



Grange Community Association

www.grangecommunity.ca

Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Grangetown Meeting Room (78 St. Patrick / 71 McCaul)

In Attendance: Anthony McMahon, Ralph Daley, Brian Tyndale, Geoff King, Karen King, Willy Chin, Max Allen, Dorothy McIntosh, Liz Driver, Martin, Daphne Maurer, Charles Mauer.

1. Welcome:

- Anthony MacMahon, Advisor, Constituency and Planning, to Councillor Cressy
- Agenda changes?

2. In Depth: Engagement with the Councillor's Office:

The agenda was dedicated to a detailed discussion about relations between the GCA and Councillor Cressy's office at the beginning of the new Council term.

2A Institutional/Procedural:

Dual-Ward GCA catchment: managing overlapping issues

- Cressy's office assistants are divided geographically rather than issue, role etc.
- Layton's office assistants are divided the same way
- Aviva is our constituency assistant in Layton's office, similar role to Anthony
- We can cc both councilor offices for issues that are cross-boundary

Direct GCA engagement with City Staff

- Critical for GCA to go from "advising" role to "doing" role
- Anthony advises that part of Toronto's open government movement is to be able to contact staff
- better to contact someone higher up who can direct you to the relevant person
- Need support from Anthony and sometimes Councillor Cressy to deal directly with city staff, e.g. parks staff regarding Relic Park

Expanding GCA boundaries, east, south, or both

- Anthony advises there is no issue with expanding eastward
- Southward, with Entertainment District Residents' Association, the 2 active members would likely be open to collaboration with GCA

"Office of Neighbourhoods"

- Will be discussed in the Special Committee on Governance
- Potentially moving towards old metro model or BIA model

- Next meeting of Special Committee is on April 12, agenda will show up on TIMMIS online
- No working paper yet on what new governance model will look like
- Max advises that at the last Special Committee meeting, 5 big residents' association had some good ideas on governance
- Special Committee members are supportive of downtown issues
- Agenda for April 12 meeting will be a very important document for guiding potential new governance model

GCA AGM in May

- Better idea to have separate Green Plan meeting rather than combine with the AGM
- AGM date will be announced in "Cressy Courier"
- Venue for AGM? Perhaps at church, or OCAD U
- Important to have agenda items that attracts interest from public
- Would be good for Cressy and Layton to attend AGM

2B GreenPlan:

GCA Priorities for 2019/20

- Relic Park plan has advanced far and must to be a priority
- Examine feasibility of creating a "stub" park on Phoebe street from Spadina to Huron, remove lane of traffic
- Positive reaction to stub park from residents on street
- Similar "stub park" idea on St. Patrick Street north of Dundas West
- Relic Park plan is in 2 phases: south and north
- Idea is to do a strategic plan for the north part to coordinate with police station and 250 and 292 Dundas developments
- Toronto Parks always looking for park activations, cultural events to use "Section 42" money

"Compact-setting" with Parks and Transport Departments

- Harbord Village idea was to establish "compacts" with city to execute their green plan projects, GCA needs to do exactly the same using HVRA experience
- Harbord Village has installed, through the City, pinchpoints and street narrowing
- Memorandum of Understanding was signed between city staff and councilor for HVRA Green Plan (Ralph to follow up with HVRA)

Public meeting planning (Ward 10/11 problem, etc.)

- Cressy and Layton offices will jointly hold meeting for Green Plan
- April may be too early to hold meeting for councilor Cressy
- Campbell House student would be available in May to help with planning
- Tentatively, meeting to be held in May

Relic Park work plan

- Deadline to apply for "Park People" \$50,000 grant is March 22
- "Prospectus" from Bryan Jones, our landscape architect, is almost done
- 2 pager "letter of intent" submitted to Park People, then if shortlisted, will need to submit a full application
- Commitment from Councillor Cressy for letter of intent support is critical: his office will provide \$35,000 in seed monies

- One of the criteria for the grant is to show that you have financial buy in from other people, developers etc.
- Liz has advised that Queen Street West BIA will in principle give money to support animation activities for the relic park launch in 2020
- Campbell house has hired a student to engage with community and find out what public would like to see in park activations

2C Development and Planning:

