

APPENDIX D: NOTES FROM YOUTH FORUM

Vaughan Youth Forum

12pm, November 26, 2012 (Vaughan Civic Centre)

Question 1a. What Barriers keep you from using the Library?

- Lack of transportation (6)
- Lack of knowledge (5)
 - Not aware of what's available other than books (i.e. programs) (4)
 - Don't know where the library is
- Lack of time/too busy (3)
 - homework
- Affordability (cost of library card, transportation, fees, charges) (3)
- Not interested (3)
- Read and have resources at home (3)
- Staff are unfriendly (3)
- E-books and other technology (2)
- Other interests (tv/internet/social media) (2)
- Too far from home (2)
- The internet is more convenient (2)
- The stereotype of being boring/unpopular (2)
- Books are old (2)
- Lack of books
- Parents think bad teens are there
- Computers are slow
- No electrical outlets for laptops
- No one to go with
- Too small
- No comforts of home
 - No eating, can't talk
- Closes early
- Organization (to find resources without librarians to help)
- Too quiet
- Rather own the book
- Too many rules
 - Talking, eating, due dates, late fees
- Time consuming
- Can't go unattended

Question 1b. What barriers keep you from participating in parks and recreation?

- Other interests (9)
 - Social media (3)
 - Working (2)
 - Friends
 - Homework
 - TV
- Lack of activities (6)
 - Winter activities
 - Same gender activities
 - Activities for 16 year old age group
 - No variety
 - Not engaging
- Affordability (6)
 - Activation fees
- Operating hours are not convenient (3)
- Safety (3)
- Weather (3)
- Age restrictions (2)
 - Activities for 18+ or younger kids
- Lack of information/awareness (2)
- Lack of marketing (2)
- Too far from home
- Lack of participation
- Not interested
- No motivation if your friends aren't going
- Repetitive activities
- Unfriendly staff
- More literary events
- Bilingual activities
- Stereotype of only for little kids
- Maintenance of youth pets
- Lack of cleanliness
- Language barriers
- Poor location
- Too many young kids
- Lack of equipment for teens
- Small parks
- Water at some pools are too salty
- Lack of ability to socialize in activities

Question 2. How can the City improve parks, trails, and outdoor facilities?

- Facilities (10)
 - More outdoor skating rinks (3)
 - Washrooms/water fountains (3)
 - High quality tennis courts
 - Add nets to basketball rims
 - Outdoor mazes
 - Outdoor curling rinks/winter sports
- Improve equipment (7)
 - Improve maintenance
 - More options
 - Equipment rentals
 - Monkey bars at park
 - More swings
 - Outdoor fitness
 - Equipment for teens
- Safety (7)
 - Lighting (3)
 - Safe play equipment
 - Police/security
 - Security cameras
 - Get rid of woodchips on playgrounds and replace with sand or safer materials
- Maintenance (5)
 - Clean washrooms (2)
 - Quality of toilet paper
 - Cleaner parks
 - Grass maintenance
- Outdoor entertainment and events (4)
 - Movies
 - Music
 - Concerts in the Park
 - Pet events
- Programs (4)
 - Outdoor programs for older youth (3)
 - Cross country skiing
- Splash pads (3)
- Dog parks (3)
- Put out more garbage cans (2)
- More trails in different locations (2)
- Skateboard parks (2)
- More bike trails (2)
- Closer to home
- More aesthetically pleasing
- Outdoor WiFi
- Piazza
- Parks in new neighbourhoods
- Sign-up sheets for equipment/courts

- Separate times/space for age groups
- Flyers in the mail
- Lower costs
- Student volunteers to help maintain parks
- Extended hours
- More youth commitment groups for the environment (awareness)
- More festive decorations
- Lower bus fees
- Landmarks
- Attractions
- More shade
- First aid that is easily accessible
- Nearby plazas
- Better placement of benches
- Bicycle lanes for roads
- Better pavement to prevent injuries

Question 3. How can the City improve indoor recreation facilities?

- Programs and Activities (12)
 - More sports and activity options (3)
 - Babysitting club (2)
 - Teen support groups and programs
 - More activities for families
 - Self defense class
 - Night and language courses
 - Free sports to promote healthy living
 - History/poetry/fine arts/afternoon tea/music (events that are non-sportive for youth)
 - Youth directed educational plays for children
- Availability (8)
 - Open longer
 - Pool rentals and bookings
 - Pool times
 - More recreation pool times
 - More appropriate times (right after school)
 - Flexible times
 - More recreation pool times
 - 24 hour facilities
- Facilities (8)
 - Indoor running track
 - Pools with better slides
 - Coffee shop
 - More pools (deeper, warmer, bigger)
 - Not enough private rooms at Pierre Berton
 - Designated food areas
 - Maintenance (clean)
 - Larger gyms with more equipment

- Interactive facilities (rock climbing, music areas)
- Affordability (6)
 - For teens
 - Affordability
 - Lower costs of activities
 - No membership fee for students
 - Financial aid
- Jobs and volunteer opportunities for youth (3)
- Provide a place for people to hang out (2)
- Improved customer service and staff (2)
- Memberships
- More marketing
- Better services for members
- Promote things that are new and happening
- Partner with schools to get students interested and into facilities
- Youth committee
- Reading couches (comfortable and clean)
- Facility signage
- Skate rentals
- Closer to home
- Music
- Update resources
- Better organization
- WiFi
- Banquet balls that offer constant events
- Clubs such as community charity, awareness clubs, etc.

Question 4. How can the City improve libraries?

- Update technologies (7)
 - New computers (2)
 - WiFi
 - Online library card
 - Library app
 - Licensed programs such as Photoshop
- Update resources (5)
 - Newer books (2)
 - Wider variety of books
 - Variety of new topics
 - Replace worn materials
- More variety for e-books (4)
- Have separate/private rooms (4)
 - Quiet room to study
 - Hang out room
- Peer tutoring programs for school or exam preparation (4)
- Snack station/bar (2)
- More affordable (2)

- Less cost for printing
 - Lower book fines
- Improved customer service (2)
- Better layout/organization (2)
- Extended hours (2)
- More youth involvement
- Accept book requests
- Promote library facilities
- Discussions and debates
- Instruction programs for appropriate ages
- Labels and directions in the library
- Air fresheners
- Low music
- Fun contests and awards
- Visiting authors and guests
- Book clubs
- Read aloud events for teens
- Make libraries more cozy / comfortable
- Film festivals
- Play areas for kids