

May 3, 2015

Hello friends!

GBNA would like to update you on a matter of community concern which will be considered by City Council on May 5, 2015: the **proposed lease of Pantry Park to the Toronto District School Board**. Particulars are covered in the 'backgrounder' below.

Given the many unanswered questions of this proposal, GBNA finds that insufficient community consultation has taken place and that Council ought to defer this item. We will ask Councillor McMahon, Mayor John Tory and other Councillors for their support of this request.

You can help

Please make your voice heard by email, should you agree with our recommendation for a deferral, by pasting the following fields in your email application

<TO>

mayor_tory@toronto.ca; councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca; Councillor_DiCiano@toronto.ca; councillor_mcconnell@toronto.ca; councillor_augimeri@toronto.ca; councillor_digiorgio@toronto.ca; councillor_mcmahon@toronto.ca; councillor_bailao@toronto.ca; councillor_doucette@toronto.ca; councillor_mihevc@toronto.ca; councillor_berardinetti@toronto.ca; councillor_filion@toronto.ca; councillor_minnan-wong@toronto.ca; Councillor_Burnside@toronto.ca; councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca; councillor_moesser@toronto.ca; Councillor_Campbell@toronto.ca; councillor_ford@toronto.ca; councillor_nunziata@toronto.ca; Councillor_CarmichaelGreb@toronto.ca; councillor_fragedakis@toronto.ca; councillor_palacio@toronto.ca; councillor_carroll@toronto.ca; councillor_grimes@toronto.ca; councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca; councillor_colle@toronto.ca; councillor_karygiannis@toronto.ca; councillor_perruzza@toronto.ca; councillor_crawford@toronto.ca; councillor_kelly@toronto.ca; councillor_robinson@toronto.ca; Councillor_Cressy@toronto.ca; councillor_layton@toronto.ca; councillor_shiner@toronto.ca; councillor_crisanti@toronto.ca; councillor_lee@toronto.ca; councillor_thompson@toronto.ca; councillor_davis@toronto.ca; councillor_mammoliti@toronto.ca; councillor_wongtam@toronto.ca; councillor_debaeremaeker@toronto.ca; councillor_matlow@toronto.ca; info@gbna-toronto.com

<Subject> Request for deferral: 2015.GM311

<Text> (feel free to use your own wording)

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councillors.

Item 2015.GM311 proposes to lease Pantry Park in Ward 32 to the TDSB on terms recommended by a Staff report just released on March 19th. This has left too little time for an adequate consultation with the community to understand its many implications.

I ask that you vote to defer the item so that community input can be completed and incorporated in any future plan.

Thank you

<add your name>

(Please scroll down for further background information).

Thank you.

Jan Hykamp for the GBNA team

gbna-toronto.com

info@gbna-toronto.com

GBNA is an umbrella association with the following members:

Beach Triangle RA; Kew Beach NA; Toronto Beach East RA; Balmy Beach RA; Beach Waterfront CA; Norwood Park RA; Friends of Glen Davis Ravine. Associate member groups: Beach Hill Neighbourhood Ass'n; Kingston Road Village Neighbourhood Ass'n.

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Background

Pantry Park Lease to Toronto District School Board (TDSB)

Pantry Park - located south of Kew Beach School on Queen St at Kippendavie Ave - has provided park space / sports field benefits to the community since the early 1900's.

That may be about to change. City Council will on May 5 consider granting the TDSB a 999 year lease of the Pantry Park lands. This lease would be in exchange for the TDSB giving up an indefinite option it holds over a parcel of land at the north end of Woodbine Park.

The City's rationale for these transactions is to

- accommodate the TDSB's capacity requirement by allowing it to construct an addition on the existing playfield at Kew Beach Public School and use the adjacent Pantry Park as the new playfield for the students attending the school, and
- assure that the portion of Woodbine Park currently subject to TDSB's option will remain public open space.

The proposed lease of Pantry Park to the TDSB would impose limitations on the use which may be made of these lands, including that

- the lands may only be used only for the purposes of public parkland and open public space, or for outdoor school playground or playing field purposes, and
- no portables would be permitted on the lands, and no other form of enclosure would be permitted without the express prior written consent of the City.

The transaction, and a summary of the terms of the proposed lease of Pantry Park to TDSB, are outlined in a Report from the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to Government Management Committee, dated March 19, 2015, which is available on-line at [this link](#).

GBNA Concerns

GBNA is noting three points of community concern:

1. While the terms of the proposed lease will maintain public access to the site during non-school hours, details such as fencing, methods of access, fees for sports events, etc. have not been disclosed.
2. The lease is part of a "swap" wherein TDSB releases its option on a parcel of land in Woodbine Park. Details of the option which the TDSB currently holds over this parcel have not been disclosed.
3. What are the implications of the Pantry Park lease on the existing Kew Beach School playground, which is currently enjoyed as open space along Queen St. Could this land be subject to development if it was to be declared surplus to TDSB needs?

Insufficient community engagement

GBNA finds that the community has not had a chance to understand the potentially significant implications of the proposed "swap", lease details and future implications for Queen Street. It seems reasonable that the Council vote planned for Tuesday, May 5, be deferred.