



MINUTES

Queens Quay Working Group Meeting #6

Held on November 16, 2010

Waterfront Toronto

6:00-8:00pm

Attendees:

Members:

- Clay McFayden, cycling advocate
- Kelly Gorman, 260 Queens Quay
- Julie Beddoes, Gooderham and Worts Neighbourhood Association
- Braz Menezes, York Quay Neighbourhood Association
- Pam Mazza, Toronto Island Community Association
- Vicki Barron, Waterfront Regeneration Trust
- Jennifer Chan, constituency assistant to Councillor Vaughan
- Blair Keetch, PawsWay
- Rick Rabba, Rabba Foods
- Dennis Findlay, WaterfrontAction
- Sylvia Pellman, St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association
- Kevin Currie, Waterfront Business Improvement Association
- Robert Zeidler, Brookfield Properties Corporation
- Andrew Judge, Redpath Sugar Ltd.
- James Russell, 33 Harbour Square
- Tom Davidson, constituency assistant to Councillor McConnell
- Ulla Colgrass, 55 & 65 Harbour Square

Regrets:

- Anna Prodanou, Toronto Island Community Association (represented by a delegate)
- Bob Rasmussen, 65 Harbour Square (represented by a delegate)
- Yvonne Bambrick, Toronto Cyclist Union
- Laura Feltz, 250 Queens Quay
- Helder Melo, Harbourfront Centre
- Tammy Thorne, cycling advocate
- Ritu Gupta, WaterClub Condominium Corporation
- Brian MacLean, Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association
- (represented by a delegate)
- Cindi Vanden Heuvel, Mariposa Cruises

Advisors and Observers:

- Pina Mallozzi, Waterfront Toronto
- Samantha Gileno, Waterfront Toronto
- Dave Madeira, Waterfront Toronto
- Melissa Horwood, Waterfront Toronto
- Chris Ronson, Waterfront Secretariat
- Pino Di Mascio, Urban Strategies Inc.
- Elsa Fancello, Urban Strategies Inc.
- Jelle Therry, West 8 +DTAH
- Tanya Brown, West 8 +DTAH
- Adam Nicklin, West 8 +DTAH

Agenda:

1. Welcoming remarks
Pino Di Mascio, Urban Strategies Inc.
(Information sharing)
2. Introduction and report back
Pino Di Mascio, Urban Strategies Inc.
(Information sharing/feedback required)
 - a. Review agenda
 - b. draft meeting minutes from Nov. 4th
 - c. Review comments/issues matrix
3. Overview of street furnishings
Jelle Therry and Adam Nicklin, West 8 + DTAH
(Information sharing/feedback required)
4. Overview of tree and planting approach
Jelle Therry and Adam Nicklin, West 8 + DTAH
(Information sharing/feedback required)
5. Introduction to wayfinding and signage
Jelle Therry and Adam Nicklin, West 8 + DTAH
(Information sharing/feedback required)
6. Report back item: typical intersection
Jelle Therry and Adam Nicklin, West 8 + DTAH
(Information sharing/feedback required)
7. 2-month outlook
Jelle Therry, West 8 + DTAH
(Information sharing)
8. Meeting working schedule
Pino Di Mascio, Urban Strategies Inc.
(Information sharing)
9. Next steps
Pino Di Mascio, Urban Strategies Inc.
(Information sharing)

Minutes

1. Welcoming remarks

Pino Di Mascio welcomed the working group and thanked them for their participation and feedback on the Queens Quay revitalization initiative. Pino commented that several of the report back items were addressed at the special working group meeting on November 4th and that this meeting will focus on new discussion items. He noted that as report back items begin to increase, Waterfront Toronto will host additional meetings.

Pina reminded the working group that the second Community Update Meeting will be held at Harbourfront on November 17th.

2. Introduction and report back

Pino reviewed the agenda for the meeting and provided a quick summary of the minutes from the November special Working Group meeting and the issues/comments matrix (both documents are posted to the working group's webpage). He asked if anyone had any comments on the documents and noted that comments/revisions to the documents should be circulated to Pina PMallozzi@waterfrontoronto.ca

Question/comment: In the meeting minutes, it states that Robert Sherrin of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association attended and he did not. Please update.

Response: Noted.

