West Harbour Community Conversation
Worksheet: West Harbour Core Principles and Vision Statement
February 25, 2016

The purpose of this worksheet is to consult community members in developing a Vision Statement for the West Harbour using the Core Principles that were identified in the Setting Sail Secondary Plan for the West Harbour area created in 2005. The West Harbour Vision Statement will be updated based on the community’s feedback collected from this worksheet.

This worksheet can be completed individually or in small groups. Please submit your responses by emailing a copy of this sheet to WestHarbour@hamilton.ca or bringing this sheet in-person to the Evergreen Community Storefront at 294 James St. N. before 4:30 pm on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. A pdf version of this worksheet will be available online at Hamilton.ca/westharbour.

If you have any questions about this worksheet, please email WestHarbour@hamilton.ca or contact Diedre Beintema at 905-546-2424 ext. 3283. Diedre will be available in person at the Evergreen Community Storefront at 294 James St. N. on Tuesday March 1 and March 8 from 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm.

The Core Principles from “Setting Sail” that outline the Vision for the West Harbour are:

a. Promote a healthy harbour  
b. Strengthen existing neighbourhoods  
c. Provide safe, continuous public access along the water’s edge  
d. Create a diverse, balanced and animated waterfront  
e. Enhance physical and visual connections  
f. Promote a Balanced Transportation Network  
g. Celebrate the City’s heritage  
h. Promote excellence in design

We created a DRAFT Vision Statement for the West Harbour based on the Core Principles outlined in “Setting Sail”:

- The West Harbour is an area with a healthy harbour, strong and diverse neighbourhood, balanced transportation network, and is a celebration of Hamilton’s heritage.
- The West Harbour includes a waterfront that is safe, continuous, excellent in design, and containing physical and visual connections that enhance positive experiences for all Hamiltonians and visitors to our community.
Reflection Questions on the DRAFT Vision Statement:

1. Envision what you think the West Harbour area should look like after all the development is complete. Which parts of the DRAFT Vision Statement on Page 1 align with your personal vision of the future West Harbour? Which parts of the DRAFT Vision Statement do you like?

- Hamilton harbour should be developed into a world class and scale seaport
- A safe, inclusive, barrier free community all Hamiltonians can be proud of
- Vision statement includes many of the things I care about and believe will make the project "successful". The issue really is who has the final saying in how subjective terms like diverse, balanced, healthy and strong.... Are interpreted.
- Sustainable both for residents and those who wish to learn. Forward thinking in terms of environmental issues
- c,d,f,h (guiding principles)
- There are established neighbourhoods and they should be considered but this does represent opportunity for appropriate density. The vision statement is inspiring but does seem a little generic. On the development side make it easy to develop appropriately. On the community side, do allow for some community support/do encourage existing community
- It doesn't matter, Setting Sail has been passed and approved. MOVE ON IT
- I think of healthy communities as having places to live, work and play. This vision statement accommodates some of that concept, focus on play
- All new housing/neighbourhoods must be mixed use, mixed income and include large units (minimum). City holds cards on all 4 parcels at play - must set rules so mixed development is throughout. NO LUXURY ENCLAVE ON PIER 8
- Should include a building for persons with lived experience in the mental health system. In other words, it should include a cooperative housing project area for a consumer service building(s) which is (are) self-managed by the co-op membership
- The problem is the vision presented tonight speaks only in generalities. I do not think one person present in this room can disagree with the statement as it has been developed over a number of years.
- Green, sustainable, plan trees, good vibes. "Healthy" - environment - decrease pollution. If housing is put in, make environmentally sustainable - green roofs, solar panels, veggie community garden, no grass because grass is useless (create food sources)
- Visioning is not my favourite activity, I deal with specifics myself. Mixed use, mixed use, mixed use.
- Should adhere to plan developed by Barton Tiffany focus group including Central Park that has already been approved by the City. Affordable housing mixed in with at Market housing - the Regent Park model. What about CN? Do we have a clear plan for incorporating CN into the vision or are we working towards their removal - particularly the switching yards.
- Residential density high enough to allow a strong viable commercial sector. A strong tourist attraction (cruise ships). Enlarged green spaces - connect Central Park to the waterfront - between Barton and Stuart and Caroline and Tiffany. Why does the plan drawing for Barton-Tiffany show 16 storey towers when Setting Sail has a limit of 8 storeys? Why is the Planning Department violating setting Sail?
- The first paragraph of the vision statement aligns with what I believe the waterfront or West Harbour should be. I like the entire vision statement. I believe the second paragraph is more of a goal than what currently exists.
- Second sentence
- My neighbourhood is diverse from high income to neighbours on disability/social assistance. It is not a priority to keep James/MacNab survey for diversity, it is diverse already. Use high taxes from private sources to help assist others needing housing assistance
- It should include safe, well maintained affordable housing. I like the statement about diversity in the neighbourhood and feel it should include diversity of all kinds including income diversity, cultural diversity, age diversity, etc. I have always hoped for Hamilton to have a waterfront that is safe to access for swimming, watersports, activities and fishing. I like the statement how it speaks to a safe waterfront and for me, a clean ecosystem at the waterfront is a big part of that.
- The draft vision statement aligns with my personal vision.
- Inclusive - a diverse neighbourhood isn't necessarily an inclusive one. People are part of a neighbourhood's heritage; we need to care about keeping people, not just buildings with history. MIXED INCOME! Social inclusion. ECONOMIC DIVERSITY. People aren't pushed out to make room for development
- The West Harbour should look like a very safe neighbourhood for new families to raise their children. I like how it is going to be a diverse neighbourhood.

