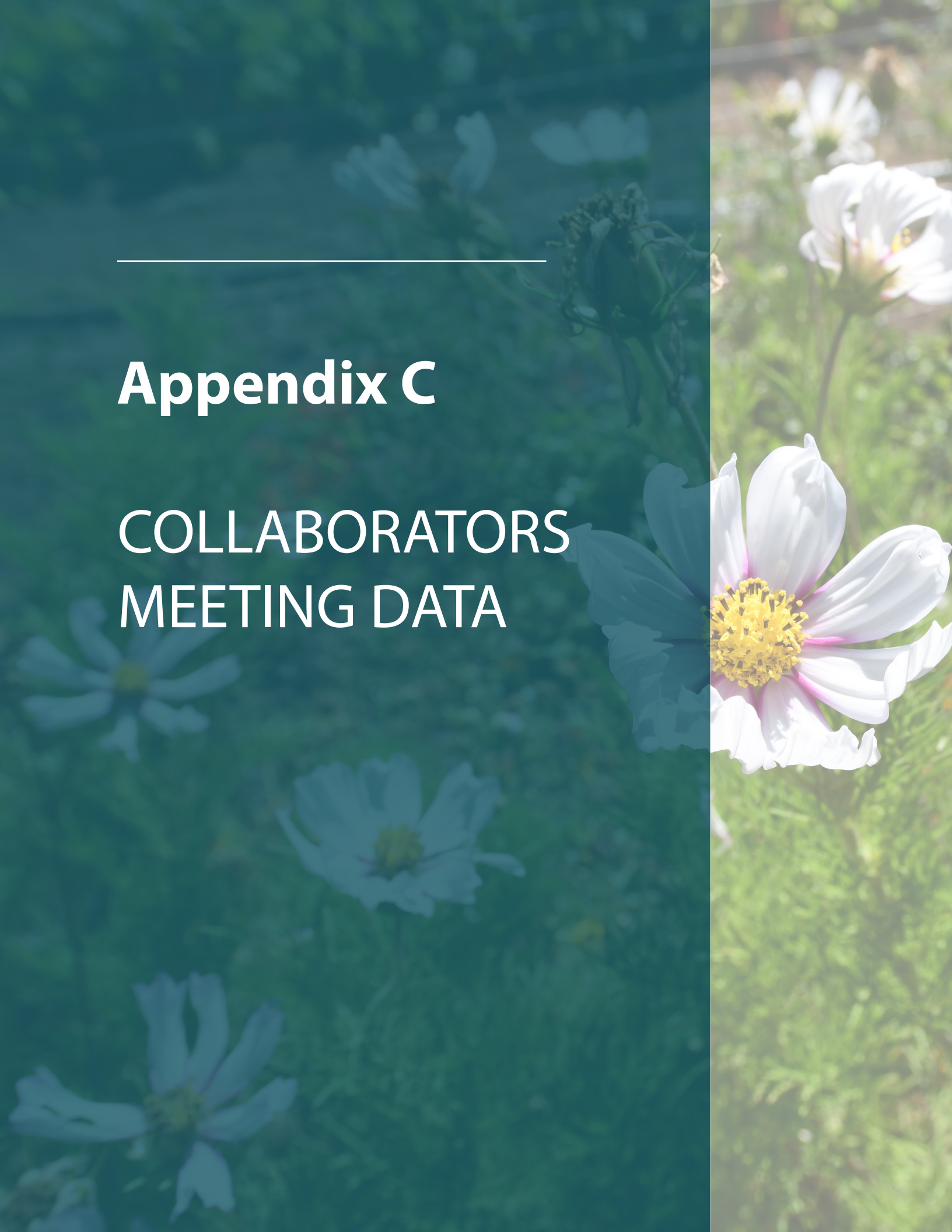


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# Appendix C

## COLLABORATORS MEETING DATA



# Park Avenue Concept Plan Collaborators Meeting Notes (2023-Oct-18, 7:00 p.m. in SARC Boardroom, 411 Dunsmuir Street)

## Attendees:

- Harewood Neighbourhood Association
  - Harewood Neighbourhood Association
  - Nanaimo Association for Community Living
  - Green Plan / Growing Opportunities
  - Growing Opportunities
  - Growing Opportunities
  - City Councilor
  - City Councilor
  - ED with Nanaimo Foodshare
  - Harewood Neighbourhood Association
  - Farm Manager, Growing Opportunities
  - Nanaimo Area Land Trust
  - City Staff
  - City Staff
  - City Staff
- 
- The group was curious about the breakdown of funds used to purchase the property and whether those funds could be reallocated to establish housing elsewhere in the city.
  - Questioned the impetus for putting housing on the site in the first place. What was the reasoning behind that decision?
  - There is importance in acknowledging the history of the site. There is a disconnect from what was said during Phase 1 of engagement and what staff are showing now as options. There should be recognition given to Craig Evans.
  - There is a real opportunity to elevate the importance of food security and food education on site.
  - Farming and farmers are 'aging out'. It's becoming more and more difficult as a profession so there is a need to educate younger generations on farming practices.
  - The city is generally not food resilient.
  - Protecting the wetland and surrounding ecosystems is important from an environmental perspective, not just on the site but from a regional perspective. Housing/development will disrupt the natural cycles.
  - Food Security Planning during Mining times.
  - What is the position of the Regional District in making agricultural related decisions?
  - A suggestion was made that we should try to reach 'balance' on site by allowing housing and agricultural practices. There is a lot of development occurring in the Agricultural Land Reserve which we should be trying to avoid.
  - Acknowledging the site was identified as 'green space' in the 2013 Master Plan for the Neighbourhood.
  - Nanaimo Food Share shares that this piece of land has many opportunities to partner with other non-profit organizations for doing traditional farming on site. There is a lot of interest.
  - The location of this parcel is ideal for teaching farming and promoting urban agriculture.
  - Lots of interest in the other piece of farmland off Bruce. Kirsty explains that property is not

- owned by the city and is slated for development.
- Lots of discussion about the area of land available for farming, considering the size of the wetland and its protections, existing buildings, etc.
  - Explain the purpose of the ALR.
  - The city is facing impacts from climate change already which have a huge impact on our food systems (that and COVID). This problem will only continue to get worse. There needs to be an emphasis on food security.
  - Nanaimo Association for Community Living explains the health benefits/outcomes for folks with disabilities after visiting the site. While they acknowledge the need for housing, they support the site being used for green space, education and farming.
  - Nanaimo Food Share agrees with Community Living but suggests if housing does end up on the site, they will work with it.
  - If the site remained as a farm there would be a beautiful opportunity to work with Snuney-muxw to re-introduce culturally appropriate food.
  - Better explain wetland protections (e.g., setbacks etc.)
  - The illustrations don't help visualize what the housing would look like on site. How would housing speak/integrate with th - The illustrations don't help visualize what the housing would look like on site. How would housing speak/integrate with the remaining portion of the site?
  - Why isn't the existing house showing on option 5?
  - Consider adding existing buildings to the site plan for detail.
  - There has been interest in daylighting the existing stream to re-establish fish habitat.
  - Has there been an assessment done of the existing house? Is it viable for reuse or is it a liability?
  - How can we ensure farming doesn't pollute the wetland?
  - Need to factor in farm infrastructure in final plan for site.
  - A number of the groups in attendance noted preference for the site to be devoted to park/agricultural use, with no onsite housing, including NACL, Food Share, Growing Opportunities and the Harewood Neighbourhood Association.