

MEETING #2 OF THE TEWIN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TCAC)

Monday, August 28, 2023: 7:00-8:30pm
Virtual Hybrid Meeting

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Adrian Becea, Susannah Juteau, Kelly Mcinnis, Ann Marie Rochon

TEWIN TEAM MEMBERS: Jim Meness, Kathleen Forward, Michelle Taggart, Mike Green, Craig Lametti, Cyndi Rottenberg-Walker, Grant Mason

CITY OF OTTAWA: Councillor George Darouze, Owen Murdock, Bronwen Graham

PURPOSE OF MEETING

This meeting focused on AOO involvement in the project, including the various engagement streams and feedback received so far. Jim Meness and Kathleen Forward attended on behalf of the AOO. Urban Strategies presented a slide deck to the attendees providing an overview of AOO participation and input into the project and a more detailed overview of the AOO Site Visit and Talking Circle held August 2022. A question-and-answer period followed.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

1. Species at Risk and Plants

- Jim Meness noted the importance of considering amphibians and reptiles in the planning for Tewin. Participants noted that the area also contains monarch butterflies. Killdeer and blue herons have also been seen.
- The Natural Land Trust could be an opportunity to support habitats for at-risk species.
- A question was asked about the types of plant species observed on site. Raspberries, milkweed, goldenrod were noted by the Tewin Team.

2. Natural Land Trust

- Committee members were interested in the location and plans for this feature.
- Specific plans for this area have not yet been developed. What the plans ultimately look like will depend on further study, input from the community, and conversations with the NCC about connections to the Greenbelt.
- Connecting to the system of trails in the Greenbelt could be an opportunity.

3. Location of Plans and Greenbelt

- A question was raised about whether the natural environment concepts identified through the AOO site tour were envisioned as happening within Tewin or around Tewin.
- It was confirmed that the presentation applied to lands within the Tewin boundary, but that certain aspects could be extended beyond through the Natural Land Trust and Greenbelt.
- The Tewin Team noted that they had met with the NCC to provide an overview of the project. The NCC is updating the Greenbelt Master Plan, which may present opportunities to integrate that work with the planning for Tewin.

4. Project Status & Details

- Committee members noted that they were hoping to see examples of buildings and community design to illustrate the concepts presented. "Hard to picture how this will actually look."
- Committee members wanted to see examples of what the connection to nature could look like at Tewin.
- It was explained that the project is still in early phases, and that this is the normal process for a development of this scale. The community design is still in the existing conditions and principles stage. Once this stage is complete, it will move to the identification of concepts and options which will be more tangible.

5. Algonquin Presence and Appearance

- It was asked if the buildings on site would have an Algonquin appearance.
- This concept is still being explored. The connection to nature is what we have heard from AOO as being the key supporter of the Algonquin presence.
- Some Algonquin-inspired buildings, such as a Cultural Centre could be included, and these design opportunities will be considered at a later phase.

6. Site Conditions for Landscape Plan

- It was recognized that the site has been farmed over time. The current condition does not represent a natural forest across the site.
- It was noted that planting of new forested areas should consider the wind storms which have occurred in recent years.
- It was recommended the Team consult the wind speed mapping when planning the landscape program.

6. Algonquin Cultural Centre

- Members expressed interest in an Algonquin Cultural Centre where visitors could learn about the Algonquin peoples and their connection to the land; the centre could include places for ceremony.
- It was noted that this was certainly an opportunity that could be considered along with other interpretative trails and spaces.

7. Zero Waste and Incineration

- A question was asked about whether Zero Waste was a requirement of One Planet Living (OPL) and whether this would result in an incinerator being built nearby.
- It was confirmed that Zero Waste was not a requirement of OPL but that there is a desire to reduce construction waste.

8. AOO Benefit

- There was a question about how the AOO will benefit from this project. It was suggested this is an opportunity for capacity building.
- It was explained that projects such as Waterridge and Tewin are important for the AOO to build capacity.

9. Housing Affordability

- There was a question about whether people working at Tewin will be able to live there. Is there a plan for low-income or rent-geared-to-income housing?
- It was noted that Inclusionary Zoning does not apply here. Affordability is extremely important and the Tewin team is open to partnerships with the City and other affordable housing providers.

10. Local Community Engagement

- Urban Strategies discussed the upcoming meeting with the residents and landowners inside the study area and noted that it was important to meet with them before the broader EA Existing Conditions meeting.
- It was also noted that the website is being refreshed and would include new informational videos.
- Committee members explained that the community will want to see concrete plans, and they will want to know details about the project as it relates to their properties, including plans for transit and grading.
- In that context, given that the project is only in the early stages and not yet at that level of detail, it was agreed that it will be important to manage expectations about the purpose of the meeting on the invite (what will and will not be covered) and to walk through the project timeline at the local community meeting.