Council Direction:

None.

Information:

Background

The land that Gage Park was developed on was acquired by the City in 1918. The first greenhouses were constructed in 1919. In 1920, Dunington-Grubb Landscape Architects were commissioned by the Board of Parks to prepare a Master Plan for the park that contained a formal garden adjacent to Main Street, and large vistas of open space encircled by carefully planted trees of many varieties. The land formally became a park on January 23, 1922.

Gage Park was included in the City’s Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest by Council on October 29, 2008 (PED08211). Inclusion in the municipal Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, established under Section 27 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act, requires that Council be given 60-days notice of the intention to demolish or remove any building or structure on the property, and the demolition and removal of any building or structure is prohibited during this time period.
The provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, related to the establishment of the Register and the submission of a notice of intent to demolish, are intended to provide Council with the opportunity to prevent demolition through designation of the property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, or to discuss other options with the proponent. The Act does not regulate new construction on properties contained in the Register; however, staff and the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee have been working with Public Works staff with regards to the Gage Park Master Plan and the associated functional design and new construction. The Gage Park Master Plan was approved by Council on March 31, 2010.

Although Gage Park is recognized by staff and the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee as having cultural heritage value, and is likely eligible for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, a detailed evaluation and description of the heritage attributes of the property has not been undertaken. The Council-approved staff work program for the consideration of potential designations under Part IV the Ontario Heritage Act currently lists the evaluation of Gage Park as a priority for 2013.

**Notice of Demolition**

Public Works staff has submitted notice of their intention to demolish several buildings within the park property. The buildings to be demolished include the buildings known as Greenhouse Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9, constructed in 1958, and the Potting Shed, constructed in 1973 (see Appendix “A”). The Boiler House (1919), Tropical Administration Building, and Garage will remain.

The subject buildings were not part of the original Dunington-Grubb landscape plan, and their removal is consistent with the Council-approved Gage Park Master Plan. Staff does not recommend any actions be taken to prevent the demolition of these buildings, and will continue to work with Public Works staff on the implementation of the Gage Park Master Plan and the design of related new construction.

:MH
Attach. (1)
Gage Park, Works Yard – site plan, showing buildings to be removed
Potting Shed (south elevation)

Greenhouse #1 (north elevation)