2. What parts of the DRAFT Vision Statement do you dislike and think should be removed?
   - "Positive experiences" is vague. What is a positive experience for one person could be very negative for others. You don't want to provide a "positive experience" for drug dealers for example.
   - "Balanced" transportation needs to be clarified and inclusive in terms of car use vs walking
   - This will be new
   - It does seem to be a wordy way to say "We want West Harbour to be a mix use neighbourhood with a waterfront". Is there any way to target or highlight an aspect that makes the waterfront improve?
   - It MUST include all of the Core Principles of Setting Sail
   - it feels like it's focused on tourism activities
• Excellent in design? (subject to interpretation). I think "sustainable" design may be more focused.
• too general on terms - diversity, healthy
• I don't think we can expect a healthy harbour anytime soon. It's been many years since the harbour was clean. Case in point for example Randle Reef is to be capped as a short term solution only
• HOWEVER - it is not was is presented that is bothering me rather it is what has been left out. If the development on the ground is to commence by 2018 then by this time we should be looking at actual models of roads, bridges, public transportation, preserved heritage sights, and new development
• "Conversion" of existing housing stock - NO. Not environmentally or heritage friendly.
• Change the wording to "actionable" statements e.g. specific, time-based, "we will..." "we shall..." "by 2017 we will..." "By 2018 we will eliminate algae blooms from the West Harbour" "By 2018 we will make the Bayfront Beach safe for swimming all summer". Actionable, specific, time-based, with specific accountabilities for failure.
• There are no parts of the statement that I disagree with
• none
• How much affordable housing is in the 1,000,000 home areas of Ancaster? The high tax dollars help programs like subsidized housing
• I think that the "safe, continuous, excellent in design and containing physical and visual connections" language may be a bit too vague to resonate with Hamiltonians. Maybe a bit more definition in this area? What do you mean by that?
• No parts of the draft vision should be removed, but some minor enhancements are appropriate, given that the Core Principles date from 2003.
• Issue with the use of the word 'diverse'. I would prefer to have an interpretation before accepting the use of this word in this context. Also, the Core Principles refers to 'Create a diverse, balanced and animated waterfront' so how did the word 'diverse' become associated with 'neighbourhood'?
• We need to connect the vision and principles to actual commitments. Stick to the principles, this waters them down. From the last meeting we understood there was vision but we were upset that it didn't have clear commitments.
• I dislike the transportation because it is going to be hard to keep that promise.

