



The Planning Discussion Group – Honest Ed’s / Mirvish Village

October 9, 2015 5:30PM-7:00PM
720 Bathurst Street - Centre for Social Innovation - 3rd Floor

Attendees

LeoPanitch, PARA
JenniferHunter, SVRA
Doug Rylett, SVRA
Terry Montgomery, ARA
Jim Jacobs, ARA
Sue Dexter, HVRA
Carolee Orme, HVRA
Brian Burchell, Annex BIA
Margaret Robbins, local resident
Councillor Mike Layton, Ward 19 – Trinity-Spadina
Michal Hay, Executive Assistant to Mike Layton
Councillor Joe Cressy, Ward 20 – Trinity-Spadina
Lia Brewer, Executive Assistant to Joe Cressy
Graig Uens, Toronto City Planning

Regrets

Paul Maclean, PARA
Donna Macfarlane, local resident

Meeting Notes

The meeting primarily concerned discussion on the Draft Terms of Reference and the October 7th Community Consultation Meeting.

Following introductions, G. Uens presented the Draft of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Discussion Group. There was minimal discussion on the mandate and composition of the group as expressed in the TOR. It was clarified and generally agreed upon that the function of the group is not to act as a negotiating committee with the applicant. It was agreed that, in the event that a member of the RA’s or BIA’s were unable to attend, a proxy from that RA or BIA could attend the meeting in their place. It was also agreed that meeting attendance would be limited to group members only, except in the instance where someone attends in ‘proxy’ role.

In discussing the manner in which the Group would review and comment on the proposed development, there was debate on whether to approach the proposal on a thematic basis or an area basis. It was suggested that the group could discuss a specific theme of the proposal, such as, Transportation, Heritage, etc, at each meeting. It was also suggested that the group divide the site into character areas, such as the north-east corner, Mirvish Village, etc, or each street frontage, and discuss all aspects of each of these areas at individual meetings. After much discussion on these two approaches, it was determined that a hybrid of the two would be attempted, where each meeting would be approached thematically but discussion on these themes would be divided into specific character areas of the site.

While, the group did not ultimately agree on the specific themes to be addressed at each meeting, the following were discussed: Built and Cultural Heritage, Movement, Built Form, open space/park space, the public realm, community services and facilities, and the contents of the Avenue Segment Review.

It was agreed that the next Discussion Group Meeting, tentatively Scheduled for November 18th, 2015 at 5:30-7:30, at a location to be determined, will discuss Heritage. City staff from Heritage Preservation Services will be invited to this meeting.

It was agreed that G. Uens will provide background information on the topic to be discussed to the Group members in advance of each Discussion Group meeting.

The Group Discussed the format of the October 7th Community Consultation Drop-in Meeting and made the following comments:

- The delineation between City staff and the applicant could have been better achieved. It was proposed that this could be achieved through the use of more effective name tags for both parties, periodic announcements by the City, and a quick note on the format at the sign-in table.
- Some residents were uncomfortable with the number of representatives from the applicant listening in on comments to City staff. Conversely, it was also generally agreed by the group that having the applicant present to hear comments directly from the community was an appropriate way in which to inform the applicant of the concerns of area residents.
- In future meetings, information which has been revised, or updated should be noted on boards and other materials.

The following matters were also discussed at the meeting:

- It was requested that the City provide their preliminary comments on the proposal, as well as any agency comments received to-date, to the Discussion Group.
- It was clarified that, while the applicant is not a member of the Discussion Group, that they may be invited to a future meeting at the discretion of the Group.
- It was suggested that a running list of questions for the City and also for Westbank be kept at each meeting and followed up for the next meeting

Action Items

- G. Uens to send March 27, 2015 City Planning Preliminary Comments on the proposal with the Group.
- G. Uens to update website with Avenue Segment Review.
- G. Uens to confirm the involvement of TTC within the Bloor / Bathurst 4 Corners Study.
- G. Uens to provide agency comments issued to-date to the Group.
- G. Uens to provide updated Terms of Reference in advance of next meeting