

City of Toronto – Parks Planning & Strategic Initiatives

Six Points Park District Plan & Two New Parks

Community Advisory Committee Meeting 4

Meeting Summary

March 4, 2024

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1. Introduction

This document summarizes the fourth Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting that was held virtually on Monday, March 4, 2024, from 6:00 p.m., to 8:00 p.m.

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

1.1 Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Summarize what we heard to date and through CAC#1, CAC#2, and CAC#3 meetings
- Present Final Six Points Park District Plan
- Set the direction for the two parks at Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip (preferred concept design options).

1.2 Project Scope

The scope of the project is summarized below:

- Park District Vision & Plan
- **Concept Design for Two Parks – WE ARE HERE**
- Design Development & Detailed Design for Two Parks
- Procurement & Construction

1.3 Project Timeline

- Phase 1 – Pre-Engagement (Q2 – Q4 2022)
 - Pre-Engagement Survey 1
 - Pre-Engagement Survey 2
- Phase 2 – Building a Vision: Preliminary Park District Vision and Plan and Exploring Program Options (Q3 2023)
 - CAC Orientation
 - TAC Meeting #1
 - CAC Meeting #2
 - IAC Meeting #1
 - Public Workshop #1
- Phase 3 – Part 1: Final District Plan and Exploring Design Options for Two Parks (Concept Options) (Q3 2023 – Q1 2024) – WE ARE HERE
 - TAC Meeting #2
 - IAC Meeting #2
 - CAC Meeting #3
 - Public Workshop #2 & Survey
- **Phase 3 – Part 2: Setting the Direction for Two Parks (Preferred Concepts) (Q3 2023 – Q1 2024) – WE ARE HERE**

- TAC Meeting #3
 - IAC Meeting #3
 - **CAC Meeting #4**
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- Phase 4 – Detailed Design & Hire a Construction Team (Q2 2024)
 - Phase 5 – Construction Starts

1.4 Community Advisory Committee

A Community Advisory Committee has been established for this project with the primary objective of guiding the design of the new Six Points Park District and District Plan to align with community needs.

The first meeting of the Community Advisory Committee occurred in June 2023, conducted virtually, where members actively engaged to provide feedback focusing on the programming ideas for Six Points Park District Plan and preliminary program options for the two parks.

Based on what we heard in this meeting, a draft vision statement and a set of guiding principles were presented for feedback; these are accessible on the project webpage. The vision statement and guiding principles have served as points of reference throughout the project phases to ensure that the program options for the new park district and park designs are in harmony with the needs of the community.

Comprehensive summary reports for previous Community Advisory Committee Meetings #1, #2, and #3, including the presentation materials that were shared, can be found on the project webpage.

1.5 Attendance

CAC Members Present

- Anna S
- Claudia S
- Colette
- Diandra S
- Emily W
- Frances M
- Gordon
- Irene J
- Jennifer D
- Julio M
- Lucy F
- Ron R
- Saleha B
- See-Yin L
- Vish

City of Toronto Staff Present

- Lara Herald, Senior Project Coordinator
- Eli Bawuah, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

PLANT Architect Staff Present

- Mary Tremain, Engagement Consultant Lead
- Zeynep Benk, Landscape Architect, Project Manager
- Tanya Pande, Landscape Designer

2. Summary

The purpose of the fourth Community Advisory Committee meeting was to present the Final Park District Plan and set the direction for two new parks. Community members provided valuable feedback on the Final Park District Plan and preferred concepts for Six Points Park Expansion and Dunkip Park. A notable majority of participants expressed satisfaction with the overall distribution of programs across the four parks within the district and final concept designs for the two parks, highlighting the support for multi-generational activities and the inclusion of more green space.

Specific recommendations emerged from the meeting, including suggestions to extend the dog-off-leash area (OLA) by reducing buffer planting and consolidating two entrances into one, incorporating seating within the horticulture planting areas, and locating artwork in locations that add value to the park without simply relegating it to corners.