3. Overview of street furnishings

Jelle presented the proposed street furnishings along Queens Quay. Before he got started, he introduced Ela Chojecka, the project captain from West 8 Rotterdam office, who will be joining in on this working group meeting.

Jelle began by reviewing the design team objective that there will be a family of materials along Queens Quay, in order to create a coherent vision and unified identify for the waterfront. He reviewed the family of benches, light fixtures and public facilities materials that will be introduced. He also reviewed the placement strategy of the street furnishings along the north and south side of the street and showed the portion of the water's edge promenade that is complete by the Corus building in the East Bayfront.

Between the trees, street furniture will be introduced i.e. bench, light fixture and garbage receptacle. Based on tree spacers, it was determined that on the north side, a street furniture feature will be placed every 7.5 metres and on the south side every 10 metres. At each intersection, there will also be

approximately 20 bike rings. At certain busy intersections, extra seating and garbage receptacles will be introduced.

Question/comment: Is natural wood being used for the light fixtures?

Response: Yes, the light posts are made of yellow cedar and are glue laminated. The colour will likely get more golden over time.

Question/comment: How do you prevent posters being placed on the new light posts?

Response: We have studied the impacts of postering on wood and metal lights posts and found that the postering residue (be it glue or staples) is less visible on wood poles such as the ones selected. However, some feel that posters on light posts give texture and life to a place; like poetry. Waterfront Toronto is open to sharing the findings of the study with the working group (it was agreed that the team would report back with some of these observations).

Question/comment: Has Waterfront Toronto explored introducing kiosks/communication postering boards to promote postering at specific areas?

Response: Yes, that was a consideration of the study. Kiosk locations will be part of the wayfinding and signage discussion that will take place in the coming months.

Question/comment: Do you know the life span of the laminated light posts?

Response: The posts are expected to last for approximately 25 to 30 years.

Question/comment: Who will own these light posts?

Response: In most cases, they will be owned by Toronto Hydro, and Parks and Recreation

Question/comment: You presented a design that will maintain the City's typical bike ring. Has the design team explored a more aesthetically pleasing bike rings? The current City bike ring is quite utilitarian.

Response: We choose to integrate the City's bike rings since we want the waterfront to feel stitched to the other parts of the City. There may be strategic locations on the waterfront, where more artistic bike rings would be appropriate. It could be an interesting way to integrate cycling infrastructure with the waterfront art strategy. We will look into the City's standards for infrastructure upgrades like these.

Question/comment: The City's typical bus shelters are not that large. Can you consider longer bus shelters at busy transit stops?

Response: We plan on using the City's street elements and making slight adjustments where appropriate. LRT streetcars will be longer than the bus shelters.

Question/comment: I believe that the City is in the process of updating the bike rings. Interestingly, most cyclists do not know how to properly use the bike rings. There are instructions on the bike posts.

Question/comment: Can you clarify where the bicycle parking will be located?

Response: At each intersection there will be 20 bike rings available. The bike rings will be located in the area between the TTC tracks and the Martin Goodman Trail. They will be set back from the intersection.

Question/comment: Will there be enough room for bike rings on the north side of Queens Quay?

Response: There will be more room for bike rings than what is typically provided at other areas in the City.

Question/comment: Have you started to consider where the BIXI bike hubs will be located along Queens Quay?

Response: We have done some initial thinking and believe that the north side will be the best place and 'regular' bicycle parking will be on the south side.

Question/comment: A BIXI bike station has been approved in front of the Queens Quay Terminal on the south side of Queens Quay.

Response: BIXI bike stations could potentially be located between the trees on the south side; instead of regular bicycle rings.

Question/comment: I am worried that all of the street furniture proposed between the trees will make it the space very congested. Rows and rows of bike rings will not be aesthetically pleasing in the winter months.

Response: It is not our intent to make the space cluttered and congested. However, it is important to include the proper street furniture and cycling infrastructure.

Question/comment: Just to clarify the BIXI bike program is a commuter bike program and not a tourist program. A request was made for clarification on the BIXI bicycle program and its role on Queens Quay. One working group meeting does not believe that the BIXI bike stations should be on the Martin Goodman Trail.

