

Osgoode CLC - Meeting #6
MINUTES

January 24, 2024

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Teams Meeting)

ATTENDEES:

BIA/Community Groups/Non-Profit

- Andrew Robertson (Toronto Financial District BIA)
- Jacob Bakan (Chief Justice of Ontario)
- Liz Driver (Director of Campbell House Museum and Co-Chair of BOLD Coalition)
- Helen Da Ponte (Crossbridge Condominium Services Ltd)
- Keyaan Nejad (PAA)
- Ahmed Mesbah (GWL Realty Advisors)
- Ram Nadarajah (215 Queen Smart House Condos)
- Jason Gennaro (Chief Justice of Ontario)
- Simon Di Vincenzo (Law Society of Ontario)
- Trevor Guy (Ontario Superior Court of Justice)

Metrolinx

- Ross Andersen
- Julia Orsini
- Zahrah Munas
- Phil Rodriques
- Amanda Kusick
- Ali Masnavi
- Daniel Cicero
- Antonio Capobianco
- Zaidun Alganabi

Ontario Transit Group

- Juan Mendez Preciado
- Pedram Roshani
- Allison Dewhirst
- Chloe Mills

City of Toronto

- Tom Schwerdtfeger
- Keisha Lake
- Julia Murnaghan
- Nazli Dehghani
- Vanessa Opassinis
- Anthony Irving
- Marouan Malaeb-Proulx (Councillor Malik)

OVERVIEW:

The Metrolinx and Ontario Transit Group (OTG) teams hosted a virtual CLC meeting for Osgoode on January 24th, 2024. The meeting commenced with **Metrolinx** welcoming attendees, providing a land acknowledgement, and sharing a safety moment.

Metrolinx passed the meeting over to **OTG** who provided an update on upcoming work and an overview of work scheduled in the next quarter. The updates covered included the north entrance site prep, heritage fence and stone removal, and the south entrance and University Avenue median (South African War Memorial preservation and removal).

Metrolinx then provided participants an opportunity to ask questions about the station design.

QUESTIONS:

- **Office of the Chief Justice of Ontario asked for clarity on the permits for cutting down tress.**
 - **OTG** confirmed that most permits are secured, and the outstanding ones will be received soon. The team will remove the permitted tress in the coming weeks to prep the site with the other permitted trees will follow.
- **Campbell House asked about the Littleleaf Linden tree on the south lawn of the Osgoode Garden. It was brought up during the past CLC session and Metrolinx had provided details around the tree pruning required create clearance over work site.**
 - **Metrolinx** clarified that the pruning discussed last meeting was a different area, the laydown area, whereas the Littleleaf Linden is on the east side at the edge of the future north shaft. A professional arborist determined that leaving the Linden tree in place posed a safety risk for both the public and workers. Metrolinx is handling this tree removal directly and is proactively working to not take down anymore trees than necessary.
- **Campbell House inquired further about this work not being in the original assessment as they wanted the committee to hear an explanation to draw their own conclusions.**
 - **Metrolinx** stated that this was correct, however, it was decided at the time the tree was not viable (specifically because of the reduced roots and angle of larger branches, creating an unsafe condition) and the decision was made to remove it.
- **Campbell House expressed concern about what's happening above ground (i.e. the station building vs. the tunnel work) and indicated at the last CLC meeting that a discussion needed to happen about the overall footprint of the station building in comparison to the greenspace.**
 - **Metrolinx** expressed gratitude for the concerns being presented and understanding of why the dimension of the station is important for ensuring maximum greenspace. Metrolinx recognizes that this is also a larger conversation that involves the heritage fence and the City of Toronto team.

There are reasons why the setback was required in the front and back. Metrolinx can get back to the CLC with more specific about the design and areas of concern.

- Law Society of Ontario added that the impact to public realm and potential for integrating ideas (like University Park proposal), is a larger discussion and it would be nice to start thinking about that sooner rather than later.
- Campbell House recognized that University Park proposal is maintained by the City of Toronto, and wanted to call out that the square footage are not just numbers and would maximize the potential greenspace.
- City of Toronto asked if the building end line on this drawing the same as the roof line?
 - Metrolinx will come back with more info and are happy to talk further. It's worth mentioning that some of the space closer to the road is required by City of Toronto and TTC as intentional processing space to alleviate passenger flow and provide stops for the streetcars.
- FDBIA requested an update on York St. Specifically the upcoming plan for the coming months related to construction noise and updates on the planned end date. They also requested the construction notices be provided at least two weeks in advance.
 - Metrolinx provided an update that as of right now, at Richmond and York St, there is work underway on the north chamber. Following that project, the trench for T-cell infrastructure will start and will involve some work at Queen and York St. As work continues, construction notices regarding impact and noise will be provided. The team is still tracking for completion close to the end of this year.
 - Metrolinx acknowledged that construction notices are provided to the community as soon as the team receives them and will continue to work to provide to everyone as soon as possible.
- Crossbridge Condominium Services Ltd asked if during the facade removals if there will be obstructions to the laneway which runs east from Duncan and west from Simcoe Street?
 - Metrolinx to confirm this information.
- Campbell House commented on when the agenda for the CLC meetings are circulated and asked that the agenda and slides be sent several days prior to a meeting. Also, for City of Toronto staff attending CLC meetings, it would be helpful for Metrolinx to consider setting call times up that consider their reporting schedule.
 - Metrolinx will work to accommodate schedules with that in mind. And if there is a conflict, please let us know and we'll work with you to reschedule.
- City of Toronto asked Metrolinx to coordinate with City of Toronto communications team members to ensure alignment on meeting times.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Metrolinx** to provide more information/rationale surrounding the design of the station and greenspace considerations.
2. **Metrolinx** during the next CLC, to confirm if there will be obstructions to the laneway which runs east from Duncan and west from Simcoe Street.
3. **Metrolinx** to coordinate with the City of Toronto on future CLC dates.

Appendix: Presentation slides provided by Liz Driver

Retaining maximum green space in Osgoode Garden

REFERENCE DRAWINGS:
Metrolinx's May 2023 planning application to City of Toronto

Liz Driver, Director/Curator
Campbell House Museum
Osgoode CLC meeting #6, January 24, 2024

CONCERNS

1. Retaining the maximum green space in the Osgoode garden is a public concern.
 - > The location of the building and fence, and the landscape design for the public realm outside the station, need to be considered now - BEFORE Ontario Transit Group progresses too far into detailed design.
2. The location of the building impacts the area of retained green space.
 - > The closer to the property line/fence line, the more green space behind.
3. The location of the fence impacts the area of retained green space.
 - > Locating the fence at the property line (not behind the building) increases green space by reducing the width of hardscaping needed between the building and a back fence.
4. It's important to begin discussions about the integration of the station building and the public realm now. This includes planning for the segment of University Park adjacent to Osgoode Station.
 - > University Park plans will influence the restoration of the public realm and the application of Metrolinx's Community Benefits Plan at Osgoode (Pillar #3, Public Realm Improvements)

PLN SHEET 20

PLN SHEET 4 and **PLN Sheet 2**

METROLINX OSGOODE STATION GREEN SPACE LOST IN SCHEME WITH STATION SET BACK INTO OSGOODE GARDEN

23-Jan-24

	Length	Breadth	Area	
Setback of 2.5 m	21.50	21.50	462	m2 hard paving
Seback of 0.75 m	18.00	18.00	324	m2 hard paving
Green space lost with 2.5 m setback			138	m2 hard paving
			1485	SF hard paving

Note: numbers rounded to nearest square metre or square foot