Additionally, there was a call for attention to the accessibility of surfacing, site furnishing, signage, and playground equipment throughout the four parks to accommodate individuals of all abilities. Some participants raised concerns about the inadequacy of activities catering to young children and teenagers who would be using the park facilities, suggesting the need for further consideration in this regard.

In summary, the feedback from the Community Advisory Committee underscores the importance of inclusive, engaging year-round spaces that cater to the diverse needs of the community.

Following an analysis of the feedback received at the end of Community Engagement Phase 2 (current phase), the City and the design team will proceed with finalizing the concept design for each of the two parks at Six Points Expansion and Dunkip, and move forward into the detailed design phase.

3. Meeting Minutes

3.1. Final Park District Plan

CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response

- 3.1.1. Thank you so much for sharing this plan. I am feeling enthralled after hearing this. I attended the last few meetings, and it feels like you fit everything we asked for into these four park sites. I want to thank you for hearing us. The outdoor court and the skate spot will be great for teenagers living in the area. I am thrilled by the public washrooms, which is always a problem. Incorporating the dog-off-leash area would be great. I am so grateful, and I am seeing the vision here. I think this is exactly what these four parks need before the Civic Centre comes up.
- 3.1.2. Why were the meeting agenda and slides not sent in advance of the meeting?
 - *We generally opt to distribute slides following meetings. This approach allows us to thoroughly explain the designs beforehand, preventing any misunderstandings or miscommunications that might arise if people examine the designs without the project teams' explanations for certain decisions. In previous experiences, providing slides before meetings led to frustration due to assumptions made about the designs, which could have been avoided with*

prior explanations from our team. In one instance, the designs were shared well before the meeting on social media and news outlets with incorrect assumptions made about the design, which were later corrected during the meeting.

3.1.3. Are there any slides that give the actual dimensions of the parks?

- *We do not have dimensions on the slides, yet. But we have more detailed designs for Dunkip Park and Six Points Park Expansion that we are going to get into in the next part of the presentation. We can give you general areas for some of the components of those two parks.*

3.1.4. You mentioned the certification for accessibility with some initials that I did not recognize. Who is going to be certifying?

- *We were giving a recap of some of the things that we had heard from this group with respect to the desires for the neighbourhood. RHFAC is Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification. In this phase of the project, in Dunkip Park and Six Points Park Expansion, we do not have any playgrounds. Playground and multi-sports court are in the Etobicoke City Centre Park, so this would be addressed during the development of that park. We were saying that we heard you mentioned this idea of certification of the playgrounds, and we understand that would be an ideal goal.*

3.1.5. Are there any considerations for a drinking fountain in any of the parks, in addition to the one in the existing Six Points Park?

- *We have an existing fountain in the Six Points Park, as you have noted, that we are looking to upgrade if it is within the budget. We are potentially looking to add one at Dunkip Park and that must be within budget too. The challenge is the cost of bringing the services that we need from the road. We want to be mindful of our project budgets. This is certainly something that we would be looking at for the Etobicoke City Centre Park as well.*

3.1.6. Has the budget for these park projects been shared and how much has been spent so far, getting us to today? If it is not available now, where can we find this information?

- *We do not typically share budget details in advance. We have two separate budgets that we are working with for both projects and we do not have this information readily available. You may contact City staff directly for more details.*

3.1.7. All of these parks are quite noisy. I do not know if it is being considered. Dunkip Park is surrounded by the buses going by, same with the Six Points Park Expansion. The designs look nice, but I think these are very simple parks. One of them is essentially a dog park and the other one (Dunkip) is just a seating park with skateboarding. I would just sit there for ten minutes and then walk away because there are not even any more play structures for the kids.

- *It is important to recognize that we are planning the parks in a holistic way. We are designing for four parks at the same time and planning for programs across*

all of them. One of the things that we are doing in each case is looking at the surrounding context and what would be the most appropriate program. In the early stages of this process, when we were looking at Dunkip Park, for example, it was not considered the best location for a playground, whereas the Etobicoke City Centre Park would be a more appropriate location because we have more space and there are options to locate things a little bit tucked away from the busy roads.

