

8/18 3:00 – 4:00 PM Meeting with OTN and History Stakeholders on key elements of a draft OTN History/Interpretative Plan (we will be changing the name).

Introductions

Attendees:

City Staff: Catherine Miliaras, Al Cox, Nancy Williams, Heba ElGawish, Garrett Fesler, Ben Skolnik

Advisory Group: Maria Wasawski, Marie McKenney Tavernini, Christa Watters

Community: Dan Straub (UDAC), Elizabeth McCall (AAC), Ted Pulliam (AAC)

Consultant: Carrie Barton, PRESERVE/scapes

Presentation:

Carrie Barton gave an overview of scope of project and ideas for plan structure, ending with five questions.

Comments from participants:

- CW – Who are the users of the OTN interpretative/history plan?
Response: This document would be available for anyone undertaking an interpretative effort, including:
 - Community
 - Developers
 - City Staff
- MW – Will there be a bibliography?
Response: Yes; the appendix will identify sources for maps and related information by theme area.
- MW – This lays out the process for a developer but how will they get to the final product?
Response: Yes; this will identify key themes and ways to go about obtaining more research but there will still be an expectation that a developer doing interpretation will have to do the bulk of the research and interpretation. The plan will shed light on the history of each block and key themes so that developers, architects, landscape designers and others can start to integrate interpretation into many aspects of the design (building and site) rather than waiting until the end of the project to do interpretation.
- EM – Troubled by disaggregation of transportation into modes; believes Transportation should, like the Waterfront Plan, be addressed comprehensively. A theme like transportation is not an overlay of industry, rail and canal but rather an integration.
Response: There was general consensus by attendees to approach the modes comprehensively.
- EM – Troubled by emphasis on developers.
Response: Developers are one intended user but not the only one; the public and the City are also intended users. This can be highlighted in the document upfront and in the contextual statements.

- CW – What can be done to encourage interpretation for development projects?
Response: Draft language can be considered under the OTN Small Area Plan Update.
- CM – It is important to remember that only one SAP currently has a History Plan and that is the Waterfront Plan; this will be the second one; it is not totally similar as this document serves more as an interpretative resource for all the historic information that has been collected for OTN to-date. Preserve/Scapes was hired to synthesize the information in a manner that can be utilized by the intended users for interpretative purposes, recognizing that there will be opportunities to expand on the information in the future. A robust contextual statement that connects the themes to the area will be essential.
- GF – Also, developers come to me at the start of a DSUP process and I usually have to tell them to hire a consultant to figure out what is on their site and how to interpret it. This gives them some understanding of that information in order work with a consultant.
- AC – The DSUP is the process that can be utilized to ask/require the developer to address interpretative goals.
- EM – Troubled by inference that there is an overlap with the Waterfront Plan; better to use “integrate”.
Response – Wanted to make sure the two documents are not duplicative but instead that they work together. The word “overlap” can be eliminated.
- CW – Focusing on sites and blocks makes it appear fragmented. Looking at it as a whole community would work better.
Response – We will look at how to address that, and the context statement will consider the area as a whole. The rationale for the block/site approach was to add useability. The charts will also be implemented to address where certain themes occur over several blocks/sites to be able to understand the continuation.
- TP – Suggestion to add Early European Settlement as an additional theme (1685, Ralph’s Gutt) though that could be worked in to Agriculture.
Response: Yes; that can be done.
- TP – Pointed out that the southern end of OTN is where the origins of the City began; Robinson Terminal/West’s Point is therefore identified in the [Waterfront History Plan](#) as located in the “Origins” theme area and moving further north the remainder of Waterfront identifies Oronoco Bay Park as located in the “Transformations” theme area and Rivergate and Tide Parks as located in the “Ambitions” theme area.

For reference:

Waterfront History theme areas related to OTN:

- *Ambitions* – Rivergate and Tidelock Parks
- *Transformations* – Oronoco Bay Park
- *Origins* – Robinson Terminal North / West’s Point

- TP – Shouldn't there be a plan developed listing the sites?
Response: Archaeology has developed a compendium of OTN cultural resources, around which this project is based, and there is a known cultural resources map in the [OTN Project Brief on page 104](#); this document can further describe those resources by context, theme and location.
- DS – I think the work that has been done is good and will be helpful.
- MW – It is important to also connect interpretation to the present day.
Response: Yes; there was agreement expressed.
- Document's Name – Consensus that the word "plan" should be dropped from the name. Carrie noted that "history" or "historic" was intentionally left out since the project was not intended to determine whether sites were historic or not historic as well as the plan area includes portions of a historic district which could lead to confusion.

CW suggested "Framework for interpreting OTN's past". Most people like that because it continues to the current time and includes interpretation.

- [NW likes it too but is concerned about the use of the word framework – framework has been utilized several ways already in the planning process and may be becoming overly used]
- Slight Modification on CW's suggestion:
 - Strategies for Interpreting Old Town North's Past
- Another possibility:
 - Old Town North Catalogue of Interpretive Themes and Strategies

It was left that staff will continue to brainstorm ideas for naming this document in light of the discussion.

- Consensus – No one else had a strong consensus on any of the other questions not already discussed and the meeting ended.