



Citizen Panel Meeting 3

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

7:00 – 9:00pm

Brampton City Hall

West Tower, Boardroom WT2C

OVERVIEW

On October 4, 2016, the City of Brampton hosted the third of four planned Citizen Panel meetings as part of its Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Over the course of the Master Plan process, the Citizen Panel will be asked to provide feedback on needs and opportunities, the results of the engagement process, the draft vision, principles, goals and objectives, and the draft master plan. The Citizen Panel is composed principally of members that come from the existing City of Brampton Citizen Advisory Committees and have been selected based on their interest or background in parks and recreation. Eight Panel members participated in the meeting (see attached participant list).

At this third meeting, Citizen Panel members were provided with an overview of the background research and engagement process and the project team's preliminary directions. Following this presentation, Citizen Panel members engaged in a facilitated discussion guided by a series of focus questions (see attached agenda for more detail).

This summary was written by Swerhun Facilitation, a third-party facilitation firm that is part of the consultant team led by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants (MBPC). This report is not intended to provide a verbatim transcript of the meeting but instead provides a high level summary of the perspectives and advice provided by participants during the facilitated discussion. A draft of this summary was shared with participants for review before it was finalized.

DRAFT SUMMARY OF ADVICE – FOR PARTICIPANT REVIEW

The perspectives and advice provided by Panel members have been grouped into the following three categories: 1. what panel members liked about the preliminary directions; 2. panel members' suggested additional issues or considerations for the plan, and; 3. questions of clarification. Responses from the project team to questions of clarification are *in italics*.

1. **What panel members liked about the preliminary directions**

Citizen Panel members said many of the preliminary directions are on track. Some liked that the preliminary directions responded to some of the feedback from the consultation process and felt the six over-arching themes from consultations were “bang on.”

2. **Panel members' suggested additional issues or considerations**

Citizen Panel members shared suggestions for additional feedback, priorities, and ideas they would like to see considered in the Master Plan, including:

- **A connection between the Recreation Planning Area Boundaries and the facilities proposed in the preliminary directions.** Several participants felt that the map indicating the proposed Recreation Planning Area Boundaries should include the projected population growth in each area as well as the proposed facilities to better understand existing and proposed facility distribution.
- **Equity and balance.** It is concerning that all facilities might not offer the same services. All taxpayers should be given the same quality/type of service regardless of where they are in Brampton. Some seniors' groups (including Caribbean and Tamil Seniors' groups) don't always have access to some community centres like Flower City Seniors' Centre. *Todd Brown replied that the intent of providing different services is to meet different demographic needs across Brampton and recognize the different neighbourhoods have unique needs. Anand Desai of Monteith Brown said the team would re-examine what might be preventing some groups from accessing or using existing facilities.*
- **Facilities with kitchens.** Community groups need facilities to host events, and the lack of kitchens in current City facilities makes this difficult. Banquet halls, one of the only other options to host these events, require users to purchase the hall's food. This plan should recommend including kitchens in new facilities. *Todd Brown said the team would look into integrating commentary about support/ancillary facilities in the Master Plan.*
- **Funding, corporate sponsorships, and private sector involvement.** The City could look at corporate sponsorships to help pay for new facilities and other “out-of-the-box” thinking to make sure taxpayers aren't burdened with excess costs. *Todd Brown replied that Phase 4 of the Master Plan will look at funding and said that corporate sponsorships can help contribute, though they tend not to generate a large amount of revenue.*
- **Parkland over cash-in-lieu.** Some participants said the City should be prioritizing acquiring parkland over collecting cash-in-lieu when negotiating with developers. *Todd Brown replied that it's important that money collected as cash-in-lieu doesn't sit in a fund that's unused; if it does, the cost of land can increase so much that it's less and less possible to buy land for parks. John Spencer added that the City is encouraging developers to give land in development application processes.*