- *In earlier stages of the design, we certainly did look at incorporating other elements into Dunkip Park and we tried to balance the programming across all four parks. Also, some of the feedback we were hearing about this park was that it is an oddly shaped site, surrounded by roads on all four sides, and people wanted a green space to go to. We are also thinking about this park as being a place used by not just people who live in the neighbourhood, but also by people who work in the neighbourhood in a passive way, and we have tried to balance those uses.*

3.1.8. I hear from various community members that all we need is some grass, benches, and some trees. I think these revised designs do respond to what the community wanted, which is less concrete and more green. We live in a heat island here, so we need the green space.

3.1.9. We have to cross several streets with lots of traffic just to get to the kids' playground. It may be better to spread the playgrounds a bit more (in the district), so we do not have to be walking busy streets because we are going to have more density as new condos get built.

- *It is going to be busy but there are some courtyards within some of the planned housing development blocks that may have a playground and other green spaces within those blocks as well.*

3.1.10. The great thing about this area is that we have very wide sidewalks where we can walk safely, even though we have to cross all the wide streets with the kids.

3.1.11. The new designs accommodate all demographics (young, old, and four-legged).

3.1.12. Park #1: Six Points Park Expansion (SPPE)

CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response

3.1.12.1. How tiny is the OLA?

- *We are going to be looking at that park in more detail in the next part of the presentation.*

3.1.13. Park #2: Etobicoke City Centre Park (EC Park)

CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response

3.1.13.1. Is the multi-sports court accessible to use?

- *The intention is for all these spaces to be accessible. However, this is a detailed question at the Park District Plan level of design.*

3.1.13.2. Are you communicating with the other planners regarding the Etobicoke Civic Centre? Because some of the items that I see in the programming list of the City Centre Park are overlapping with the common amenities of the

Civic Centre, such as the multi-sports court. I also do not see any splash pads proposed.

- *Yes, we are aware of what is happening in the Etobicoke Civic Centre. I think you are referring to the sports court inside the building. That is an indoor use, which is programmed in a different way, and we are looking to provide outdoor amenities, such as basketball or multi-sports court, that the Facilities Master Plan identified as needed in this area. That is one of the reasons we are proposing that program in the largest park of the district. With respect to a splash pad, it was not really a top consideration in this area because there is one already located at the Six Points Park and there is also one at Michael Power Park, and the Etobicoke Civic Centre Plaza will have an outdoor water feature, which will be open to the public. So, there is already a number of water features in this area.*

3.1.13.3. Are there any BBQ spots with the fire pits?

- *We did hear comments about fire pits and BBQs, and we have allowed for a fire pit in the Etobicoke City Centre Park. We will be reviewing that further with Parks, and there is a potential that we can include a BBQ spot as well once we get into that project.*

3.1.13.4. BBQs are dangerous and costly to maintain. Dufferin Grove Park got rid of the pizza oven due to safety concerns.

3.1.13.5. I remember there was a conversation about shade structures while trees have time to mature - will the sports court be very hot in our increasingly warm summers?

- *We have not got into the details of this particular park, but that is certainly something we can consider in future stages of the work. We might be considering the colour of the surfacing, the size of the trees that are planted adjacent to the multi-sports court. There is also a pavilion in the middle of the park, which is right adjacent to the sports court. So, these are the things that can be considered as that project gets developed and moves forward.*

3.1.14. Park #3: Dunkip Park

CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response

3.1.14.1. Are you planning for changes to Dunkip Park design for the slip lane closure at Dundas Street to the north?

- *This is not within the scope of this project. It is something brought up by the community and it must be studied. The City does not presently have the budget for it but there is a potential for that space.*
- *To further clarify, what this plan represents is a longer-term vision for the district. The primary focus of the plan is to lay out the various amenities and programming within the park district. It has been noted both by this group and our Technical Advisory Committee members, which is our internal stakeholder group, that there is potential for the*

road closure somewhere down the line in the future. But like we mentioned, there is not a budget attached to it and it is not currently an active project. It would need to go through the process of becoming a project, just like any other project. So, we are just noting it in the plan as a potential, future possibility.

