

# Don Mills CRC

## Youth Ambassadors Meeting #2

### Internal Meeting Minutes and Summary

**Updated: October 10, 2023**

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#### **Purpose of Meeting:**

The purpose of the Youth Ambassadors Meeting was to:

- Provide a recap of the role of Youth Ambassadors on the Don Mills CRC project
- Present the Design Concept Options
- Conduct a facilitated discussion with Youth Ambassadors about the Design Concept Options
- Support the Youth in generating a plan to engage their communities and report back to the Project Team

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. In the initial youth meeting (and other engagement activities) there have been requests for a multi-faith space/prayer room. This element does not seem to be meaningfully included in the design and was raised by youth as an important consideration.
2. Youth questioned whether the outdoor terrace was a necessary component of the Don Mills CRC. They mentioned that the activities that would take place in the terrace would be similar to those in the park and they would rather have another gymnasium than the terrace. They did indicate if the terrace was to remain, its functionality should compliment (rather than compete with) the park.
3. Overall, youth would like to see more gymnasium space, prefer privacy in multi-purpose and fitness spaces, and envision the community hall and kitchen as a large-scale event space.

*Additional comments are summarized below.*

## Summary of Facilitated Discussion

- **Suggestions for Activities**
  - Potential sports and activities could include basketball, volleyball, and pickleball.
  - Spin (cycling) classes were suggested.
  - Propose adding a ping pong table or other games in the lobby to create a more welcoming space
- **Ice Pads**
  - Considering increased flexibility with one of the ice rinks with a performance space for shows and concerts, additional gymnasium space, or other multi-purpose uses during the off-season (summer).
- **Aquatics**
  - Suggests providing seating areas near the pool for people with disabilities, as well as ramps or chairs to assist people into the water
  - Youth agree that activities like water basketball in the leisure pool would appeal to youth of their age
- **Fitness Studio**
  - Fitness studio with mirrors would be appreciated, and window coverings for privacy and adaptability.
- **Open Fitness Area / Gym**
  - Suggest offering dedicated times for women or girls to use the gym area, potentially with a dedicated person to ask for help, to increase comfort and confidence.
  - Have a more enclosed space with privacy options / screens (versus open with high visibility) for using fitness machines
- **Multi-Purpose Rooms**
  - Consider privacy concerns in multipurpose rooms and potential for classes to feel like a "fishbowl" with exposure to the future park
  - Suggest carpet in dedicated hangout space / prayer room, but not for rooms designated for events or programs
- **Sustainable Design Considerations**
  - There was a question about whether the building would include sustainable design elements like solar panels
  - A suggestion was made to use permeable paving in the public realm that drains to garden areas
  - Youth participants discussed whether a rooftop terrace was a necessary inclusion, given the proximity to a park. They mentioned that the activities

that would take place in the terrace would be similar to those in the park and would rather have another gymnasium than the terrace.

- **Community center design and programming**

- Concerns about the lack of seating space for a basketball tournament in the gym. Acknowledge that there is a seating / viewing area outside the gym but this feels minimal.

- **Community Hall and Kitchen**

- Would like to see kitchen layout and design to accommodate different programs and functions, such as parties, weddings, and cooking classes.
- Consider opening the community kitchen to the lobby to create a more fluid space for food and socializing (e.g., a coffee shop).

- **Lobby and Common Areas**

- Youth want a lobby that feels welcoming with “good vibes”, hustle and bustle, and easy to navigate

- **Tech**

- A makerspace, including 3D printing and music recording, is appealing to youth
- Would like to see basic computer and printer access for community members