

Alexandra Park Community Visioning Committee
March 18, 2009
Alexandra Park Community Centre (APCC)
7:00-8:30pm

Present: John Campey (CSPCT), Patrick Chartrand (Social Services), Marwa Eldardiry (AP resident), Donna Harrow (APRA/APCC), Sandra González (TCHC), Tam Goossen (CSPCT), Ange Kinnear (EA-Councillor Vaughan), Evelyn Murialdo (TCHC), Alvin Olive (APRA/APCC), Randy Padmore (CHFT), Fathi Sheikh-Hassan (Atkinson Co-op), Waseem Tahir (Atkinson Co-op)

Regrets: Rebecca Bassey (City of Toronto), Chris Bolton (Trustee TDSB), Lynda Brunette (AP resident), Tom Clement (CHFT), Effie Henry (AP resident), Colleen Lavallée (APRA/ APCC)

Agenda was set with the following items:

- TCH update
- Visioning Committee Next Steps
- Green Initiative Update
- Other Updates

1. Business arising from previous minutes

- Residents will be hired to distribute AP report to each household.

2. TCH Update

- The first draft for the RFP will be ready and will be forwarded to Councillor Vaughn by the end of March.
- The Councillor will bring the RFP to the VC once it has been reviewed. There will be an opportunity for residents to give input on the RFP before it goes out.
- TCH sees itself as an instrument upon which revitalization and redevelopment will take place. The planning process will take approximately a year and residents will be heavily involved in guiding the process.
- TCH sees Councillor Vaughn as taking the lead to engage other key stakeholders (TDSB, Library etc).

3. Discussion of Visioning Committee – Next Steps

- Donna stated that the VC can be the group which steers the community from one step to the next (moving forward on the outcomes of the Dec community meeting). Could be time for a meeting to update the community, get more input from residents on next steps of engagement. Opportunity for APRA and Atkinson co-op board to meet.

- Evelyn mentioned that the VC could expand to include members from organized groups both informal and formal (such as Green Space Collective).
- Alvin said there should be visioning session for the community in terms of economic development. Economic development plan should be incorporated into the revitalization process.
- Randy pointed out that we need to ensure that the voice of the VC and residents is not drowned out when the VC expands to engage other stakeholders.
- Fathi asked: what is the geographic area that is included in the revitalization? Ange answered that the revitalization zone is not clearly defined as neighbouring areas have also put forward proposals to redevelop. Dona mentioned the revitalization zone might go beyond the current AP borders because there is City owned property near by. John remarked that as the process evolves, different partnerships may be developed as more stakeholders buy into the revitalization creating a win-win situation. Tam highlighted that it would be important for Adam Vaughn to have the larger area involved in a visioning process.
- Fathi also asked who initiated the revitalization process. Ange answered saying that residents from AP did. Evelyn also stated that this was not a TCH initiated process.
- Fathi mentioned that residents already expressed certain things they would like to see and input has already been obtained from the residents. It might be a waste of residents' time to hold another meeting without having something tangible to engage them in.
- Sandra mentioned that the VC could expand to include members who are involved in future action committees that could arise.
- When the report is distributed, a letter can be attached asking people whether they want to be involved in next steps.

4. Update on Green Initiative

- A Tenant Advisory Committee (TAC) has been formed in order to guide the greening initiative (APRA, Atkinson Board and Green Space Collective members).
- On April 8th there will be a community meeting to get ideas from residents in order to implement this initiative.
- Councillor Vaughn's Office committed to giving compost.

5. Other Items

- Ange provided a few updates:
 - Adam Vaughn would like to connect the communities surrounding AP. The large community meeting will take place in mid May. The purpose of the meeting will be "to update each other on what's happening in the community" similar to a "Meet-and-Greet". There is a new Queen St BIA and China Town BIA – this would be an opportunity for the larger

community to get to know each other. Ange stressed that this meeting is not about revitalization, but about connecting residents.

- Adam Vaughan hosted a meeting to see what stakeholders would like to see as next steps. Paper copy of the meeting minutes were distributed at the VC.
- Newcomer Women's Group – would like to engage women in theatre, story telling. Met with APCC to partner. Currently looking for funding. There will be a meeting on April 1st at 7 pm.
- Bike Pirates – interested in creating a partnership between Bike Pirates and Alexandra Park. The group reuses and rebuilds bicycles. The group would then donate bikes to the community. Ange will connect with Olu to follow-up and initiate the process.
- A request to erect a building between Dundas and Grange (250 Spadina) has come forth to the Councillor Vaughan's Office. More information to follow

6. Change of meeting dates

- There are a couple of residents who would like to be part of the VC but 3rd Wednesday does not work. VC will explore either an alternative Wednesday or the 3rd Tuesday. This will be confirmed at the next VC.