the neighbourhood
 - Adding more green spaces to counterbalance the prevalence of concrete in public areas
 - Anticipation for new amenities
 - Enthusiasm for additional green space and services tailored to youth
 - Appreciating the importance of intentional and accessible outdoor spaces
 - Eagerness for park space that can accommodate cultural events
 - Desire for welcoming and accessible green spaces for seniors
 - Excitement for community-oriented activities and spaces, such as outdoor classes, suitable for various age groups
 - Expressing the need for a safe gathering place for dog owners
 - Request for more dog-friendly spaces
 - Anticipating noise reduction features, pollinator gardens, and an enhanced natural environment in the park
 - Looking forward to spending time outside, enjoying green spaces and trails

- Desire for multi-generational and inclusive park spaces
- Enthusiasm for park spaces suitable for seniors and young families
- Recognition of the importance of park space accessible to all demographics, with David Crombie park cited as a good example
- Interest in an ice skating rink and skate park for young boys
- Excitement for more green spaces, a new off-leash area, and a splash pad that can be enjoyed by seniors and young children
- Desire for winterized park space, such as an ice skating trail or rink
- Identifying the need for more seating and gathering areas, integrated art, and accessible green spaces
- Expressing the importance of accessibility features for visually impaired individuals
- Recognizing the diverse demographics in the neighbourhood and advocating for park programming catering to various groups
- Eager anticipation for park spaces designed with character, whimsy, and vibrant colors
- Excitement for hosting community events in the new park spaces

Q: What is your vision for Six Pts Expansion, Dunkip, Etobicoke Centre or all three parks?

- R:**
- Suggesting that Six Points park expansion remains focused on children, Dunkip park caters to dogs, and Etobicoke Centre park is more accessible for seniors, parents, and families
 - Requesting winterized parks with properly cleared paths for safe winter activities and walking
 - Highlighting the importance of accessibility considerations beyond wheelchair access, including features like curb cuts, braille signs, and separate pathways for pedestrians, scooters, and cyclists
 - Calling for park designs that incorporate elements reflecting the area's history, such as integrated public art.
 - Mindful design for Dunkip park due to its proximity to busy roads, potentially including sculptures or sitting gardens
 - Advocating for diverse tree planting to attract a variety of animals and birds
 - Identifying a desire line from Dundas and Kipling to the Bloor bus stop (on Etobicoke Centre site), suggesting its conversion into a paved path
 - Emphasizing the need for Six Points Expansion to be accessible to all, including supportive seating options
 - Raising concerns about traffic safety around Dunkip park
 - Proposing a bridge over the rail tracks to connect Etobicoke Centre park to the new shops south of the tracks, addressing the desire line from the northeast corner of Etobicoke Centre park to the southwest corner
 - Stating that a splash pad may not be necessary due to the new civic center having a pool
 - Suggesting the inclusion of sitting areas for relaxation and coffee, public art in Dunkip park, and spaces for teens like a skate park
 - Identifying existing issues in Six Points Expansion park, such as its small size, concrete surroundings, and lack of spaces for adults
 - Proposing improvements such as a gazebo, diverse seating options, enhanced winter maintenance, increased waste bins, and public event spaces like an amphitheater, while stressing the importance of ample space for movement and relaxation
 - Calling for early involvement of Indigenous groups in the consultation process and suggesting a dog space in the Hydro corridor (planning in the hydro corridor remains out of scope and jurisdiction for this project and City Staff)

- Recommending that Six Points Expansion cater to children due to its sloped site
- Signifying the need for spaces dedicated to youth and dogs
- Suggesting incorporation of the existing large tree at Dunkip into the park's design, making Dunkip and Six Points Expansion areas suitable for children, and transforming Etobicoke Centre Park into a multipurpose space for intergenerational use, including spaces for community interaction, a community garden, and ping-pong tables
- Requesting the addition of more sports and fitness spaces
- Proposing the inclusion of mini-golf in one of the parks

Recommended Design Priorities for the Six Points Parks District

The following provides a summary of the CAC members' discussion about priorities and suggestions for the Parks District, as well as other conversations that emerged during the meeting:

- **General Summary:** The feedback received from the CAC regarding the new park district highlights several key themes and priorities. **Accessibility and inclusivity** are of paramount importance, with a strong emphasis on ensuring that people of all ages and abilities can easily access and enjoy the park spaces. The community is eager to see an increase in **green space**, providing a welcome respite from the predominantly concrete environment. Furthermore, there is a shared enthusiasm for amenities that cater to the diverse needs of residents, including families, children, youth, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

The comments also underscore the significance of **community engagement** and **cultural enhancement**, emphasizing the importance of reflecting the **neighbourhood's unique character and heritage**. **Safety** considerations, such as separating different mobility methods in parks and buffers from traffic and noise, are highlighted, along with suggestions for optimizing park design and reclaiming underutilized areas. The community eagerly anticipates the realization of these priorities and looks forward to the positive impact the new park district will have on the neighbourhood.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

- Prioritize ensuring accessibility for individuals of all ages and abilities, including the elderly and those with limited mobility.
- Intentionally design outdoor spaces with amenities and seating options to make them accessible for all.
- Create inclusive spaces that cater to the diverse demographics of the neighbourhood, including seniors, young families, and individuals with disabilities.
- To enhance accessibility, incorporate features like braille signs, curb cuts, and senior-friendly seating and consider winter path clearing.
- Strive for comprehensive accessibility, surpassing minimal standards to ensure inclusivity.

