

**LAKE ONTARIO PARK MASTER PLAN  
STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #4  
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2008 6:00 TO 8:15 PM**

**REVISED MEETING NOTES**

*Revisions to the Meeting Notes are indicated in boldface type*

**1) Welcome and Introduction**

James Roche from Waterfront Toronto opened the meeting and welcomed participants. He noted that a tremendous amount of activity had taken place since the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) had last met. He then turned the meeting over to facilitator, Joanna Kidd of Kidd Consulting.

Joanna briefly reviewed the events since the last SAC meeting. She noted that at SAC Meeting #3, on November 6, 2007, the discussion had centred on three major issues relating to process. These were:

- the need to improve communication with the SAC;
- the need to improve the effectiveness of the stakeholder consultation process, especially given the size and complexity of Lake Ontario Park (LOP); and
- the need to better meet the information needs of stakeholders.

After the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, Waterfront Toronto sent stakeholders a memo (one November 11, 2007) outlining how it proposed to address these issues. Part of the proposal was to hold three geographically-based Task Group Meetings to allow for more detailed discussion. These were held on:

- December 4, 2007 (Bar and Marina Peninsula);
- December 5, 2007 (Bay); and
- December 6, 2007 (Base Lands).

Joanna noted that Meeting Notes from the meetings had been circulated to stakeholders and copies were available. She noted that the Design Team and Waterfront Toronto felt that the Task Group Meetings were very useful in that they enable the group to identify and discuss key issues. In many cases, stakeholders were able to suggest ways to address the issues in the LOP Master Plan document.

Joanna reviewed the purpose of the meeting which was to present the major issues raised at the December Task Group Meetings and discuss the proposed responses to those issues. She noted that some stakeholders had attended one or more meetings, and some had not attended any. She noted that the desired outcome of SAC Meeting #4 was to identify which issues had been satisfactorily addressed, and which ones not.

To add context to the group's work, Joanna briefly presented a schematic of the LOP consultation process, which includes input and direction from the Executive Steering Committee, the Steering Committee and the relatively new Park Planning Team. Advice and input also comes from the local councillor, the Mayor's office, the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and the Public.

Joanna reviewed the agenda, which is attached as Appendix A. On a logistical note, she pointed out that the Bar/Marina Peninsula Task Group Meeting Notes from December 4, 2007 have been slightly revised at the request of a SAC member. She asked that any future requests for changes to Meeting Notes come in written form. She also noted that the Aquatic Park Sailing Club had approached Waterfront Toronto with a request to sit as a separate member of the SAC. Waterfront Toronto has agreed to this, given the different issues facing APSC due to their location.

She then asked participants to introduce themselves. The list of attendees is included as Appendix B.

## **2) Presentation**

Richard Kennedy from Field Operations gave a presentation in which he described the key issues raised in the December Task Group Meetings and the proposed resolution of these issues. (The complete table of the issues and proposed responses was circulated to SAC members in advance of the meeting). He then touched briefly on four major issues that are still under consideration by the Steering Committee. These are:

- The City has asked the Design team to prepare lighting guidelines, as City Parks Forestry and Recreation (PFR) are concerned about adjacencies and the character of the park.
- The Design Team has been asked to identify options for off-leash dog walking in the Cherry Beach area, as a result of the City policy on off-leash areas adopted by City Council in December 2007.
- The number, type and location of active sports fields in the Bar is still being discussed.
- The City has asked the Design Team to prepare a Master Plan statement that addresses the opportunities and challenges for preserving and increasing tree canopy coverage across the park site.

## **3) Discussion**

Joanna led members through a process in which outstanding issues were identified. Once this was done, stakeholders discussed the issues.

### ***Don Greenway***

- It was suggested that the public use of the “hook” (the termination of the Don Greenway) should allow Water Rats Sailing Club access to some or all of the beach on the eastern side to allow the launching of beach catamarans and similar craft.
- Richard Kennedy noted that this was possible, and will be addressed in forthcoming discussions with the Parks Planning Team on the ‘functions’ of the greenway as it enters Lake Ontario Park.
- A member suggested that within the Bar, the Don Greenway could contain a marsh.

