

Grange Park – Comments received after the June 4, 2015 Community meeting

Grange Park is a perfect place for get away in downtown now. I hope the park maximizes the usage of existing trees (i.e. minimal tree removal). Please don't forget this is the small peaceful park in this busy downtown. I hope the closing doesn't last long.

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I would strongly encourage reconsidering the moveable chairs. How would you keep them from being stolen? How would you avoid it making the park look messy as they are scattered about, without order? They also look like, in rainy weather, they would sink into the ground and the mud, making a mess. The examples show (ex. Bryant Park) have cobblestone ground. It wouldn't work in Grange Park.

Very excited about the revitalization, however, as a mother of an active toddler who regularly visits the playground, I am very sad about the loss of the wood playground and sandbox – the replacement plastic equipment does not seem well-suited or adequate to accommodate all the kids in the area and wondering what research has been done on play structures for the space. Thank you – appreciate the feedback

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I love the new playground! Please put the Two Forms in the south position.

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I think putting the Henry Moore sculpture in the park is a good idea. I prefer the proposed alignment centring with John Street. I am not a dog owner but support the idea of an off leash park in the southwest corner. Overall, I love the new park design! As an alternative location, I'd propose where Phoebe Street ends.

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Resiting the Henry Moore sculpture in the park is an excellent idea. I strongly support this plan. The southern, central position favoured by the AGO seems to best showcase the piece.

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In my opinion, the Moore should stay where it is on the corner of Dundas and McCaul Streets.

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I realize the dog off-leash area is a difficult issue to address. Is it possible to convert nearby parking lots into green space, with dogs in mind?

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Hello, Thank you for the fantastic work on Grange Park. We love the idea of relocating the statue to the park —having been to Chicago, we get the vision associated w/ the sculptural component. Who do we contact at Toronto City Council regarding the decision on the dog park?—we want to advocate that they revisit their decision. We are willing to canvas our neighbours living w/in 18 Beverly and surrounding...to give them a chance to express their desire to those involved in making this decision.

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Feed back

1. "Evolved design"

Great. I hope that implementation matches the concept. Please continue to consider the 4 season use of park equipment-especially, winter- when choosing materials and completing designs.

2. Henry Moore

I loved Two Forms at McCaul and Dundas. I would love it in the park at the centre-entrance.

3. DOLA

Sad, sad outcome of the city review. The City's ruling seemed arbitrary given the presentation by Max Allan of other parks, growth in our neighbourhood and the criteria for an off-leash park area. What more can be done?

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Do you know when the images and fly through from the June 4 meeting will be available on the Grange Park website? I'm excited to show my family the proposed designs. As I mentioned in the meeting, I am absolutely floored by how creatively the team has addressed the needs of the community and come up with something truly special and unique. This park is going to be a destination highlight for locals and tourists and will add immense value for families that will especially complement visits to the gallery.

I have recently been introduced to the concept of Urban Agriculture and am looking into food policy, health economics and sustainability. Do you know if there is any possibility that edible plants might be included in the landscape design? Is there a possibility to include orchard trees to replace some of the canopy that is going to be removed? There's a wonderful organization called Not Far From The Tree that volunteers to harvest fruit and donate a portion to food banks. Both University Settlement and St. Patrick's Church operate food programs and shelters and could benefit from this, not to mention the positive feedback that the Gallery would receive as a partner in promoting an innovative and progressive food strategy for the community. Best of all, it wouldn't require any redesign, as it could capitalize on existing plans.

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I love the idea of putting the Henry Moore sculpture in the Grange Park. It deserves a place of honour, the first position shown at the meeting.

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I LOVED the new playground concept. Although I love what is there now, I am very open to seeing it go in favour of the new. I think that playground will draw in people from far and wide, and I'll be happy to use it every day. It's amazing and totally in keeping with the creativity of this neighbourhood.

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Firstly, thank you for everyone's hard work on this remarkable project. I agree with John Polanyi's remarks made at the June 3rd meeting. I support the vision for Grange Park. I believe the concerns expressed by those who practise tai-chi in the mornings are able to be accommodated within the plan. I wonder about the apartment building that dominates the SW corner. Is there/will there ever be an opportunity to purchase that space and return it to its original state--there are enough condos going up in the city, surely to accommodate these

residents and the building is aging. Regarding the matter of dogs--I am neither for nor against dog parksbut would support what dog owners would like as a solution to this matter.