GCA philosophy

- We don't say "no" as a knee jerk reaction to development applications
- We care more about getting good buildings built
- We care more about the ground floors rather than the top (the height)
- We prefer minimum, if any, parking
- Dogs and parks need to be planned for
- Generally, condo units should be bigger and be able to accommodate families

Engagement with Joe's office, reporting out to each other

- Cressy office comfortable with existing communication between GCA and office on development applications

John St Precinct Plan – status

- Intended as a high level overview of what development should look like on John Street
- For example the Fire hall on Adelaide not considered best use of that space, might have been turned into park land, while maintaining a working fire hall
- These ideas were captured in a document approved by community council
- Plan is now a bit historic, taken over by CreateTO, so on the back burner
- John St Precinct Plan is distinct from the "John Street Corridor" plan

"Accessing" Section 37 monies

- City legal negotiates with developer to obtain community benefits
- Can be for very specific projects, or for streetscaping, greening etc.
- Cressy office's practice is to have principles beforehand, and then obtain S. 37 monies for projects that have already been planned
- GCA has asked Cressy office for a listing of S. 37 funds and where allocated

2D Site-Specific Issues:

Grange Park (GPCC meeting, maintenance issues)

- Councillor Cressy is chair of Grange Park Community Council
- It is now time to have another meeting: plan was to meet quarterly, but it has now been almost a year since the last one
- Park seems to be deteriorating more quickly than expected, so important that the Council meet

St Patrick Market

- 2 issues, but linked: the market, and the parkette behind it
- Councillor Cressy is of the view that the parkette is best not addressed until the St. Patrick Market issues are resolved
- GCA now believes the parkette should be improved regardless of status of the building
- Building is owned by George Freedman who has a 50 year lease from city

- City legal seems most reluctant to take action against Mr. Freedman, as this has gone on for many years
- Anthony advises that city legal is very hesitant about rescinding leases and other contracts because of the precedent it would set
- City legal will meet March 14, 2019 to discuss issue
- Some in GCA view going to media as an option to bring Freedman's poor performance to light
- A few years ago it seemed that there were some meagre attempts to revitalize the market, but recently there has been zero effort
- Queen West BIA was going to remove graffiti (we don't think it should be their responsibility), but they only have enough budget to remove it from the front of the building; the City is now doing RFP for city-wide graffiti removal contractors
- Noticeable decline in the neighbourhood graffiti removal in the last year by the city, especially on Queen and Spadina
- Would be best if city managed the Market, and directly rented stalls at below market rents
- Collaboration with St. Lawrence Market might be a good idea, but not if there is a risk they might not devote enough attention to it.
- GCA believes the Market and Parkette issues need to be separated.

St Patrick/Dundas traffic lights

- Traffic light has not been approved, but "something" to do with the traffic at that intersections has been approved; Anthony will check on it.
- GCA wants input on intersection improvement before Transportation does anything

Queen St loading zone

- Proposal to add loading zone for Shoppers Drug Mart at Beverley and Queen West to stop bike lane parking
- Anthony will check on status

Watermain reconstruction on Dundas

- New courthouse will present problems for turning prisoner carrying vehicles
- Prisoner carrying vehicles can use Armoury street
- Geoff says Dundas is becoming more pedestrian oriented, and important to promote them
- Charlie says the right turn on red lights would help improve traffic flow, perhaps ward wide red light right turn ban?
- Anthony will get plans for bump-outs on Dundas

New MEC building on Queen St.

- Building is an eyesore, but landscaping might help; architect renderings were much nicer than end result
- In future, we have to be a part of the site plan process to have input on building materials, but we are locked out of these meetings

Proposed Developments on North Side of Dundas West

- Both developments at 292 and 250 Dundas will make public art contributions, so GCA should marshal art ideas for input to developers
- GCA will attend a City meeting in a few weeks on art contribution money and ideas for 234 Simcoe

- We should work to ensure that art installations don't compete too much with Relic Park; for example, light installation in the ceiling of the buildings' overhangs wouldn't not compete with relic park installations
- Lanterra developer has a favourite artist that they want to use for the development even though the City requires developers hire an art consultant
- GCA should lobby to use developer art funding to help build Relic Park
- Proximity with AGO and OCAD creates opportunity for visual linkage from subway to those 2 institutions.