Green Space and Outdoor Amenities

- Increase the availability of green spaces in the neighbourhood to offer areas for gatherings and enjoyment.
- Design outdoor spaces that accommodate residents of apartment buildings, providing relief from the concrete environment.
- Introduce amenities and programs that cater to the needs of existing and new residents, including families, dog owners, and individuals of all ages.
- Emphasize environmental considerations such as air quality improvement, enhancing the natural environment, and adding pollinator gardens.
- Develop paths, multi-generational spaces, and inclusive areas suitable for various outdoor activities and recreation.

Cultural Development

- Support cultural growth and neighbourhood improvements, reflecting the values of the community in the park district's design.

- Provide spaces for community gatherings and events that are accessible and free for people of all ages.
- Ensure the park district's design reflects and celebrates the unique character and heritage of the neighbourhood.

Safety and Functionality

- Address safety concerns by considering measures to buffer or separate motorized vehicles from pedestrians.
- Install appropriate seating types to accommodate seniors and prioritize the creation of safe and accessible pedestrian paths.
- Address existing issues such as accessibility challenges and garbage problems in current parks.
- Create safe spaces suitable for various activities and events.

Park Design Considerations

- Explore the inclusion of special features and public art in Dunkip Park, paying homage to the area's heritage.
- Utilize underused areas, like the sloped section in Six Points Park, to reclaim additional play spaces.
- Consider integrating an Off-Leash Area (OLA) within the park district, potentially in the Six Points Expansion Park.
- Capitalize on the presence of the mature tree in Dunkip Park to create an urban green oasis.
- Develop a themed park that specifically appeals to children and incorporates attractions like a mini-golf area.

Next Steps

- Members can send additional ideas, comments, or suggestions to Elijah.Bawuah@toronto.ca.
- Members will have one week to provide suggested edits to the draft summary, after which the summary will be finalized.
- The design teams will consider feedback from the CAC meeting and other community engagement events to create a draft district plan and schematic designs for Dunkip Park and the Six Points Park Expansion.
- The second CAC meeting is planned to take place in mid-August 2023.

Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

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Appendix A – Post-Meeting Feedback

The following summarizes additional feedback received after the meeting concluded. Feedback received by City Staff could have been obtained by email, over the phone, or in-person.

- A resident, who resides at Streight Lane, Dundas & Kipling, shared their feedback following the meeting, expressing the following:
 - Concerns about the proposed location of a park for dogs at Dunkip Park due to its proximity to a bus stop frequently used by pedestrians. Instead, they suggested two alternatives for Dunkip Park, namely, creating a kids' park or installing a sports court, emphasizing that it is the most accessible park in the area with bike lanes on Bloor and pedestrian-friendly sidewalks.
 - Regarding the Six Points Plaza expansion, the resident questioned its focus on children, citing the heavy traffic caused by TTC Buses accessing Kipling station. They highlighted accessibility issues, including numerous crossings of major roads and unfriendly conditions for pedestrians walking on Dundas West.
 - In terms of their vision for Etobicoke Centre, the resident proposed transforming it into a large park offering both winter and summer activities.
 - Finally, the resident suggested incorporating outdoor exercise equipment like an elliptical, as seen in some parks in Mexico City, as a beneficial addition to the park district.

- Following the CAC meeting regarding the new park district another resident had the following to share:
 - The resident highlighted the importance of accessibility and made several suggestions for its implementation. They recommended obtaining certification for accessibility, particularly through the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) program, which assesses the accessibility of the built environment. They emphasized the need to focus on physical structures that enable easy ingress and egress.
 - To support their suggestions, the resident provided resources that showcase the RHFAC certification process, such as an infographic outlining the six steps to certification, a guide to certification, a professional directory, and a rating survey and professional handbook. It is noted that the rating process typically takes up to a month, with a minimum cost of \$2,350, along with additional RHFAC Professional fees.
 - In addition to accessibility considerations, the resident also proposed several amenities to enhance the park district. These amenities include BBQ stations near picnic tables and gazebos, fire pits for community gatherings, designated smoking and non-smoking areas, and the provision of a park staff meeting room/office.
 - Furthermore, the resident recommended incorporating design features in line with Ontario, Toronto, and specialty groups' recommendations to ensure the park district meets accessibility guidelines. Additionally, they proposed applying for the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Inclusive Play Spaces program for the playground, which is designed to be universally accessible and inclusive for all children.