

Report on Community Information Meeting on the Florence Booth House Project

November 24, 2020, 6:30 to 8:30pm
(Using a Webex Platform)

A Community Information Meeting was held on November 24, 2020 to inform and engage the local community on the project.

A public notice for the meeting was distributed in three ways:

- 1) About 1000 hard copy notices were hand delivered on November 13 to residents and businesses in the area bordered by Bathurst to the East, Robinson St to the north, Claremont St to the west and Richmond St to the south.
- 2) An electronic version of the notice was distributed by Councillor Joe Cressy's office with his regular weekly e-newsletter.
- 3) Notice was posted on the FlorenceBoothHouse.com website.

Twenty-three people attended the meeting, along with 11 Panelists. The panelists included:

Bradley Harris, Assistant Divisional Social Services Secretary, Salvation Army;
Joanne Tilley, Divisional Social Services Secretary, Salvation Army;
Mauricio Urtecho, Executive Director, Toronto Housing and Homeless Supports, Salvation Army;
Vinny Mithra, Project Coordinator, Salvation Army;
Brad Boucher, City of Toronto Shelter Support and Housing Administration Division;
Joe Lobko, Principal Architect with DTAH;
John Duncan, City of Toronto planner on the file;
Andrew Davidge, Planner with Gladki Planning Associates;
Councillor Joe Cressy
Stephanie Corringham, Director of Florence Booth House
Joe Mihevc, acting as Moderator and Community Engagement Facilitator

A copy of the slide presentation is attached. The presentation of the project took 70 minutes and allowed for 40 minutes of community conversation. Questions, concerns and responses were cordially presented making for a respectful back and forth. The meeting ended at 8:20 with all the questions and concerns having been aired and receiving a response from the panelists.

The questions and concerns, edited to avoid duplication, were as follows:

- 1) What are the city's plans for those living in encampments? How are we caring for people in tents in the parks? They should be relocated somewhere safe during the winter.
- 2) Has the city looked into the number of shelters per square kilometer in this neighbourhood? Why have you chosen to expand in an area that is already so congested?

- 3) What services are provided at Florence Booth House and what is meant by integrating residents into the community?
- 4) Please clarify the change in capacity of the shelter.
- 5) How does this current plan fit in with the City's Long Term Affordable Housing Program?
- 6) Is this not going to be the tallest building in the neighbourhood?
- 7) Where is the green space? Right now there is no place for people to go during the day.
- 8) Would the money be better used to provide housing for these individuals?
- 9) Will the facilities be only used to provide shelter for women only or would it be extended to men?
- 10) Is there data to support the need for expansion?
- 11) Did you consider a rezoning process as opposed to the Committee of Adjustment?
- 12) What is the construction cost per square foot?
- 13) Do clients have programs during the day? How does the shelter manage people hanging around the neighbourhood?
- 14) How long does it take to get the women at FBH into housing?
- 15) Did the Salvation Army look into selling the building rather than doing a costly renovation?
- 16) When will the construction start and how long will it take?
- 17) Comment: "I like the red brick."

The panelists addressed all the questions and concerns and took in the positive comments.

Going forward, a video recording of the meeting is being posted on the FlorenceBoothHouse.com website. Additionally, notes from the meeting with responses will also be on the website and accessible to a broader public that could not make the meeting.

Residents were encouraged to keep in touch via the website, and to ask any further questions via the email address FlorenceBoothHouse@gmail.com.

Prepared by: Joe Mihevc
Community Engagement Facilitator
for Salvation Army
November 25, 2020