

Meeting Minutes

Community Discussion: Preparing Agenda for Meeting with NCC and MP Yasir Naqvi

Date: June 23, 2026
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Chair/Facilitator: Dave
Purpose: To identify community priorities, questions, evidence, and action items for an upcoming meeting with the National Capital Commission (NCC), facilitated through MP Yasir Naqvi’s office.

Table of Contents

Meeting Minutes..... 1

Community Discussion: Preparing Agenda for Meeting with NCC and MP Yasir Naqvi 1

1. Opening Remarks..... 2

2. Key Issues Raised 2

2.1 Federal Direction to NCC on Housing Lands..... 2

2.2 Availability of Other Development Lands..... 2

2.3 Definition and Protection of Green Space..... 2

2.4 Wildlife Corridors and Environmental Stewardship 3

2.5 NCC Mandate and Accountability..... 3

2.6 MP Yasir Naqvi’s Position..... 3

2.7 Need for Evidence, Maps, and Land Inventory 4

2.8 Transparency and Public Consultation 4

2.9 Relationship Between NCC Plans and City of Ottawa Plans 4

2.10 Political Consequences and Community Expectations 5

3. Meeting with NCC: State of Play 5

4. Proposed Agenda Items for NCC Meeting 5

5. Actions 6

6. Closing Comments 6

1. Opening Remarks

Dave opened the meeting by explaining that the purpose was to set the agenda for the upcoming meeting with the NCC. Matthew attended on behalf of MP Yasir Naqvi. Dave noted that the NCC board and annual meetings earlier in the day had provided useful insight, but that the community's questions appeared to have been interpreted differently by the NCC. The goal of this meeting was therefore to clarify the community's agenda and prepare MP Naqvi to represent the community's concerns effectively.

2. Key Issues Raised

2.1 Federal Direction to NCC on Housing Lands

Noel stated that NCC leadership indicated they had been instructed by the Government of Canada to identify land for housing. Noel argued that, if the NCC is acting under federal direction, the most effective avenue is political advocacy through MP Yasir Naqvi and other federal representatives.

Issue identified: The community needs clarity on whether the NCC is independently proposing development or carrying out federal instructions.

2.2 Availability of Other Development Lands

Reese questioned why additional Greenbelt or green space lands are being considered when large sites such as Confederation Heights, Tunney's Pasture, and Waterside remain available and could produce thousands of housing units over many years.

Issue identified: The NCC should provide evidence showing why additional green space lands are required when other federal lands are available.

2.3 Definition and Protection of Green Space

Several participants stated that the NCC's use of terms such as "green space," "corridor," "development reserve," "conservation," and "priority" is unclear.

Dave noted that the agenda should include a request to define what green space means in this context, especially for lands within the urban area and not only Gatineau Park or the Greenbelt.

Issue identified: The community requires clear terminology and mapping of affected lands.

2.4 Wildlife Corridors and Environmental Stewardship

Ian emphasized the importance of wildlife corridors, particularly along the Rideau River. He stated that development has already significantly affected the west bank of the river and that the east bank remains an important natural corridor.

David E. stated that lands such as the McCarthy Meadows have been largely untouched for 50 to 70 years and have developed mature natural features and trail networks. He argued that it is contradictory for the NCC to speak about conservation while considering development of existing urban natural lands.

Deb raised the possibility of urban national park protection and noted that NCC lands do not necessarily receive the same protection as national parks.

Issue identified: The NCC should explain how proposed development aligns with its environmental stewardship role.

2.5 NCC Mandate and Accountability

Ian questioned whether the NCC's mandate includes promoting development or selling land to private developers. He argued that the NCC should be challenged to explain how such actions align with its mandate to protect the capital's heritage, beauty, and environmental health.

Leanne stated that the NCC appeared to be passing responsibility to the federal government, and that MP Naqvi should be advised that the issue is now in his court.

Issue identified: The meeting agenda should ask the NCC and MP Naqvi to clarify accountability, mandate, and decision-making authority.

2.6 MP Yasir Naqvi's Position

Chuff asked whether MP Naqvi has a stated position on turning NCC green spaces into potential development lands.

Matthew responded that MP Naqvi is seeking more information before taking a definitive position. He stated that the MP wants better transparency and evidence from the NCC, particularly around what "development reserve" means and whether there is an actual intent to build.

Tyler asked what steps MP Naqvi has taken over the past six months to form a position, noting that the issue has been raised with him several times.

Issue identified: The community wants MP Naqvi to state his position, explain what he has done to date, and identify what further information he needs.

2.7 Need for Evidence, Maps, and Land Inventory

Multiple speakers emphasized the need for a clear map of all NCC lands currently in play or potentially in play for development.

Andre noted that NCC references to the “Rivergate Corridor” appear to concern approximately 18 hectares along the Rideau River, but that earlier NCC actions sought development reserve zoning for approximately 103 hectares in the broader McCarthy Corridor.

Andre further stated that the NCC’s own Capital Urban Lands Plan identifies these lands as regional interest landmass to be conserved and stewarded, not developed.