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I have a couple of comments about Grange Park, as one who has virtually had the Park in their living room window for thirty years (until late 2011).

In it's basically unstructured layout - except for the play area - it has been totally flexible to accommodate any and all use the community has wanted. I realize the Off leash aspect of the Park is no longer feasible but to deny the allocation of space for a Dog Run on some flimsy excuses shows a certain lack of humanity for both man and beast.

And while on the subject of the Park - the very idea of moving the Henry Moore sculpture from McCaul and Dundas to the Park leaves me almost speechless. It is an icon of the Art Gallery, seen every day 365 days a year in rain or shine, sleet or snow from streetcars, automobiles, bicycle and on foot. People from around the world have their picture taken in front of it. Kids play. It can be seen from all angle and in context of neighbourhood buildings.

I don't think this has been mentioned but the old 1842 tower of St. George the Martyr is such an asset to the view of the Grange House from Stephanie and John Sts. I know it is the responsibility of the Anglican Church of Canada but I wonder if there has been any thought of approaching them regarding repairing it before it falls down. I had hoped they would have a fund raising but so far I don't think anything is happening.

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I appreciate that your design wasn't just changed, it was improved. I especially like the idea of chairs - let's hope they don't become a target of thieves.

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I am a resident on Soho Street. I was unable to attend the meeting regarding Grange Park but would like to add my enthusiastic support for a leash free area for dogs. I feel it is VERY needed considering the density of dogs living in the area. Most live in condos and apartments with no yards and very little room to run, play, exercise and interact with other dogs. It would afford dog owners to meet and connect thereby creating a sense of community.

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I am a local resident and would love to see a leash free area for dogs. Most of the many dogs around here are isolated in tiny condos with little chance to associate with other dogs. Please keep me informed about this issue.

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Councillor Cressy and GPAC/AGO representatives:

Thank you for taking the time to host last night's community meeting about Grange Park at OCAD U.

Although I attended primarily for the DOLA discussion, I will add that I think the Henry Moore "Two Forms" sculpture could work in the northwest corner of the park, where the west water feature ends at the meeting of the paths.

As for the DOLA, I am in support of it of course. I think that the PFR manager sadly had to represent his department's arbitrary decision, which Max Allen and our prior appeal have ably refuted: there are no established standards for proximity to residences, and our research of other DOLAs (even post 2010) shows even less distance than that proposed in Grange Park; and the tree protection can be addressed through a combination of design (protective barriers if truly needed), materials (wood chip cover for protection), and maintenance (aeration of the roots by staff, and replenishment of wood chips).

As I stated (poorly) in the meeting: even neighbourhoods with low density and detached homes with private backyards use DOLAs because it is good for the dogs' socialization. For dense areas such as our own, where many condo owners do not have private green spaces but companion pets, the parks are our yards, and though we can walk our dogs on leash, the benefit of an off-leash area to give our dogs freedom cannot be overstated.

With no other green space in the Grange of any size, and no other dog park within a 15 minute walking distance, allocation of less than 8% of the park's area seems a fair commitment to dog owners of the community, especially considering the expected growth in residential density in the immediate vicinity. The funding commitment by the AGO and Mr. Weston provides an opportunity for the city that should not be missed. PFR identified capital funding allocation as a consideration in its DOLA review process, and that is not a concern here, but would be for any alternative locations.

Finally, the proposed DOLA location in the southwest corner is the best for the current design, notwithstanding concerns of it being adjacent to walking paths. This is an area of the park that is currently unused and was not designated for any function in the design. Barbara Hall Park is an example of how a DOLA can be adjacent to a busy path yet visually removed through fencing, benches, and foliage. It also shows how proximity to playgrounds and residences can be adeptly handled.

I recommend that Regent Park, Allan Gardens, St. Andrew Playground, and Barbara Hall Park DOLAs all be considered for their design and integration into their urban neighbourhoods.

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