3. What should be added to the Draft vision statement?
• The terms "barrier free" or "accessible" must be included. "Physical and visual connections" says nothing about this. I hope persons with disabilities are part of the vision
• It must include the North End "Child and Family Friendly" mission statement. Solidify the future of the boating component and marine heritage. The inclusive socioeconomic blend of existing housing should be mirrored in every block of new development.
• Consideration for wildlife, not just people. Continued public access to stretch of shoreline. Culture and natural heritage. Greenspace, including trees.
• Environmental issues need to be addressed in stronger terms. The word sustainable needs to be added to the vision statement. Inclusive in terms of housing and access.
• Consider the impact on existing neighbourhoods ex. Bayview Park
• "innovative", showing environmental leadership
• Is it about new? Protecting existing, etc. It seems generic, refocus on what makes the waterfront unique besides water: people are engaged, people are diverse (cross-section), don't make waterfront a "monoculture"
• "Public Access" has been left out.
• Need a strong statement about living and working. Work needs to go beyond service industry. Perhaps our industrial heritage needs to be celebrated by incorporating small industry to thrive so residents can walk to work
• Inviting, welcoming for all Hamiltonians. Barrier free, accessible for all. Inclusion - economic/social. Diverse.
• Expand on "diverse" to specify inclusion of people of economic, cultural, family type. Use inclusion instead - "social inclusion". Specify natural health - ecology - wildlife - shoreline
• We should include neighbourhood clean-up drives to get rid of garbage and litter annually
• Environmentally sustainable (if that is included in "healthy" it should be clarified). Any new development should encourage future/forward thinking in regards to the environment and economy - bike lanes, HSR, gardens, trees, solar/wind etc energy. Saving/preserving the environment is the KEY to the future.
• Green space/permeable surfaces
• Something about honouring Hamilton's rich labour and industrial history. Something about arts and culture, particularly with James North being such a vibrant arts area. Let’s have a strong statement about density - particularly as it pertains to height. Setting Sail calls for 6-8 stories. Why would we even consider going higher? How do we ensure the City won’t cave to the developers?
• It is a waterfront yet there is no mention of eliminating water pollution. So not just "healthy harbour" but "air and water pollution above national standards". Specify a tourist destination. Specify economic activity - "strong commercial and residential sectors"
• That neighbourhoods are family friendly
• none
• The West Harbour is a collection of strong, diverse neighbourhoods
• The phrase, “strong and diverse neighbourhood” in the draft vision is ambiguous and/or requires different wording to reflect notions such as: accessible, resilient, barrier-free, multi-cultural, accepting, supportive of all ages, and so on.
• The vision statement should be forward-looking, not phrased in the present tense
• accessible to all, add the word "inclusion"
• Accessible - not just for wealthy. Inclusion. "The west harbour includes a waterfront..." - it also includes people and community, homes, schools, etc.
• That anyone could live there and will be welcomed no matter what.

4. Other comments:
• Taking an outdated vision and trying to implement it!? Barrier free/accessible vision
• Let's move on and flesh out together what this means beyond a well-crafted vision statement
• "strengthen existing neighbourhoods"...without altering historic character
• Statement is written in the existing (present) tense instead of future tense
• "Promote a healthy harbour" - ecological, people friendly. "Promote excellence in design" - how? Are there design standards included in EOI? "Celebration of Hamilton's heritage" - how? The Haida... :( 
• What was wrong with the Core Principles? Why do you need a Vision Statement? Having consultations during the day will always be a problem for those who have employment. This brings me to the question of 'who' will actually be providing input on the decision-making process. There were several enthusiastic individuals who quickly acknowledged that they could attend during the day the work on the vision. My question is this: Is this group a true representation of neighbourhood residents or a 'special interest' group? Why not have a Vision Statement that simply refers to the Core Principles?