

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

New Parks in the Six Points Neighbourhood

Indigenous Advisory Circle 2 Meeting Summary

January 2024

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Introduction

This document provides a summary of the Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) meeting that was held virtually on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 from 6:00 to 8 p.m.

Visit toronto.ca/SixPointsParks for more information about the project.

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Review the vision statement and guiding principles for the Six Points Park District, and summarize Indigenous and community feedback collected to date
- Collect feedback on the draft design options for Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip Park
- Further discuss the project with IAC members, and answer questions

Attendance

Project Team Present

- Eli Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, City of Toronto
- William Skura, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator (Indigenous), City of Toronto
- Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator, City of Toronto
- Mary Tremain, Engagement Consultant Lead, Partner PLANT Architect
- Eric Klaver, Design Consultant Lead, Partner PLANT Architect
- Tanya Pande, Landscape Designer
- Zeynep Benk, Landscape Architect

IAC Members Present

- Three (3) IAC members attended

Presentation

The project team presented:

- Project updates, including draft design options for Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip Park.
- Review of draft guiding principles and vision statement, updated program options, placekeeping opportunities, and Indigenous and community feedback collected to date

A discussion period followed the presentation for each park design.

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Questions (Q) asked by IAC members and answers (A) from the project team. The following has been paraphrased:

Q. Can the fire pit at Etobicoke City Centre Park be used for sacred fires?

A. City staff noted that the fire pit is not currently intended as a dedicated sacred fire site, but the project team can explore the possibility of designating it as one, if there is interest. The Etobicoke Civic Centre Plaza will include a sacred fire site.

Q. Can a food-planting community garden be considered for Six Points Park Expansion or Dunkip Park?

A. City staff noted that a community garden has not been incorporated into draft design options for these parks. Six Points Expansion park is being considered as a potential site for a community garden, but a community group would need to submit a formal request to establish one in the district.

What We Heard

A brief summary of discussion points and comments during the meeting.

Six Points Park Expansion

- IAC members preferred Option 2 for Six Points Park Expansion. Indicated that the off-leash area might be too close to the road and noisy, and suggested that Tom Riley Park might be better suited to an off-leash area.
- City staff noted that an off-leash area will be included in a new park opening near the Six Points Park district.
- Interest in a medicine wheel/walk, with the plantings of each of those four quadrants representing the medicine wheel, for people to use as a meditative walk. Example at Windowrock, the seat of Government for the Navaho Nation.

Dunkip/Gateway Park

- IAC member preferred Option 2 for Dunkip Park.
- IAC member liked the tree grove and Indigenous pollinator gardens presented in design options for Dunkip Park, but expressed concern about maintenance of these gardens.

Indigenous Placekeeping

- IAC members suggested including lots of seating for Indigenous gatherings, with a preference for circular and moveable seating.
- IAC members expressed excitement for the possibility of a tobogganing berm at Etobicoke City Centre Park.
- IAC member interested in supporting the development of content for Indigenous interpretation elements. The project team will explore a collaborative approach to developing this content. (see below for details shared in 1st IAC)
- Indigenous art is very important to incorporate into the Park District.
- Provide signage to educate the public on the history of the Indigenous plantings.
- Every park should have an Indigenous marker.
- Include plaques sharing Canadian Indigenous local history, with a focus on resiliency and contributions made to larger society, throughout the park or along trails.
- Consider also including information on the city's lost river system.

Next Steps

- Visions statement and guiding principles will be emailed to the IAC members for review and feedback.
- IAC members can email any additional ideas, comments, or suggestions to William.Skura@toronto.ca.
- The design teams will consider feedback from this IAC meeting and other community engagement events to create a preferred concept plan.
- The next virtual IAC meeting is planned for Thursday, February 22nd, 2024. Further details will be provided in advance of the meeting.

Contact Us

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

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