

Minutes of Mountain Drive Park Redevelopment

Task Force Virtual Meeting

July 14th, 2021

(Recorded by Louise Thomassin, Landscape Architect at the City of Hamilton)

Item 1

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Sara Mostacci Carnegie and everyone was welcomed to the meeting. Housekeeping rules were presented by Chair Sara Mostacci Carnegie.

Item 2

The Chair asked Task Force members if there was any discussion on the minutes of the April 14th, 2021 meeting. No errors or omissions were brought forward. The minutes were adopted, as presented.

Item 3

Chair Sara Mostacci Carnegie and Vice Chair Micheline Rancourt presented a summary of the Mountain Drive Park Task Force questionnaire results. A total of twenty-seven (27) responses were received, and the Chair thanked the task force for their ideas and thoughtful responses. The responses were shared with the City of Hamilton Project Manager and consultants.

The survey was broken into two (2) parts, existing and new elements. Common themes of survey were summarized by the Chair and Vice Chair, and include the following:

Existing elements

- Trail system and connections:
 - replace chain link fencing along the brow, add binoculars, widen trails for improved use for all types of users, add signage along path outlining etiquette and rules, more eating areas, incorporating entrances such as an archway or signage indicating a welcome into the park
- Biodiversity and tree planting:

- include pollinator beds and planting areas, protect current inventory of trees in the park, consider succession plantings to preserve amount of trees
- Playground:
 - consult Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act to ensure play area is accessible to everyone, include obstacle type challenges to engage a variety of age groups, use neutral or natural colours, include a pathway around or leading to playground, replace woodchips with a more favorable material
- Sun shelter:
 - explore more open concept design, move the location away from the road and detach from washroom building, improve overall aesthetic, explore addition of more seating and lighting, increase the use of the sun shelter for things such as movie nights and posting notices, or some historical information
- Washroom Building:
 - move for easier use by playground users but maintain visibility, improve overall aesthetic, add lighting, ensuring washroom is open in daylight hours and is regularly maintained
- Enhancing park using history:
 - the Queen's visit in 1959, John William Kerr, streetlamps (Victorian style), entrances into the park using historical aesthetic
- Increase of the number of recycling / waste receptacles and drinking fountain

New elements

- Lighting:
 - add lighting for safety, support for solar, gaslighting style poles like on Concession Street
- Spray Pad:
 - everyone agreed with the exception of two (2), beneficial to have it double as ice rink in the winter (volunteer),

should be close to playground and away from quieter parts of park

- Trail connection to lower City:
 - majority opinion that a connection on the Gage Park end most beneficial (this is a last priority base on understanding of budgetary implications), if a new stair connection is made, installation of a rolling rail for bikes would be appreciated

Item 4

Louise Thomassin, Landscape Architect and Project Manager for the Redevelopment of Mountain Drive Park (MDP), provided the Task Force with a review of where we are in the current masterplan process, explained the development options developed and provided an overview of the next engagement strategy.

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Thomassin discussed the following information:

Overview of Staff Presentation on April 14th, 2021

- Frequently asked questions
- Engagement refresher
- Engagement and survey results
- Vision statements
- Next Steps

Where we are now

- Evaluate development options and selected preferred options
- Stakeholder engagement (internal staff, external stakeholders, task force, community)

Review of development options

- One (1) option presented for the main park area
- Two (2) options presented for Mountain Park Avenue

- Options will be made available on the project web-page for review

Re-engage stakeholders

- Receive input on development options and re-engage stakeholders, such as:
 - Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities
 - Internal City of Hamilton staff members
 - Niagara Escarpment Commission
 - Juravinski Hospital (for road options)
 - Bruce Trail Conservancy
 - Task Force and broader community

Community Engagement

- July – August 2021:
 - Post development options on Engage Hamilton platform and project web-page
 - Launch mail drop
 - Install posters on site x2
 - Launch survey
- September 2021:
 - Hold virtual public information centre open to the general public (tentative date: Thursday, September 09, 2021)
 - Close survey in September 2021 and post results on Engage Hamilton Platform and project web-page

Survey #2 goals

- Seek input on development options and gauge support
- Determine preferred options for Mountain Park Avenue
- Determine community priorities for implementation

Next steps

- Share development options with stakeholders

- Select and refine preferred option
- Final task force meeting, October / November 2021?
- Prepare and share masterplan report with community

Item 5

Comments and questions can be found in the attached document prepared by Louise Thomassin.

Item 6

It was determined that the best time to hold the next Task Force meeting was after the public engagement survey closes in September of 2021. Ms. Thomassin will compile the results of the survey and present them to the Task Force.

The next virtual meeting will take place on November 3rd, 2021 from 6 to 8 p.m. A meeting invitation will be forthcoming closer to the November meeting date.

Item 8

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned just before 8:00pm.