



**West Hamilton-City Accommodation Review
Working Group Meeting #3
February 8 2017- 6:00 pm
Ryerson School, 222 Robinson St.
Minutes**

Attendance

Committee Members: John Efthimiadis, Rob Fiedler, Tracy Upham, Barbara Stares, Matt Allen, Nicole Poyton, Tanya Ritchie, Allison Savage, Jo Anne Cheyne-Miller, David Heska, Jennifer Walsom, Janine Durajlija, Melissa Crawford, Nadine Bernacki, Katherine Graham, Shelly Turk, Teri Lantagne

Committee Member Regrets: Eleni Jalbout, Sue Caven, Sarah Sirkett

HWDSB Resource Staff: – Superintendent/Chair Sue Dunlop, Mary Finstad, Ellen Warling, Estella Jones, Steve Johnstone, Sean Malcolmson, Dan Ivankovic, Tannis Hamill, Karen Koop, Bob Fex

Trustees: Jeff Beattie, Christine Bingham, Greg Van Geffen

Public: Bennetto (1), Hess (3)

Recording Secretary: Sue Phillips

Called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Sue Dunlop – Welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda and housekeeping items

Review of minutes – Public Meeting #1 and Working Group #2

Public Meeting #1 January 11, 2017 minutes approved

Working Group Meeting #2 January 25, 2017 minutes approved

Sue welcomed City Staff for a Question/Answer period

Chris Phillips – Sr. Advisor, Planning & Economic Development

Philbert Kim – Sr. Consultant, West Harbour Disposition Strategy

Sean Botham – Sr. Development Manager, City Housing Hamilton

Paul Johnson – Director, LRT Project Coordination

Chris Phillips provided an overview of growth forecasts for the City.

The City of Hamilton does not micro forecast population growth. We are given information from the Province. The City then allocates the forecast. From there we have to ensure there is adequate land to support and accommodate the growth city-wide. What we do not do is drill down to specific regions of the city to decide on allocation. We then zone and plan for certain properties depending on development applications.

From a City perspective there is growth in this West Hamilton area, however, there is growth throughout the city, including south mountain, Ancaster, Dundas, Waterdown, and along the lake in Stoney Creek. It is pretty easy to predict the type of growth in these areas – based on what is already developed– low-rise family residential housing. The growth we are talking about in this West Hamilton City area is somewhat unpredictable as we haven't had growth like this in this area for quite some time. It is more difficult to project the growth than the suburban areas.

In this area there are considerable re-development parcels to work on including Pier 8, Barton/Tiffany, City Housing/Jamesville complex and the Pier 6/7 commercial village. We don't expect the neighbourhood to change in the form and style as it is today. You may see some singles turning into semis, triplexes or even quads but you probably won't see any major changes in residential neighbourhoods aside from the large parcels that the City actually has.



Q. In terms of new development in the downtown West Hamilton area how far in advance do you know if someone who owns a parking lot decides to put a condo on it?

A. Approximately two years ahead of when they are looking to develop in a serious way.

Q. Do you have specific numbers right now for Barton/ Tiffany and Jamesville developments?

A. We don't project on one bedroom units, 2 bedroom units etc. We do have unit projections but cannot tell what form those units will be in. The numbers of units for Barton/Tiffany are around 1100 and the number of units for Jamesville is around 330.

Q. There has been talk that Central Park is contaminated. Is this the case? Also will there be streets going through it?

A. Caroline St. will not continue through the park as originally planned. Regarding contamination - work is being planned to cap/remediate the park area with fill.

Q. When planning future projects overall are you looking to see if families with young kids are moving to area? Do you have an overall demographic area?

A. We do not use that information to forecast. We look at what is currently in the area. We look site by site and at planning applications.

Paul Johnson provided an overview of the LRT along with some fact sheets and referred the committee to the City website: Hamilton.ca/LRT for detailed information on the system, which includes maps for all crossings and roadways.

Sue Dunlop thanked City staff for taking the time to attend the meeting and answer questions.

Bob Fex reviewed the enrolment projection methodology. HWDSB typically receives 65% of school age children with the Catholic board receiving 35%.

Sue Dunlop noted that we saw 1000 Syrian newcomers last year. People continue to come but not in the same numbers.

Bob Fex reviewed the initial option process using the initial option boundary map.

Q. Why was Hess named for closure?

A. Between geography, site size, location, other site sizes that is what brought us to Hess. We don't target the school. These are the schools we have and we have to come up with the best solution.

Q. Why was the French Immersion conversation not discussed in the initial option?

A. At the time, the elementary strategy was happening simultaneously. An internal decision was made to not include it at that time but to ensure it becomes part of the conversation with the accommodation committee. You will be seeing how it affects the schools through this process.

Q. This initial option solves only to the north so there is a definite imbalance.

A. The elementary strategy will try to address the balance of the south.

Sue Dunlop noted the committee would benefit from seeing what the enrolment numbers in each school would like with a change to French Immersion boundaries.

The committee moved to a small groups activity to discuss their feedback on the initial option.

Committee Feedback

- If students, teachers and parents all prefer small schools should HWDSB re-think their approach?
- Closing SJAM – no school in downtown core
- Doesn't support JK-8 model. Why maintain 2 JKs and a middle school?
- PAR may be opportunity to build new downtown school
- What happens to school population when programs of choice are moved? Or removed?



- Doesn't address overcrowding at Central, Earl Kitchener or Ryerson
- OTG#s don't line up with live experience in schools. Cathy Wever – no room but says we can take more
- Why is site size such a deciding factor?
- Walkability especially for families that don't drive
- Option recommends too much busing /takes away walkability
- School should stay in central area
- Why only options to close Hess?
- ESL programming with a large influx of ESL students from Hess will the alpha program expand into Bennetto?
- We can do better than this
- Hess St. students – what percentage would be walking vs being bused?
- What are the costs of getting students to and from Hess to Bennetto?

Group activity took place to identify five key emerging themes from Public Meeting #1.

Identified Themes

- Student / staff well-being – (2)
- Transportation/walkability – (5)
- Facilities – gym/playground, equitable facilities – (5)
- Access to community services
- Diversity of options – school models – (2)
- Community hub – access to services – (4)
- Programming – FI/Sage – (2)
- Proximity/location
- Safety – (2)
- Accommodations in terms of programming
- Site size
- Accessibility
- Safety of road crossings
- Educational outcomes and achievements

Correspondence – refer to the agenda package for responses to previous requests for information. There is no new correspondence.

Next Steps

Working Group #4 – February 23, 2017. Cathy Wever School

Public Meeting #2 – March 8, 2017. Sir John A. Macdonald School

We will run the next working group meeting to 8:30 p.m.

Comment: are we adding another working group meeting? Committee would like another working group meeting scheduled before public next meeting with the option to cancel if not required.

Adjourned: 8:40.