### ***First Nations Grove***

- Waterfront Toronto (WT) was applauded for the proposed First Nations consultation process that should include not only the Beacon to the Ancestors group, but also the

Iroquois, the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Huron Wendat. It was observed that this is a groundbreaking planning process.

- It was noted that the current draft of the Master Plan does not label the location of the First Nations Grove, and in the future the Master Plan should identify it within the plan of the Bar.
- The major concerns for the First Nations Grove include:
  - potential soil contamination in the area;
  - the need for a “gentle” context for the site; and
  - the need to be shielded somewhat from traffic impacts.

### ***Access in Front of North Shore Clubs***

- It was felt that good progress had been made on the issue.
- Most OHSF members are happy with the language.
- The Master Plan document needs to reinforce that future design needs to be consistent with the boat clubs maintaining the docks.
- It was suggested that the plan of the North Shore should be modified so it does not read as if there is a beach in front of the clubs.
- It was suggested that the relationship of Water Rats Sailing Club to the Greenway can be addressed in detail design.
- It was stressed that Hanlan Boat Club had not yet agreed to move to the Marina Peninsula, and is looking for similar assurances from TPA as the TH&SC.

### ***Cherry Beach Woodlands***

- A member suggested that there was the **criterion of drought tolerant tree species was not appropriate**, as identified by PFR, as the future impacts of climate change are not yet known.
- With respect to off-leash dog walking, Public Health is concerned about the impacts of dogs on water quality at Cherry Beach, which is a Blue Flag beach.
- PFR staff confirmed that they will be consulting with the Cherry Beach dog walking community about their needs.

### ***Marina/ Peninsula / Public Boat Launch***

- A member noted that they were pleased with the amount of work done on the issue.
- A member noted that they do not support a boat launch at the Marina Peninsula and suggested that it be moved to an alternate site such as Cherry Beach.
- The rep from TRCA noted that they had recently done a study across the waterfront to look at public launching facilities; this found that:
  - some existing launching facilities are not useable because of dropping water levels;
  - many facilities don't have parking set aside for cars and trailers;
  - there should be no net loss of launching facilities across the waterfront;
  - any proposed launching facilities have to meet certain criteria; and
  - demand for public launching facilities is increasing.
- It was noted that the Outer Harbour Marina already has a lot of motor boats.
- The Ashbridge's Bay ramp is currently used to launch about 50 boats a day.
- A number of members raised concerns that a re-located launch ramp would attract increasing numbers of jet skis.

- A member noted that there is a growing problem with speedboats in the Outer Harbour.
- The rep from the Council of Commodores noted that the Toronto Port Authority will be establishing a marked channel to keep boats from the Outer Harbour Marina close to the Spit as a trial for 2008.
- It was suggested that the Marine Police should be involved in the LOP Master Plan process. The Design Team confirmed that they had met with the Marine Police early in the planning process to brief them on the project and gather any issues.
- Members suggested some alternate locations for the public boat launch including the Keating Channel, the Ship Channel and the Port of Toronto (i.e., near the fast ferry terminal in the Eastern Gap).

### ***Proposed Watercourse***

- It was confirmed by the Design Team that the area on the plan south of the ABTP is potential expansion area for the Plant. The current configuration of bridge/breakwater is along the southern edge of the water lot for the plant. The water lot for the plant also includes the western half of Coatsworth Cut.
- It was stressed that the watercourse was very important to the Balmy Beach Canoe Club.
- It was suggested that the Design Team consider moving the Bar Transect further south.
- The BBCC rep expressed concern about the feasibility of the floating barriers.
- A member suggested running the transect (path) along the southern edge of the wetland, and having a non-accessible breakwater to shelter the canoe course.
- Other members suggested that the bridge/breakwater was an important element of the LOP Master Plan and shouldn't be lost.
- It was suggested that WT and the Design Team should get together with BBCC, ABYC and the rep from the ABPT NLC to further discuss the issue.