4. Overview of tree and planting approach

Jelle presented the proposed tree species and planting strategy for both the north and south side of Queens Quay. Jelle noted that on the south side of the street, a double row of the Plane Tree was selected and on the north side there will be a variety of tree species introduced, including the Sunset Maple, Princeton Elm and the Pin Oak Tree. On the north side, each block will contain a different tree species. Jelle also reviewed the planting strategies to promote large and mature trees, which includes the integration of silva cells on the south side and continuous tree trench on the north side of Queens Quay. Jelle also showed the working group a mock-up of a silva cell and provided a summary of how it works. Essentially there will be two levels of the silva cell blocks which will be packed with soil for passive and active irrigation. Aggregate and granite street pavers will be placed on top of the silva cell blocks.

Question/comment: On the waterfront there is strong wind in the winter months, which creates an uncomfortable environment. I am concerned about selection of trees. Has the design team considered trees that maintain their leaves over the winter? It would be nice to have green over the winter so that it does not feel like a concrete valley.

Response: We selected Plane Trees and not Evergreens since we felt that it is important to reflect the seasonality of a place. Evergreens could be located adjacent to the ROW in parks and parkettes. That said, your question is more directed to the microclimate issues and creating a comfortable environment along Queens Quay year round. We will report back to the working group on this matter in the coming months.

Question/comment: It is a microclimate issue but also tree species selection issue. We want to create a beautiful waterfront. We need green points (Evergreens) that will fit into the larger design vision.

Response: We are not opposed to introducing Evergreens at key points along the waterfront. However, along the south side promenade it is our proposal to plant London Plane trees. We feel that the London Plane Tree catches light in a unique way and has full tree canopy that will help create a great environment.

Question/comment: The new trees on the complete portion of the water's edge promenade look bleak. I understand that the trees will eventually grow big; however, is it possible to buy large trees from the off-set?

Response: We could buy large trees from the beginning but the issue is with the water table. It is proven that trees will be more successful if they grow with their environment early. They will be more adaptable to the water table issues. We intend to plant trees at various sizes. Based on the feedback received from the tree consultant, a small tree will grow faster and within 3 years they would catch up to the larger trees. Smaller trees will also have a better survival rate.

Question/comment: On the basis of planting smaller trees, how can we ensure that bikes do not lock up to the trees and destroy them?

Response: We need to discuss this matter with City. There are strategies to protect young trees, especially the first few years of being planted, such as proper fencing. However, it is important to stress that if there are enough bike rings available people will not lock their bikes to trees.

Question/comment: Does the TTC have any comment on tree strategy?

Response: Waterfront Toronto has submitted the schematic design plans to City. They have 6 weeks to comment. They will likely have a strong position to the pruning of trees since there will be TTC electrification lines between the trees.

Question/comment: What is the strategy for dealing with the salt impact on trees?

Response: We choose the right trees to address the winter conditions and which are able to deal with potential salt impacts. We are also introducing enough soil in each of the tree pits, which will absorb excess salt.

Question/comment: If there will be no Evergreen trees along Queens Quay, can you consider introducing raised planters with shrubs in order to create the extra green environment.

Response: There may be space for planters in between the TTC tracks and the roadway. There is only 1 metre of space within the Central Waterfront but there is more available space in the East Bayfront. We want to increase the 'green' along the waterfront but we also want enough space for pedestrians.

Question/comment: You previously mentioned the possibility of introducing Evergreen trees within the adjacent areas. Where are these adjacent areas?

Response: Evergreens could be planted at Sugar Beach, Sherbourne Commons and Canada Square.

5. Introduction to wayfinding and signage

Jelle introduce Debbie Adams of Adams and Associates Design Consultants Inc. Debbie will be the wayfinding and signage consultant for the Queens Quay Revitalization project.

Debbie introduced herself and provided a quick summary of the firms approach and recent project experience, including the Toronto Botanical Garden and Brickworks. Debbie noted that she is still in the early stages of information gathering for this project but welcomed comments and suggestions from the working group members.

Question/comment: From a business perspective, it is sometimes difficult to find businesses on the waterfront. It would be helpful to have some clear orientation showing where you are and where you want to go.

Response: Bristol, England and Sydney, Australia are doing this very well. We plan to look at precedents from around the world.

