

From: Barry Nelson
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:29 AM
To: Gold, Laura <lgold@markham.ca>
Cc: Barry Nelson
Subject: DSC Today - 4.1 RECOMMENDATION REPORT, VISIONING EXERCISE WORKPLAN FOR THE BAYVIEW AVENUE AND JOHN STREET AREA

Hi Laura,

I discovered the last minute content for this item on the weekend and I have yet to find a person that was aware of the content before me. It was obviously months in the making. How long the DSC members have had with it may be short by far if their source is the same. I have since reviewed the Report from staff that included the appendix. The attached is a deputation that I will offer tomorrow at the community meeting, but I suspect that public deputations will be limited again at a public meeting so I offer it here. I have also attached an analysis of the report from a "Placemaking" perspective. I'd appreciate it if this email could be forwarded to council members before the meeting today.

DSC Deputation and Analysis:

Item 4.1 Placemaking **deputation** for that sets the tone for the analysis below:

Analysis of Visioning Exercise Staff Document("Appendix A"):

I reviewed the Bayview and John visioning exercise document and identified areas that support and detract from the concept of placemaking. Overall, the visioning document makes some strong efforts towards placemaking, but could benefit from a more detailed, integrated approach that actively fosters a sense of community, belonging, and collaboration among all stakeholders.

Visioning Document in Support of Placemaking

- 1. Parks and Open Spaces (Section 4.1.1):**
 - Inclusion of existing and proposed parks (e.g., Drake Park, Johnsvie Park, William Cox Park).
 - Open space buffers along major thoroughfares enhance green spaces.
- 2. Community Infrastructure (Section 4.2):**
 - The Thornhill Community Centre offers a range of services and facilities, reflecting community needs.
 - Plans for enhancements and potential for at-grade retail spaces.
- 3. Cultural Heritage (Section 3.3):**
 - Preservation of heritage buildings like the John Welsh House and McCullagh Estate House.
 - Recognition of cultural resources essential to the community's character.
- 4. Transportation (Section 5.1):**

- Proposals for improving connectivity with new streets and active transportation networks.
 - Planned extensions and reconfigurations to support pedestrian and cyclist movement.
- 5. Land Use Diversity (Section 3.1):**
- Mixed-use development proposals integrate residential, commercial, and community spaces, promoting social interaction and vibrant neighborhoods.

Detracting or Lacking in Placemaking

- 1. Integration of New Residents:**
 - The document lacks detailed strategies for integrating new, often international, residents into the community fabric.
- 2. Sense of Belonging:**
 - Insufficient emphasis on designing spaces that foster a sense of belonging and social interaction for all residents.
- 3. Economic and Social Cohesion:**
 - Limited focus on how proposed developments will drive economic growth and social cohesion within the community.
- 4. Collaborative Effort:**
 - The need for explicit strategies to involve local government, developers, community organizations, and residents in a collaborative visioning process is not adequately addressed.
- 5. Detailed Placemaking Strategies:**
 - While there are general plans for parks and community infrastructure, the document lacks detailed placemaking strategies that ensure new developments are cohesive and community-oriented from the outset.