- **Traffic and transportation impacts.** It will be important to make sure this plan doesn't have a negative impact on transportation and congestion. The City could consider partnering with Brampton Transit to offer transit passes for people participating in City programs. New facilities and programs should be served by transit and active transportation routes. *Todd Brown said that proximity to major transit routes and trails is important when potential locations for major new facilities.*
- **Community-based programming.** The Community Bike Centre could be a useful precedent to help inform the Community Hub approach the Plan is adopting. It involves partnerships with the local environmental alliance, Region of Peel, and Boys and Girls Club to create local programming around biking. This kind of model could help provide more services in areas that have high new immigrant populations.
- **Neighbourhood-centric community centres vs. "shopping mall" centres.** Some participants preferred small, neighbourhood community centres, while others liked large, multi-use facilities. *Anand Desai said that the Plan will strive to strike a balance in providing different kinds of facilities. Research and consultation show that people tend to prefer the type of facility they live near and are most familiar with. In both types, there must be program rooms to help people feel like they are part of a community.*
- **Updating the Parks and Recreation website and registration system.** The current Parks and Recreation website and registration could be more user-friendly. *John Spencer replied that the website and registration system are not part of the Master Plan, but they are on the City's radar and something the City is planning on updating in 2017.*
- **Building recreation centres into new buildings (like condos).** Mississauga and Toronto are beginning to incorporate park facilities into condo buildings; perhaps Brampton could explore something similar through this Master Plan. *Todd Brown replied that the report alludes to this kind of development, but since Brampton is not as built out as Mississauga or Toronto, these kinds of strategies are likely not as pressing in the timeframe of this Master Plan. The Master Plan will recommend looking at school sites that are no longer used as potential sites for new facilities. It will also recommend the City review the Master Plan every five years, and that review process could result in identifying the need to incorporate facilities into new buildings.*
- **Changes to the preliminary directions.** Panel members shared other ideas, including:
 - **Adding an indoor running track in the new northwest community centre.** Kitchener-Waterloo Community Recreation Centre on Weber Street has an indoor exercise track up behind the seats in the arena for both young and old with 3 or 4 lanes so that seniors can walk around while others may jog or run at their own pace. *Todd Brown of Monteith Brown replied that an inside track is included in the detailed report of preliminary directions for the recommended community centre in southwest Brampton.*
 - **More new facilities.** Given the projected 30% increase in population growth, the preliminary directions seem light on adding new facilities.
 - **Promoting water safety.** The current directions only add wading pools and splash pad. These kinds of facilities may not do enough to promote water safety.

- **Basketball partnerships with schools.** Many schools have basketball courts that are underused. The City could partner with schools to make sure these courts are better maintained, and well-lit.
- **More BMX, inline skating, and bike facilities.** The preliminary directions don't seem to include any recommendations for new BMX and biking facilities.

3. Questions of clarification

Panel members asked the City and consulting team questions of clarification:

- When will data about facility usage be shared? *John Spencer said that the City currently has no plans to share the data. He added that the data isn't completely conclusive, which is part of the reason there is a need to update the City's registration software.*
- Why is there no swimming facility proposed in the central planning area while there is one in the southwest? There is more growth in the central area. *Todd Brown said that one of the challenges adding a big pool in the central area is a lack of land. Another factor in the decision is that the community survey revealed that many people in the central area prefer smaller facilities to large ones.*
- Is the PowerAde Centre factored into this Plan? *Yes, the Plan counts it in terms of how it is used. Decisions about the future of the PowerAde Centre—including whether the City buys it—are outside of the scope of the study. The PowerAde Centre's lease expires after the timeframe address by this Master Plan (in 2034).*
- Is there any data that says underutilized basket courts specifically attract undesirable uses? *Todd Brown said it could relate to tennis courts, too. It's important for these facilities to be located in areas that are appropriate for their use.*
- Does Brampton currently have outdoor artificial turfs? *Yes, there are at least four. Data showed there is room for one more based on growth and the impacts on grass fields.*
- Is this plan intended to cater to Brampton residents, a broader audience, or a balance? *Todd Brown said that the team is looking at sports tourism generally as a lens to this work, but that its focus is local. Any decision about creating a destination facility would have to be made by City Council and would require a separate process. John Spencer said that Council has also raised this issue and added that these kind of "calling card" facilities often emerge organically and require a solid business case.*

NEXT STEPS

The meeting concluded with a brief overview of next steps in the process. Ian Malczewski committed to sharing a draft summary of the meeting in the coming weeks, and John Spencer said the City would be in touch about the timing for the final Citizen Panel meeting. Todd Brown and Anand Desai thanked participants for their feedback.

Appendix A. Citizen Panel Meeting 3 Participants and Regrets

Participants

Brampton School Traffic Safety Council Daminder Ghumman

Brampton Heritage Board Ken Wilde

Brampton School Traffic Safety Council Patrick Doran

CaraBram Angela Johnson

Cycling Advisory Committee Kevin Montgomery

Environment Advisory Committee Laila Zarrabi Yan

Environment Advisory Committee David Laing

Inclusion and Equity Committee Joe Pimentel

Regrets

Accessibility Advisory Committee Karyn Pelkie

Accessibility Advisory Committee Frank Raymond

Brampton School Traffic Safety Council Michael Lobraico

Brampton Sports Hall of Fame Committee Ron Noonan

Brampton Sports Hall of Fame Committee Mario Russo

Inclusion and Equity Committee Rajinder Saini

Appendix B. Meeting Agenda

Citizen Panel Meeting #3

AGENDA

October 4, 2016

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

City Hall West Tower, Boardroom WT-
2C

Purpose:

To provide an update on the PRMP process thus far along with an overview of Preliminary Findings arising from Phase 3

7:00pm

Welcome & Agenda Review

7:10pm

PRMP Update & Presentation of Preliminary Phase 3 Findings

7:40pm

General Discussions & Focus Questions

1. What do you like about the preliminary directions articulated in the presentation?
2. Is there anything missing from the preliminary directions that that you believe should be considered in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan?
3. Are there any additional priorities, opinions, issues, etc. that you would like to see explored further?

8:50pm

Next Steps

9:00pm

Adjourn