Question/comment: Toronto's waterfront is located within a larger waterfront trail network and at strategic locations, there is a strong need to integrate the bird, leaf and fish waterfront trail logo.

Question/comment: I think we need to be careful not include too many signs; do not want the waterfront to look cluttered.

Response: We agree with you. We want to find opportunities to combine signs and integrate messages.

Question/comment: I would like to see informational panels on the history of the waterfront, habitat in water and bird migration on island. Toronto's waterfront has a rich history that should be told and would enrich the visitor experience.

Response: This will be part of the history and art strategy but is intrinsically linked to the signage component of this project. We will likely bring different consultants together in order to have integrated approach.

Question/comment: Can you bring a naturalist into the process as well?

Response: I think we are still too early on in the process. However, the natural components will not get lost, especially in light of Waterfront Toronto sustainability mandate. We want to identify key areas and tell their story.

Question/comment: Have you looked at innovative approaches to deal with those that are visually impaired? Maybe work with the CNIB?

Response: This is a great point. Our accessibility consultant will be speaking to the working group in the coming months. She is very interested in communications for people with disabilities.

Question/comment: You may want to consider integrating hydro boxes into the signage strategy and cover them with maps/orientation tools. It is a clever way to reuse an existing structure.

Question/comment: A possible tool could be touch sensitive kiosks that could help orientate people and provide information.

Question/comment: Are you planning on showing the hierarchy of signs?

Response: This will be part of reconnaissance and will be reviewed in the second phase of work.

Question/comment: You may also want to introduce signs at other areas to direct people to the waterfront?

Response: This is part of the wayfinding and signage scope of work.

Question/comment: Interactive technology is fantastic but often more costly. I do not want advertisements on the signs in order to help pay for potential costs.

Question/comment: Due to the volume of information, it will be important to work with businesses in order to find a consistent way of identifying locations.

Response: BIA is currently working on this.

Question/comment: I love the idea of north and south signs. It is a great way to excite and bring people down to the waterfront.

Question/comment: The historical society has created a walk on the island, where you call in on your cell phone to access information. This is a fun and interactive way to share information.

Question/comment: There needs to be a commonality of naming and place making. It helps stitch the context and helps orientate people i.e. quays, slips and docks.

6. Report back item: typical intersection

It was previously raised by the working group that signs in the mixing zone need to be clear and visible. Jelle reported back to the working group on this specific issue and presented a few options for how to address signage and simplify the messages in this area i.e. pavement markers and text on the trail itself. He noted that that the ideas have not been discussed yet with City staff.

Question/comment: I think this is very clear. I like the slow/yield text on the floor of the Martin Goodman Trail and the zebra strips to cross the trail.

Question/comment: I would suggest not using the word slow. Also, the word yield is not commonly used in Ontario.

Question/comment: How will you stop cars from driving up the TTC tracks?

Response: We will be using signs and materials i.e. slope area to warn vehicles not to drive the tracks.

Question/comment: I like the colour bike box.

Question/comment: Through clear sight lines and knowledge of how it works; I think that people will sort it out.

Question/comment: I like the word slow. It is a basic word that people will understand.

Question/comment: I would suggest the word 'crossing' rather than slow or yield.

Question/comment: We need to treat the Martin Goodman Trail as a recreational trail. We could add marking on the trail to point to landmarks or distance travelled.

7. 2-month outlook

Pino presented the various issues and topics that will be explored by the design team within the next two months. The design team will be addressing the following topic areas:

- Complete 100% Schematic Design
- Start Detailed Design
- Wayfinding / signage
- Heritage and Art strategy
- Accessibility Review
- Bus management
- Electrification Plan for Queens Quay
- Street and Tree Lighting Strategy

- Extent of Construction for the First Phase

8. Meeting working schedule

Pino reviewed the meeting working schedule and noted that the next meeting is scheduled for December 14th.

Pina noted that the team is working hard to discuss the bus management plan at the next meeting. However, if it is not discussed at the December meeting, it will be discussed early in the new year.

Question/comment: Can we discuss parking solutions?

Response: We are not there yet but plan to discuss with the working group in the coming months.

9. Next steps

Pino reminded the working group members that the second community update is scheduled for November 17 and the Public Drop-in Session is scheduled for January 19th.