3.1.14.2. What is proposed in Dunkip Park is not very useful. I do not think either the Indigenous cultural garden or the horticultural planting would survive here in winter, so I am not sure if these would deliver the intended value into the park.

- *The planting is intended to have a year-round visual effect. There may be perennial planting that goes to sleep during winter and comes back in the spring. It will not be annual planting that will die in the winter and need to be replanted every year. We also tried to increase the lawn area, so planting is quite simple – with lawn, trees, and some buffer planting at the perimeter. It is the kind of planting that will last a long time.*

3.1.14.3. I imagine that the plants will be maintained as all the other plants in the neighbourhood. I see it as a long-term solution.

3.1.14.4. Has the tree been replaced in Dunkip Park concept? It was a twig, not a larger tree when I had last seen it.

- *You are correct – it is not going to be replaced with a tree of the same size, but there are trees throughout the lawn areas and we have a tree that we will show you in the next part of the presentation, that is going in approximately in the same location as the previous tree. It will not be of the same size as the old tree, but it is better to plant smaller trees for longevity so that they establish their roots in a healthier way. What we included in the budget is not a twig, it is going to be a specimen tree but not as big as the previous tree. It is also not feasible logistically to find a tree of that size and bring it to site and plant it.*

3.1.15. Park #4: Linear Park

CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response

3.1.15.1. There is a hill at the north corner of the park. I cannot read in the master plan what is planned in this area. So, I wanted to know how that park is going to be graded and what impact that would have on the proposed amenities.

- *We have a small sitting area at the corner with chess tables. We are confident that grading could be worked out, but it is a detailed question to respond to at the Park District Plan level of design.*

3.2. Six Points Park Expansion Preferred Concept

CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response

3.2.1. Was the Six Points Expansion where they had planned to do ping-pong? I see duplication of the chess tables in both parks, and some people might have voted for the ping-pong table.

- *Yes, in our previous plan we had a ping-pong table and an outdoor fitness structure, but we did not pursue ping-pong because of the feedback that we got on that program. It is true that there is duplication of chess tables. The concerns we got on the ping-pong tables that it is a noisy activity. We would have to pull up the statistics for the particular park sites, but people rated their preferences for different activities and amenities. I do not believe that ping-pong was rated high in this park.*

3.2.2. Thank you for all the work you have done and listening to the community on some of our concerns with some of the previous proposals. It looks good overall, and I am happy to see even a small OLA. I hope that dog park community experts, such as the Toronto Dog Park Community, get engaged in the design process because sometimes they use gravel as surfacing, and it is not dog-friendly, not good for small dogs especially. The Love Park example is better in terms of surfacing. I hope that is considered. The community table seems quite big, and I am wondering if it would become a magnet for graffiti or garbage.

- *Currently in the OLA, we have mulch as surfacing. We would consider doing something similar to Love Park, as we move forward with the design, if we have the budget to do it. So, it is a balancing game with the available budget. The community table is not as massive as our precedents are showing. We did have it longer previously, but currently it is three picnic tables joined together. It is not huge, but it is enough for a larger group of people to gather.*

3.2.3. I see the chess table noted on the slide, but I cannot see it on the plan. Is it part of the community table?

- *It will be incorporated into a portion of the community table.*

3.2.4. I think that the community table is excellent because we do have multi-generational families here and it would be an excellent place for them to have picnics, or even multiple groups of people sharing the same table, which is quite nice. Is it possible to expand the Indigenous Cultural Garden and reduce the amount of lawn area and incorporate a seating element that is immersed in that garden? Because it seems like it is just enveloping the area rather than being immersed into the garden. I think it would be a nice gem in this park. It would be nice to have the seating, noted as #1, included as part of the garden. Even moving the bench to the area noted as #9, so you are looking at the planting and it is not just a backdrop.

- *That is a great idea. We will look at it as the design develops but we are also balancing budgetary items and the ability for Parks to maintain certain elements of the park within the design.*

3.2.5. The art location on the plan looks like a congested area with the bus shelter, bike lane, the crossing, and the traffic poles and signals. I am not sure if it is the best location for an art piece. It might be more prominent as a gateway feature and not so clustered into that one corner.

