

Lansdowne Park – John Dance

### ***OOECA Lansdowne Committee***

No meeting of the committee nor of the Lansdowne Community Consultation Group (LCCG) took place over the last month.

### ***Lansdowne Review***

Despite the review being announced two months ago, the City has not contacted community associations or their members on the LCCG to discuss the terms of reference and how community associations are proposed to be involved. Yet the review is to be completed by June.

### ***Proposed Changes to Aberdeen Square***

As of this writing, there still has been no decision on whether to proceed with the “improvements” OSEG proposed back in August 2020 but were objected to by many who participated in the October 2020 consultation. None of the changes requested by residents or Councillor Menard has been reflected in proposals.

The legal agreement between the City and OSEG for Casino Lac Leamy’s sponsorship of Aberdeen Square includes reference to a “performance structure” measuring 20 x 24 feet, however, OSEG has proposed a stage with a maximum size 2.5 times this.

### ***Lansdowne and the Official Plan***

The draft Official Plan proposes to make Lansdowne Park one of the new “special districts” (like along the Rideau Canal).

However, the wording included in the draft seems to give primacy to the professional sports and entertainment aspects of the Park, with community needs and interests subrogated to these (see extract below). We would recommend that in the OOECA input to the OP it be requested that the Lansdowne wording be revised and the OP’s vision be inverted such that vibrant community life becomes the primary focus and goal, while professional sports and entertainment be recognized as only one of a number of components that, in their totality will make the Park a success.

This is important because in the pending review of the park possible changes should be viewed in the context of what’s best for surrounding communities and users of the park who are not just there for attending events. There are two main reasons for this: 1. Lansdowne, while being a regional asset, is also a neighbourhood feature and therefore needs to serve neighbourhood needs 2. From the perspective of the fiscal success of the park, intermittent fan or tourist traffic cannot generate sufficient income for the Park. Even the Farmers’ Market vendors will remark that a fair number of visitors come for the atmosphere but not to buy. We do not want the review to be focused on what’s best for professional sports and large entertainment events at Lansdowne at the expense of what is best for the community and the viability of the Park in general.

### **From OP draft:**

6.6.6 Lansdowne

One of Canada's marquee urban stadium developments, Lansdowne is a contemporary demonstration of the successful integration of a large professional sports facility within an established neighbourhood, on a site that also provides restaurants, housing, retail, heritage buildings and community facilities. Its setting is within a central, mature neighbourhood that is rich in cultural heritage and geographic attributes. Lansdowne is successful because it delivers year-round spectator sporting events and major national and international events which attract residents and visitors from across the city and beyond. Lansdowne also provides local residents with services and amenities to meet their daily needs. Enhancing links to pedestrian and cycle systems, advancing transit options and innovative transportation demand management are critical.

And a Footnote

“Just for fun,” Lansdowne Committee member Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay created “two juxtaposed ‘wordles’ that show what words are prominent in the community life section of the proposed Union Park development in Toronto compared to the language about Lansdowne in 6.6.6 of the OP.” See below:

Union Park Toronto, Proposed Development surrounding Rogers Centre, Oxford Properties Group, “The Community”



Note emphasis on: community, park, spaces, include, provide, amenities, daycare

