



20 Bay Street, Suite 1310
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NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETING

Host Organization: West Don Lands Committee

Date: 26 February 2018, 8-9 pm

Location: Cooper Koo Cherry Street YMCA

Number of Attendees: Approximately 60

Notetaker: Carol Webb, Waterfront Toronto

Abbreviations: Sidewalk Labs (SWL), Waterfront Toronto (WT)

Sidewalk Toronto Representatives:

Meg Davis (WT), Josh Sirefman (SWL), Peter MacLeod (SWL / MASS LBP), Kristina Verner (WT), Carol Webb (WT)

Other Attendees:

Councillor Lucy Troisi, Tom Davidson (EA to Councillor Troisi), Michael Brewer (Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association), George Hume (Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association), Suzanne Kavanaugh (St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association), Larry Webb (Corktown Residents and Business Association), Pinelopi Gramatikopoulos, (City of Toronto, Waterfront Secretariat)

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Meg Davis provided a brief introduction to Waterfront Toronto, talked about its vision for Quayside, and described the Request for Proposal (RFP) process through which Sidewalk Labs was selected as its Innovation and Funding Partner. Josh Sirefman then introduced Sidewalk Labs and described what led it to respond to the RFP and the alignment between the two organizations. Meg and Josh then jointly provided an overview of the partnership and the high-level timeline and key milestones throughout 2018. They provided an overview of the November 2017 Town Hall, the themes emerging as areas of interest and concern to the community, and how this feedback has helped to inform the early approach to Sidewalk Toronto's work. They introduced the vision set out by Sidewalk Labs in response to the RFP and how the joint teams and the initial work are being organized. They also outlined the public engagement plan and described the variety of opportunities to participate over the next several months. They then invited questions from attendees.

NOTES

The following notes summarize the questions and answers but do not represent a verbatim transcript.

Q1: Will the public realm be handed over to a private corporation?

- This is the start of a process and the outcomes are not yet known, nor is it known how the public realm will be delivered, owned, or maintained.



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- The objective is to explore whether there are new ways of delivering some things in a better way, not necessarily to privatize public spaces.
- Daniels Waterfront offers an example of a private corporation extending the public realm (Sugar Beach North) and structuring an arrangement with the City to maintain the park on behalf of the City.

Q2: Many government agencies have defined conflict resolution with an external, unbiased third-party. How will you manage privacy concerns?

- Federal and provincial privacy commissioners will be consulted and will validate the process and approach. It will be arms-length, third-party.

Q3: There are major projects all around this site (Gardiner public realm, West Don Lands, Villiers Island), and no talk about precinct planning. When and where do we hear about precinct plan taking precedence over other ideas?

- We don't have that level of detail yet and look forward to bringing that to the community. The aim of our work is to be additive to what has already taken place.

Q4: We hear that you need to move beyond Quayside and are concerned about the Villiers Island Precinct Plan, in which we've already established the public realm. How can that stay the same or how will it change?

- Quayside is a start of ideas and we will need to consider the broader area to plan thoughtfully. Enormous work has already taken place on Villiers Island. We're here to be additive.
- WT created these precinct plans. WT will be the partner and the steward.

Q5: The "mobility" slides look good in theory, but what realistically can be achieved on Quayside? To date, there has not been meaningful progress on waterfront transit or the relief line. What practical things can be delivered in the near term?

- Three-to-five years is a long time. We can be a catalyst in thinking and planning — not a replacement for transit. Autonomous vehicles can be a catalyst for a change in the mobility paradigm, helping us explore how different modes of transportation can work together. We will also advocate for traditional public transit.

Q6: Comments and concerns expressed over the ownership of public realm are valid. Overall, the concept of this project is needed. How does this impact Quayside in terms of development applications?

- The aim is to genuinely think about development differently and execute differently. What materials are used and what the buildings look like could manifest in different ways.



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Q7: This partnership is with a private company that will make money by commercializing solutions elsewhere. Will the City and Waterfront Toronto see financial benefits?

- Where there is demonstrated co-creation then value of the benefits should be shared fairly.

Q8: Why do we need Sidewalk Labs when we can leverage local universities? Are you confident that what you're striving for is not already in the public domain?

- This can be the catalyst that pulls a variety of elements and contributors together — such as academia and regulators — and apply them together in a meaningful way, in a meaningful environment.

Q9: There are some very interesting sustainability measures, like capturing energy from footsteps, and other ways of harnessing new forms of energy. Are things like this being considered?

- There is the potential to test some things before Quayside and then maybe take them to scale in Quayside.

Q10: To what extent can academics, innovators, et cetera contribute to the ideas being explored?

- We aim to create the conditions that allow creativity to be harnessed. This project is a catalyst for those focused on urban innovation. Our website invites potential partners to contact us. So far hundreds of emails have been received.

Q11: Are we at risk of serving technology rather than technology serving us?

- The technology needs to benefit humanity. It should never be technology for technology's sake.

Q12: Many of us here were planning the West Don Lands before Waterfront Toronto even existed. We got involved in the details of the planning and we're concerned yet hopeful that there will be opportunities for community members to get involved in more than the occasional meeting.

- A number of themed advisory committees are being formed. These committees will include community representation as well as individuals and organizations with recognized expertise in the various subjects.