- *Great point – noted.*

3.2.6. Crushed stone path is not accessible. It is an invitation to wheelchair accidents. I

also see that neither the chess table nor the community table are accessible.

- *We are proposing a crushed stone path as a secondary path to the main seating/gathering area, but it is also accessible by a fully paved path, which is labelled #8. We received some comments from folks who had expressed less paving and crushed stone is a more appropriate, permeable surface material. So, if we are anticipating a secondary desire line or secondary path, we were thinking that could be a crushed stone material, which means less concrete in the park.*
- *We should also point out that what we are proposing is not loose crushed stone. It compresses into a hard surface, if there are any concerns about gravel migrating across the path.*
- *People in wheelchairs would take the main concrete paths that are accessible to them. Crushed stone path is just an additional pathway option that is not necessarily meant for wheelchairs to take. There are four concrete paths in this park that wheelchair users can use to navigate the park areas.*
- *What you are seeing in the precedent images is not exactly what we are providing. As we develop the design further, we are going to be providing tables that have bench spaces and spaces where wheelchairs can pull up to. So, everything is going to be accessible.*
- *Just to clarify, careful consideration will always be made to make sure that the parks are accessible to all mobility device users.*

3.2.7. There are not enough activities for the young, school age kids, and teenagers. People would want outdoor space for their kids to play, because the units in the coming condo are much smaller, so kids do not have areas to play in and that is a big problem. So, I agree that we need an accessible community table and chess tables.

- *We have four park spaces in this district. And there are other parks within certain walking distances of this district also. In the Six Points Park, there is an existing splash pad and a play structure. In the Etobicoke City Centre Park, which is going to be built soon but it is not part of our implementation, there is going to be a new playground, a tobogganing berm, a multi-sports court, and multi-use field. Those will appeal to young kids or teenage kids. There is also the skate spot at Dunkip Park, which would be good for youth, and there is outdoor fitness at Linear Park. These are not massive park sites and there is a limit to how much one can include in them. We hear what you are saying but we are trying to balance programs as much as we can within the space limitations.*

3.2.8. The paved pathway that leads to the OLA has two double gates that take up a lot of space from the OLA, and there is buffer planting. I am wondering if there is an opportunity to scale back the double gate and buffer planting so that the OLA can be a tiny bit bigger. The path is going to be used only by people who go to the OLA. I agree with the previous comment that the art feature should move.

- *Given that it is an intersection, we think that people are going to be using the main path from both directions, and it is going to be a desire*

line through the park. We also have requirements from Parks to make the path a certain width for maintenance access. Buffer planting is something that the City wants to provide around OLAs. It is not so much for the dog owners, but for the other people who do not necessarily want to see fences, so it is a screening mechanism.

- *We know that the double gate entrances do take up quite a bit of space, but they are another safety feature, so that people can enter in with their dog leashed. It is a standard that we apply to OLAs to make sure that extra layer of safety for people coming in and out is in place.*

3.3. Dunkip Park Preferred Concept

CAC Member Question / Comment & Project Team Response

3.3.1. I have the same comment for Indigenous Cultural Garden as the other park. I understand the budgetary constraints, but you have a lot of seating areas here and these seem to be looking away from this garden, which is a nice feature of the park. Wondering if there is any way of incorporating seating to look towards the garden to appreciate the time spent in horticultural planting that is going to be there.

- *Great comments, thank you.*

3.3.2. I love the connection of the Dunkip Park Indigenous Garden! We learned that was a traditional Indigenous path, so great spatial connection. I also love the current path that is already constructed on the site.

3.4. Next Steps

- 3.4.1. Thank you for your participation and excellent comments. We are looking forward to moving this project forward to the next stage.
- 3.4.2. Feel free to email your questions and comments to us after the meeting. We are sharing a link in the chat to a new evaluation survey of the meeting, and we invite everyone to fill them out.
- 3.4.3. Thank you everyone for being here today. We appreciate you taking the time.



PLANT ARCHITECT INC.

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