### ***TH&SC Relocation***

- TH&SC is still uncomfortable with the lack of an agreement with the Toronto Port Authority for relocation.
- It was suggested that the Master Plan should include a statement that if the negotiations don't work out, there will be an affordable place for TH&SC in LOP

### ***ABYC Shoreline***

- The critical issue for ABYC is the usability of the shoreline for launching dinghies and dry-sailed keelboats.
- ABYC will put together a Task Group to address the issue during detail design.

### ***Objectives for the Base Lands/Compatibility with TTPMP***

- It was noted that significant progress had been made on the issues relating to the Base Lands.
- It was suggested that the Master Plan should address:
  - keeping dogs out of the Base Lands;
  - litter; and
  - control of mountain bikes.

- It was suggested that the fourth objective – “preserve and enhance the character of an urban wilderness” – needs more precise language.
- It was suggested that the vision of the Base Lands should be driven by its unique character.
- There was a question about the existing nature of the southern boundary between the Base Lands and the Marina Peninsula (i.e., Is it currently fenced?)

### **Boardwalks**

- **Three members** suggested that the transect will cut the Base Lands in half and that the boardwalk will further fragment the area.
- It was noted that boardwalks at Colonel Sam Smith Park have been set on fire by vandals.
- While one member suggested that the boardwalk looks artificial, another suggested that it was beautiful.
- It was noted that First Nations groups hold the circle as a very important element, and find walking in a circle to be very healing.
- A member suggested that it was vitally important to control and direct access to the Base Lands.
- A member suggested that the boardwalk would need to be raised in marsh areas.
- A member suggested that - as an alternative - a boardwalk could cross the floating wetlands in Coatsworth Cut.

### **Channel / Waterway**

- It was suggested that contamination in the Base Lands and the cost of remediating soil needs to be carefully examined.
- It was suggested that the criteria for the feasibility of the waterway are not clear.
- It was suggested that the Design Team should consider the scale of the Base Lands with respect to the waterway. **Google maps were presented showing the difference in size between the Base Lands and Point Pelee, and it was suggested that the difference in scale meant that the Thiessen’s Channel analogy and image are not applicable to Lake Ontario Park.**
- A member suggested exploring the option of using the waterway to link the Eastern Beaches to the Ship Channel as opposed to linking the Eastern Beaches with the Outer Harbour.
- It was suggested that the word “channel” should be replaced throughout the Master Plan document with “wetland waterway”.
- It was suggested that many people from the Beaches area would love to be able to paddle in the Outer Harbour, and would use the waterway to safely access it.

### **Adventure Centre**

- The Design Team confirmed that the footprint of the Adventure Centre has been reduced both in the plan and in the image of the building. The current footprint is about 1/3 of the original size.
- PFR staff confirmed that the current concept for the Adventure Centre is a Recreation Centre that is relevant to its waterfront site. It would be appropriate for existing City programs such as the Eco Camps.

- A member suggested that the Adventure Centre (and any other buildings built in LOP) should be both “beautiful” and “green”
- It was noted that the Adventure Centre should also promote sail training, canoe training and other programs provided by ABYC, BBCC and the Beaches Lion’s Club.

### ***Additional Issues Raised at Meeting***

- *Beaches Lion's Club:*
  - Beaches Lion's Club may want the option of re-using the TH&SC building or other buildings in the area,
  - The Club would like to meet with WT to discuss future plans.
  - WT and the Design team need the Lion's Club to articulate what their needs are.
  
- *Connection with ABTP Landscaping Plan:*
  - The Design Team confirmed that they are being kept informed about the process to develop the ABTP Landscaping Plan, which is concentrating on Pumphouse Park (the area north of Lakeshore Boulevard.)
  - The Design Team confirmed that they had met with Toronto Water staff about the Landscaping Plan early in the planning process, and had been informed that the proposed trails to the south and east of the plant may not be implemented due to security concerns.
  
- *Eastern Beaches:*
  - A member reiterated a concern that Beaches residents needed to be consulted about the LOP Master Plan.
  - The Design Team confirmed that the Executive Steering Committee is considering how best to consult with Beaches residents.
  - Depending on timing, ABYC may be able to host a Beaches meeting.
  
