

Lansdowne – John Dance

Three updates: one pertaining to proposed improvements of Aberdeen Square, the second to the review of Lansdowne's future, and the third on Lansdowne and the draft Official Plan.

1. Aberdeen Square:

OSEG is, according to Jonathan McLeod of Councillor Menard's office, holding off on proceeding with changes "While the city starts ramping up the two council sponsor groups and the stakeholder group."

Mark Goudie, OSEG CEO said in a letter to the City, "This will allow the City working group and Councilor Sponsor Group the opportunity to include the Plaza's 'best use' forward in the scope of the ongoing work. We look forward to continuing to work with the City, and your department, on innovative and creative ways to evolve Lansdowne into an active gathering space what works for our neighbourhood, our region and for visitors to our City."

2. Lansdowne Review:

Jonathan McLeod: "Currently, we're making sure that there is proper community representation on the stakeholder group, and we want to establish the roles of each group, since there's a risk of overlap. I'll do my best to keep you updated as more info comes."

There is nothing on either the OSEG or City's website about the review and there has been no meeting of the Lansdowne Community Consultation Group since November.

The review was approved by Council in December and the report is to be considered by Council by the end of June yet there are no available terms of reference and no community groups have been involved in the review even though four months have passed since the review was announced and only three months remain before Council is to consider it.

It appears to be following the same poor path of consultation that led to the original approvals.

3. Official Plan and Lansdowne:

OOECA Comments: “The idea of a “Special District” for Lansdowne is sound, however, the current wording emphasizing the professional sports and entertainment aspect is wrong. : Lansdowne Park is the City’s major park for playing, gathering and socializing, not just watching professional sports and expensive entertainment.”

Glebe Community Association comments: “We also welcome the designation of Lansdowne Park, and encourage the City to consider the opportunities presented by the urban park in meeting tree canopy and climate change goals. The urban park plays a key role in supporting NH and City livability goals and was a foundational element of the redevelopment of the site. Commercial/sporting elements are clearly important parts of this site but should not take precedence.”