

William Baker Neighbourhood – Phase 2 Consultations
York Centre Seniors Steering Committee (YC SSC)
Downsview Hub, 70 Canuck Avenue
Monday, December 16th, 2019
9:30 – 11:00 am

Participants

York Centre Seniors Steering Committee (Elizabeth Jassem, Josie Casciato)
International Federation on Ageing (Greg Shaw)
Canada Lands Company (James Cox)
The Planning Partnership (Donna Hinde)
Swerhun Inc. (Nicole Swerhun, Matthew Wheatley)

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc. and was shared with participants for review prior to being finalized. The summary provides a review of the key topics discussed in the conversation; it is not intended to be a verbatim transcript.



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

As part of the Phase Two Consultation for the future William Baker Neighbourhood, Canada Lands and its consultant team are meeting with local stakeholder organizations. On Monday, December 16th, Canada Lands and members of its consultant team met with representatives of the YC SSC to provide an overview and seek feedback on the three draft Concept Options that have been developed for the future neighbourhood. The YC SSC also invited Greg Shaw from the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) to attend and participate in the meeting. The following points were raised by members of the YC SSC and Greg Shaw from the IFA. Responses and comments provided by Canada Lands and its consultant team are included in *italics*.

Designing an intergenerational neighbourhood

- We would like to see the future neighbourhood designed to accommodate all age groups from children to seniors. Like the idea of putting an intergenerational lens on all aspects of the design process (e.g. making a playground accessible for all ages with play equipment for children and benches/seating for seniors who bring their grandchildren).
- Current and future demographics for the area should be taken into account in the District Plan design.

Opportunities for social connections

- We want to see community benefits in the neighbourhood that can help to promote connections among residents (e.g. spaces that allow for community programs). This is especially important for seniors to combat isolation and loneliness.

Connections to surrounding neighbourhoods and amenities

- We want to see safe and comfortable connections to surrounding community amenities (e.g. Yorkdale shopping centre). It would be nice to have a safe pedestrian route that connects William Baker to Yorkdale. *We are striving to provide good connections to transit (i.e. Downsview Park Subway Station and the bus hub at Keele and Sheppard) to help people connect to the surrounding community. Yorkdale is over 5km from William Baker, which is probably too far of a walk for most people on a regular basis.*
- Mixed opinions were expressed about the importance of effective public transit in helping seniors (and others) connect to surrounding communities and amenities. One participant suggested that safe and comfortable pedestrian routes are critical, and that transit is not as important. Another participant said that numerous studies have shown that good transit is one of the most important factors in helping seniors connect with their surrounding community and reducing isolation.
- We like the opportunities for improved connections to the existing neighbourhoods on the west side of Keele Street.

Continued consultation with seniors

- It is good to see Canada Lands making a direct effort to consult seniors as part of this process.
- Canada Lands should continue to consult seniors in the area (including, but not limited to the YC SSC) to ensure a broad range of needs and wants are understood and considered.

Guiding Principles

- The Guiding Principles look great. The important and difficult part will be implementing them, it's all about the execution.

Greenspace

- We want all green spaces to be accessible for all people, including seniors.

NEXT STEPS

Canada Lands confirmed their interest in continuing to work with the YC SSC through the development of the District Plan.