



BEASLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING

MAY 27, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes

OUR PROJECT NO. 1280

THESE MINUTES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THIS MEETING. ANY OMISSIONS OR DISCREPANCIES WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS APPEARING IN THESE MINUTES MUST BE REPORTED TO THIS OFFICE IN WRITING NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF THESE MINUTES

The meeting commenced at approximately 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Steve Dykstra; Matt Thompson; Kate Oxley; Laura Ryan; John Neary; Simon Orpana; Derek Lapierre; Kara Bunn (City of Hamilton); Joseph Yu (City of Hamilton); Marianne Mokrycke (OMC)

The agenda was as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Consultant presentation
 - a. Re-cap of previous meeting by Marianne Mokrycke
 - b. Presentation of three preliminary concepts
3. Working session with stakeholder group to arrive at preferred concept
4. Next steps: Consultant to commence Functional Plan for park

Joseph Yu opened the meeting with a brief re-cap of the previous meeting of April 16, 2014, where the Functional Diagrams had been presented and a general arrangement of various park elements were agreed to by the stakeholder group.

Kara Bunn of Parks and Cemeteries Operations was able to attend to lend her expertise with respect to regulatory requirements, and to offer a perspective on operations and maintenance.



Marianne Mokrycke commenced the presentation by identifying some constraints with respect to the three designs that would be presented:

- 1) the Consultants had received a layout drawing of the skate park area expansion and it appeared that an unsafe situation might potentially be created by bringing more skate features into close proximity with the existing main diagonal walkway that bisects the park from the intersection of Mary and Wilson to the northeast corner of the park at Cannon
- 2) Kara Bunn outlined the areas of contaminated soil where development was restricted due to Ministry regulation. It is possible to build on contaminated sites, however, cost increase will occur as a result of special construction and design techniques that are required on such sites. Some proposed features for the park are located near setbacks for contamination areas.
- 3) It was noted that John Neary had asked about traffic safety issues in June 2013 at the commencement of this project. Joseph Yu has contacted Traffic for an update, and should have the information available within the next couple of weeks.
- 4) John Neary invited all present to a meeting next week, on June 5th, 2014 to discuss the redesign of Mary Street. He has been working with the Ward Councillor in this regard.

Presentation of Conceptual Plans:

- i) as a result of the perceived issue with pedestrian safety and skate park use, each of the three concepts indicated a different treatment for the existing park entrance at the corner of Wilson and Mary:
 - a. close the existing entrance and move it to Kelly Street,
 - b. remove existing planting along Mary and replace with a new pathway,
 - c. remove existing planting along Mary and replace with trees in hardscape.Derek Lapierre advised that although in plan view the skate features appear to impact the existing pedestrian route, in fact they will be no more impactful than the existing relationship between skate features and public walkway. The general consensus of the group was that the existing walkway should remain in its present location, and that tree preservation along Mary was to be a high priority. In addition, the Kelly Street Entrance (west) was requested to be pedestrianized.
- ii) It was requested that the Kelly Street Entrance (east) be designed as an urban plaza with shared vehicular and pedestrian space; so that when school was not in session (summer months) the paved area could function as an attractive park



entrance vs. a roadway. M. Mokrycke commented that this type of urban paving treatment is becoming more common, is aesthetically pleasing, and current. However, mechanisms for pedestrian safety also need to be incorporated into the design, as well as education on the part of both drivers and pedestrians. This type of treatment has been done for decades in European countries, and is now becoming increasingly popular in Ontario.

- iii) Various options were presented for the playground area. There is an existing play structure at the school which is accessible to park users and is suitable for elementary school aged children. The new play equipment area was proposed to be targeted toward younger children, to avoid duplication. It had been noted at a previous meeting that the kindergarten play equipment at J. Edgar Davey School is not accessible to the community, and is disassociated from the park space. An alternative type of play area was proposed that combined conventional equipment with mounding. Laura Ryan noted that the equipment and mounding would make the space appealing to a wide range of ages and users of various abilities. Laura and others indicated that the height of the mounds should be limited so that clear sight lines might be maintained.
- iv) The concept of Splash Pad/Plaza was overwhelmingly approved by the group. The water play components would all be ground sprays, as opposed to the metal upright fixtures. This would afford flexibility to the space so that it can be suitable for community events when the splash pad was not operating. The exact location of the ground sprays will be determined during the Functional Planning stage when more detail will be developed. The general consensus of the group was that the ground sprays could be located close to the pathway, or that the pathway could go through the splash pad with room for by-pass of approximately 2.0m.
- v) It was requested that special attention be paid to the paved area around the existing decorative fountain. Social space vs. space that is too large for interaction, and shade were two factors to consider in the design.
- vi) Some of the new features will impact existing trees. Kara asked if the Consultants had completed a tree inventory. Joseph Yu will check to see if this information is on file.
- vii) Kara also noted that ash trees will be removed as part of the Forestry Department's programs. There are approximately five ash trees near Cannon Street in the area of a new gathering space.
- viii) With the new bicycle lanes being constructed along the south side of Cannon Street, it was felt that elements to welcome cyclists should be included at this end of the park, including the following: bicycle racks, shade structure and seating, drinking fountain. The preferred space for a seating area is in the



vicinity of the Elgin Street cul-de-sac. It is quieter than the space adjacent to the sidewalk on Cannon as shown on Concept 2. OMC will move the small “urban plaza” as shown on Concept 2 to the location shown on Concept 3. Generally, the consensus was that the “urban aesthetic” was preferred, thereby raising the level of design quality in the park.

- ix) Beasley Park has a substantial amount of street frontage. It is important to consider urban design and streetscaping issues as important components of the re-design of the park; and that the park and environs should form a cohesive entity.
- x) The existing alley was discussed, as was the issue of vehicular penetration into the park from Mary into the closed section of Kelly Street. M. Mokrycke requested that staff advise as to the parameters associated with vehicular movement into the park, particularly at the Kelly Street (west) location.
- xi) Tree removals were indicated on the Concept Plans. BNA requested that tree preservation remain a high priority. M. Mokrycke advised that during Functional Planning (next stage) these areas will be developed in greater detail.
- xii) The preferred Concept includes a shade structure near the play equipment area.
- xiii) If a garden storage shed is to be included, it should be designed in such a way that it will not block sight lines or encourage inappropriate activities in the park.
- xiv) M. Mokrycke noted that opportunities exist at the detailed design stage to increase soil depths in strategic areas to improve the growing environment for new trees. She noted that current Urban Forestry recommendations include a minimum of 15m³ of quality planting soil per tree.
- xv) The pathway along the east side of the park is an important component of younger children “doing the loop”. It should be retained.
- xvi) The footpaths should not be formalized by paving.

Next steps:

1. Concept 2 (preferred) will be revised to reflect the discussion and stakeholder comments.
2. Technical issues, primarily resulting from:
 - a. Traffic and vehicular pedestrian interfaces
 - b. Limit of contaminated soils
 - c. Tree inventoryare required to be incorporated into the revised concept plan. City staff will advise as soon as items a. and c. are available.



3. The revised concept will be circulated to stakeholders and posted on the City's website.
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