

CONSULTATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE OLD PORT

SUMMARY OF THE MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION GROUPS

November 2016

PROCEDURE

In November 2016, following Daoust Lestage's preparation of a first draft of the Master Plan, discussion groups were held with various experts, as well as with employees of the Old Port. These group discussions focused on five specific themes:

- Accessibility and Mobility;
- Activities and Events;
- Economic Development, Commerce and Tourism;
- Urban Integration and Architecture;
- Heritage and History.

The purpose of the discussions was threefold: to get a general reaction to the Master Plan, to identify potential issues, and to hear participants' recommendations for improving the first draft of the plan.

The following pages summarize the main recommendations made by experts and employees of the Old Port during these consultation activities. Their recommendations will be taken into account moving forward in developing the Master Plan in order to present a new version to the general public.

ACCESSIBILITY AND MOBILITY

Recommendations

Participants expressed the importance of having poles of attractions to generate significant visitor/user traffic throughout the year, while promoting links with other poles of interest in the sector (e.g., the Quartier des Spectacles).

The Master Plan should be based on best practices in pavement marking and signage, notably to help reduce conflicts of use among the various modes of transportation on the site (pedestrians, cyclists, trains, etc.). The new plan for the site should integrate the railway line as much as possible.

Appropriate accommodations should be made to promote universal accessibility.

Several participants also reiterated the importance of providing a river access that is safe and available to all throughout the year.

According to several participants, establishing a shuttle service on the site would help facilitate travel.

The operational component of the Master Plan, however, should be clarified in regard to: railway safety with the increase in entry points to the site; management of increased visitor numbers; management of circulation during the assembly/dismantling of event installations; type of operation of the shuttle system.

Finally, sufficient vegetation cover should be provided to limit heat islands; and a lighting plan for the entire site could be provided.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Recommendations

Firstly, the participants would like the plan to provide facilities that can accommodate a variety of uses. They also believe it is important to clarify the vocation of spaces identified as cultural poles. Some participants underlined the importance of considering 4-season commercial offerings by increasing activities during the winter season, concentrated in certain locations, as well as by means of light shows. The signage on the site would also benefit from some reworking.

Participants would like to maintain an open space for holding events at the end of the Jacques-Cartier Pier and that the provision of facilities required to do so be considered.

In terms of operations, it was noted that the plan should take access roads and outdoor furniture into consideration for logistics, deliveries, snow removal, etc. In addition, a sufficient number of accesses to the various locations on the site must be provided in order to respect fire safety norms.

Finally, particular attention should be paid to the phasing of the works in order to mitigate the negative impact on events planned for the site.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCE AND TOURISM

Recommendations

On this topic, participants recommended that the site be perceived as a destination and thus to limit its use as a transit point. In addition, the site's connection to Old Montreal and Rue de la Commune could be improved. The plan would also benefit from the intervention of other stakeholders (for example, the Port of Montreal and its redevelopment project for the Maritime Terminal), to create complete poles and maintain an overall vision for the site.

Some participants mentioned the seasonal challenge, specifically the need for strong attractions to ensure continued visitorship in winter.

Participants also emphasized the importance of integrating the existing site facilities (the beach, the Montréal Science Centre, etc.) into the Master Plan. The need to maintain vehicular access to the site was also mentioned, while some participants suggested the addition of facilities and structures to encourage physical exercise.

Finally, the implementation of the Plan should ensure a critical mass of development during the first phase of the work.

URBAN INTEGRATION AND ARCHITECTURE

Recommendations

Firstly, participants want to ensure that the new facilities proposed in the Master Plan will not obstruct river views.

They also raised the possibility of improving the flow of traffic between the planned commercial and event zones on the Jacques-Cartier Pier. The addition of a full-time shuttle to the site was also recommended.

In addition, the Plan should include areas and buildings devoted to maintenance, operations and storage.

Finally, some participants asked for clarification on how sustainable development will be integrated into the new facilities.

HERITAGE AND HISTORY

Recommendations

Several participants wanted to see a greater appreciation and celebration of heritage in the Master Plan, and a clearer representation and explanation of the site's historical references. In particular, the creation of an actual heritage trail was recommended.

Some also proposed that potential solutions be evaluated in order to celebrate heritage of the structures along Rue de la Commune, as well as possible developments for the Clock Tower and the Conveyor Tower.

It was also proposed that the Plan find ways to enliven the Jacques-Cartier Pier apart from major events.

Finally, the work should be carried out in several phases in order to minimize the nuisance to future events held on the site.

ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

- Association des hôtels du Grand Montréal
- Association des résidants du Vieux-Montréal
- Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal
- Cirque du Soleil
- Concordia University
- Culture Montréal
- Evenko
- Héritage Montréal
- Igloofest
- Kéroul
- McGill University
- Montreal Port Authority
- Old Port of Montréal Corporation
- Parks Canada
- Quartier des spectacles Partnership
- Société AGIL
- Société Logique
- Société de transport de Montréal
- Tourisme Montréal
- Université de Montréal
- Université de Québec à Montréal
- Vélo Québec