Mary Ann requested transparency on how the NCC prioritizes lands for development and conservation. She also raised the NCC’s natural assets inventory project and asked whether current lands should be included before development decisions are made.

Issue identified: The NCC should provide a full map, land inventory, prioritization criteria, and environmental analysis before any land decisions proceed.

2.8 Transparency and Public Consultation

Several participants expressed concern that NCC processes have lacked transparency and meaningful consultation.

Andre stated that environmental assessments and land designation changes have occurred with little public awareness, including postings on obscure federal registries with limited notice.

Michael compared the current issue with the loss of Hunt Club Woods and expressed frustration that federal representatives were not sufficiently engaged in that earlier process. He stated that elected MPs should be more active than city councillors on federal land matters.

Issue identified: The community wants proactive consultation before land designations are changed or development proposals advance.

2.9 Relationship Between NCC Plans and City of Ottawa Plans

Participants discussed the apparent gap between NCC land-use intentions and the City of Ottawa’s Official Plan.

Dave noted that City Council had passed a motion related to these lands by a vote of 24 to 1, and that the community has been working on the file since 2018.

Issue identified: The NCC should explain why its approach differs from the City’s position and how conflicts between federal and municipal planning frameworks will be resolved.

2.10 Political Consequences and Community Expectations

Noel stated that giving up public land for private development could create significant political opposition.

Michael stated that the community expects clear communication from MPs. If federal representatives support development, they should say so openly; if they oppose it, they should advocate accordingly.

Ian emphasized that this is not a NIMBY issue, but a community-wide concern about public lands, stewardship, and accountability.

Issue identified: The community expects MP Naqvi to represent constituents clearly and actively.

3. Meeting with NCC: State of Play

Matthew advised that MP Naqvi's office is working with the NCC and MP David McGuinty's office to organize a meeting. He said the meeting is expected to be imminent, hopefully within the next few weeks.

Matthew noted that MP Naqvi's office has pushed for a more community-focused meeting, while the NCC has pushed back. The goal is to find a format that provides useful information to the community and that the NCC is willing to attend.

Matthew confirmed that MP McGuinty's office has been involved, given that the lands appear to cross riding boundaries.

4. Proposed Agenda Items for NCC Meeting

The following agenda items were identified:

1. Clarify the NCC's mandate regarding conservation, stewardship, housing, and disposal or development of lands.
2. Identify who directed the NCC to find lands for housing and what instructions were given.
3. Define key terms, including green space, development reserve, conservation, corridor, prioritization, and regional interest landmass.
4. Provide a complete map of all NCC lands currently in play or potentially in play for development.
5. Explain why additional green space lands are being considered when other federal lands are available.
6. Provide evidence and analysis supporting any claim that these lands are needed for housing.
7. Explain how the NCC's approach aligns with the City of Ottawa Official Plan and recent City Council motions.

8. Explain how the NCC will protect wildlife corridors, natural assets, and urban ecological systems.
9. Confirm whether the lands have been assessed under the NCC's natural assets inventory.
10. Identify whether urban national park or other long-term conservation tools are being considered.
11. Explain the consultation process before any land-use designation changes or development proposals proceed.
12. Confirm MP Naqvi's role, position, and intended advocacy on behalf of constituents.
13. Identify the pathway or roadmap for long-term protection of the lands.
14. Identify how the community can assist MP Naqvi if he takes a position in support of conservation.

5. Actions

Action Item	Responsible	Notes
1. Prepare summary minutes and key agenda points from the meeting	Dave / team	To be circulated to Matthew and MP Naqvi's office
2. Develop a concise list of priority questions and asks for the NCC meeting	Dave / community representatives	Should be evidence-based and focused
3. Provide maps of affected lands, including Rivergate Corridor, McCarthy Corridor, and broader NCC lands	Andre / community representatives	Existing maps available through Hunt Club Community Association materials
4. Gather evidence on available federal development lands and existing approved housing supply	Community representatives	To support argument that green space release is unnecessary
5. Compile information on NCC land designations, Capital Urban Lands Plan, and regional interest landmass status	Andre / community representatives	To support questions on NCC planning consistency
6. Send follow-up materials to Matthew	Dave	Matthew to provide materials to MP Naqvi
7. Confirm format, timing, and participants for NCC meeting	Matthew / MP Naqvi's office	Meeting expected within coming weeks
8. Coordinate with MP David McGuinty's office	Matthew / MP Naqvi's office	Because lands cross federal riding boundaries
9. Identify possible roadmap for permanent conservation protection	Community / MP Naqvi's office	Include political, legal, planning, and conservation options

6. Closing Comments

Matthew thanked participants and stated that MP Naqvi's office is taking the issue seriously. He encouraged the community to distill the discussion into clear asks and action items.

Dave closed the meeting by stating that this was the beginning of engagement with Matthew and MP Naqvi's office. He thanked participants and advised that a summary and action items would be prepared and circulated.

Meeting adjourned.