

Building & Land Use Committee
Meeting notes from Tuesday April 4, 2011

Attendees:

Rob McCready, Wendy Crawford, Lisa Kelleher, Joseph Lee, Vivek Bakshi, John Hiddema, Anne Sasu, Danielle Lavalee, Lisa Cain, Edie Shaw, Victor Dirisio.

1. Quick Review of Opportunities, Needs & Concerns

- Expand on safety concerns: with regards to construction timing, stops throughout the day, safe distances, dust and environmental, logistical, safety staff on site, no workers entering school
- MTSD is likely staying 2 more years and needs to be considered for that time or possibly longer

2. Open discussion on BLU committee and the school

- Whole process should have both a short term and long term vision in regards to its success and smoothness of process for students and community
- New benefits for the school should be evident and committed to – in programs, services, features
- Fiscal viability of redevelopment – this has not been explored yet
- BLU should state our requirements/criteria in a clear way to the TDSB and LDT
- the value to the community and the necessity of redevelopment must be communicated from the board and LDT to convince the community
- local schools are 500+ students and this may suggest a size/viability area that Davisville may need to move towards for long term sustainability for a greater variety of programs
- a larger school may enable a wider array of programming and funding which will lead to a better reputation within the community
- The school isn't falling apart, yet it is dysfunctional – B & G washrooms are miles apart requiring buddy system, 1 drinking fountain on the first floor, small cubbies don't house winter clothes
- Built at 2 separate schools – the design is not working well, awkward building for students and staff
- How can we connect with the community more as a resource, can a pool or programming after hours on weekends bring greater benefits and support from the community?
- Keeping (not losing) or improving green space is important to the community
- All BLU communications to the community will be reviewed by Principal in advance prior to release
- Group desire to connect with Shelley Laskin and tour schools at her suggestion and learn more about other redevelopment results in other parts of the city
- Group agreed to share with Shelley as we develop our vision, goals, criteria and get her engaged early on in the process
- Use September Curriculum night, key events, word of mouth, newsletter, parent class emails to communicate BLU to the community on an ongoing consistent basis
- Our goal is not to be exhaustive, keep it simple, open, relevant, positive, collaborative

3. School Council Website Review:

- Site is up and content loading is in progress, it is still basic at this point
- Currently using the BLU updates and documents
- New posts can be easily added in the future
- Future features may support visitor feedback, surveys, forums

4. BLU Committee Protocol Review Feedback:

- Throughout - add MTSD, change Steering to BLU committee,
- Section 1a - ...add "the school and or its grounds"
- Section 3b - ...if one requests a meeting, the chairperson may call such meeting at its discretion
- Representation: voting members will reflect the school population as best as possible with required attendance in order to vote as noted
- 3c – "at the beginning of each school year, Council will meet to review any changes to process"
- Vivek will update various feedback noted and recirculate

5. Vision & Criteria Development:

This will be sent out in email for input and feedback and refined over the next month.

6. Individual positions - open dialogue capturing:

1. Against losing any space for the footprint of the whole school, against artificial turf
2. Concerned about inconvenience and student accommodation during a redev
3. Whatever the outcome is – I want to be able to say that parents can be happy about the results and it's the right thing for students, the community and parents and it's been a good process
4. I'm intrigued by the idea of a new school, efficient, green with better design, how we get there is unclear
5. Concerned it will affect my son, disruption of education experience, intrigued about something new that works better, would love to see this as a community hub
6. I want it to come back to what it was years ago, the great neighbourhood school it can be, the building layout could definitely benefit rethinking, leaning towards a new school
7. I think it is inevitable this building will be replaced, what I want to see is a better school with a community benefit and programming, a much more usable, flexible school, an improved neighbourhood, I hope to avoid a Minto process. More amenities, more usable space. Concerned about what will happen in a construction process, but will look beyond that and what I feel will happen with a better community impact.
8. My hope is that we can get help from Shelley on getting the most for building really great school experience.
9. My concerns with the process are that this has already been planned and people have already drawn up plans for this site, without engaging the community. Concerned about the potential steamroller in the back room – our forum may be wasted as a result of pre-laid plans we don't know about.
10. Don't want to lose any green space, want innovative design ideas that engage, serve and reflect the unique community, diversity and mix of streams. There is an opportunity here to create a completely new kind of school that kids love. Is TDSB up to it? I don't know
11. I want a business case that proves that redev is needed and fiscally responsible to taxpayers with clearly presented benefits vs sacrifices.

Next steps:

- Contact Shelley Laskin for "redeveloped" school tours – group preferred later in the week 9:30 am approx.
- Chairs to create a 1 page update topline on BLU activity for a meeting with Shelley
- Chairs to circulate page for feedback on Blue Vision and Proposal Criteria
- Website updates and introduction of Council website to parent community
- No new meeting scheduled unless needed until we hear from TDSB/LDT

Next meeting – to be determined. An email notice will be sent with date options in advance.