- *Operational Continuity for Boating Clubs:*
  - A member raised the issue of operational continuity for the boating clubs. Where clubs may be re-located or altered, there is a need for the clubs to be able to continue to operate in a "business as usual" sense.
  - It was agreed that the Master Plan would include a statement about the need for the boating clubs to be able to continue to operate throughout the planning and construction process.
  - It was suggested that the matter of compensation (e.g., for moving costs) would be part of the detail design.

### **4) Next Steps and Wrap Up**

Joanna noted that she would be preparing Meeting Notes from the meeting and WT would be circulating them to members. She noted that the precise date of the next SAC meeting was not set, but would likely be in April. That meeting would focus on the Draft Master Plan, which would be circulated to members in advance of the meeting. She indicated that the next Public Forum would likely be in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Appendix A

**LAKE ONTARIO PARK MASTER PLAN  
STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #4  
Thursday, February 21, 2008  
6:00 to 9:00 pm**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**Purpose of the Meeting:**

- To present the major issues raised at the December Task Group Meetings
- To present and discuss the proposed responses to the issues raised

|             |   |                                   |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>6:00</b> | <b>Welcome</b>  | James Roche, Waterfront Toronto   |
|             | <b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purpose of the Meeting</li><li>• Agenda Review</li><li>• Introductions</li></ul>  | Joanna Kidd, Kidd Consulting      |
| <b>6:10</b> | <b>Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issues raised in Task Group Meetings and proposed responses</li><li>• Issues still under discussion by Steering Committee</li></ul> | Richard Kennedy, Field Operations |
| <b>6:45</b> | <b>Discussion</b>   | Joanna Kidd                       |
| <b>8:50</b> | <b>Next Steps and Wrap Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Next SAC meeting</li><li>• Schedule for Master Plan</li></ul>   | James Roche/Joanna Kidd           |

**Handouts:**

- Revised Task Group Meeting Notes
- Presentation

## Appendix B

### Participants Lake Ontario Park Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #4

#### Members

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Julie Beddoes      | West Don Lands Committee                               |
| Keith Begley       | Beaches Lion's Club                                    |
| Colin Biggin       | ex-Toronto Cycling Committee                           |
| Alan Demb          | R.C. Harris Filtration Plant Public Advisory Committee |
| Steven Hoke        | Outer Harbour Sailing Federation                       |
| Barbara Jones      | Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club                             |
| Margaret Kelch     | Toronto Ornithological Club                            |
| Barry Mitchell     | Toronto Field Naturalists                              |
| Neluka Leanage     | South Riverdale Health Centre                          |
| Cathryn MacFarlane | Aquatic Park Sailing Club                              |
| Garth Riley        | Friends of the Spit                                    |
| Lee Rixon          | Toronto Hydroplane & Sailing Club                      |
| Michael Rosenberg  | Ashbridge's Bay T P Neighbourhood Liaison Committee    |
| Lee Smolin         | Outer Harbour Sailing Federation                       |
| Bob Stuart         | Balmy Beach Canoe Club                                 |
| David White        | Waterfront Action                                      |
| William Woodworth  | Mohawk, Six Nations, Beacon to the Ancestors           |
| Tobin Young        | Council of Commodores                                  |

#### Observers

|            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| Sue Stuart | Balmy Beach Canoe Club |
|------------|------------------------|

#### City of Toronto

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Councillor Paula Fletcher |                                |
| Leslie Coates             | Parks, Recreation and Forestry |
| Jamie McEwen              | Waterfront Secretariat         |

#### TRCA

**Nancy Gaffney**

#### Waterfront Specialist

#### Waterfront Toronto

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| James Roche  | Planning Project Manager |
| Amanda Flude | Communications           |

#### TRCA

Nancy Gaffney

#### Design Team

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Richard Kennedy | Field Operations     |
| Mark Schollen   | Schollen and Company |
| Joanna Kidd     | Kidd Consulting      |