

Minutes of Mountain Drive Park Redevelopment Task Force Virtual Meeting

April 14th, 2021

(Recorded by Micheline Rancourt, Vice-Chair for Mountain Drive Park Redevelopment Task Force)

Item 1

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Sara Mostacci Carnegie and everyone was welcomed to the meeting. Housekeeping rules were presented by Sara Mostacci.

Item 2

The Chair asked Task Force members if there was any discussion on the minutes of the March 10th, 2021 meeting. Danusia Szpak mentioned her name being misspelled and Councilor Jackson mentioned Vice-Chair Micheline Rancourt's last name had been omitted. The minutes were updated.

Item 3

Louise Thomassin, Landscape Architect and Project Manager for the Redevelopment of Mountain Drive Park (MDP), provided the Task Force with clarification of frequently asked questions and a detailed summary of the community engagement survey.

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

Recap of Previous Meeting

- The boundary for the Masterplan runs from Sherman to East 42rd St.
- Where we are now: Inventory and Analysis
- Consultation with internal staff and external stakeholders
- Public engagement strategy: part one
- Next Steps

Clarification of FAQ's

- Can we include the trail from Mountain Drive Park to Ottawa Street as part of this masterplan? Can we include the trail section from the western tip to the Wentworth Stairs? **These two trail sections are already accounted for in a previous masterplan from 2018. These areas are targeted to undergo road construction to widen paths and improve lighting in 2022**

Engagement Summary

- Launch of Engage Hamilton Platform March 2nd 2021
- Launch of survey (open March 2nd 2021-closed March 23rd 2021)
- Installation of site poster and launch of mail drop (7000 residents) on March 3rd – 8th 2021
- Engagement Results
 - 86% of residents live in Ward 6 or 7
 - 342 residents completed the survey
 - 76% visit the park at least a few times a month
 - 63% walk to the park
 - 68% of survey respondents supported the removal of 1 or more lay-by parking areas while 32% did not support the removal of any parking areas
 - The top three elements most valued about the park are the trail system (#1), the views (#2), and the mature trees (#3)
 - The amenities survey respondents MOST wanted to see improved and / or added are:
 - #1. Trail system improvements
 - #2. Protection of mature trees and tree planting
 - #3. Lighting
 - #4. Trail connection to lower city
 - #5. Spray pad and washroom building

- The amenities survey respondents LEAST wanted to see improved and / or added are:
 - #1. Fenced in dog area
 - #2. Half court or full court (basketball, ball hockey)
 - #3. Fitness stations
 - #4. Historical plaques
 - #5. Floral display

Vision Statement

- ***Protect the natural beauty and passive feel of the park though conservation, while enhancing access and opportunities for inclusive recreation and play.***
 - Protect the passive feel of the park, mature trees and viewsheds to provide a place of respite for the community.
 - Enhance trail connectivity and accessibility within the park and to the broader community and ensure people come first to create a place for all to safely enjoy.
 - Introduce one or two active elements that are inclusive, and respect and pay homage to the natural beauty of the park and be mindful of potential impacts to the natural environment and people.

Improve

- Trail system and connections i.e. lookouts with binoculars, trail widening and pedestrianizing Mountain Park Ave., loop path, potential lay-by parking re-organization etc.
- Biodiversity, tree planting and groupings
- Playground accessibility, challenge and inclusivity
- Sun shelter
- Washroom building
- Other: enhance park identity using history

Add

- Lighting, with trail being priority
- Spray pad
- Trail connection to lower City, including review with approval agencies (i.e. Niagara Escarpment Commission, etc.)

Next Steps

- ***Establish Project Vision, Priorities, Criteria for Success and Development Options April 2021 – June 2021***
- Discuss development priorities with approval agencies
- Develop two to three development options (i.e. how will the priorities be laid out on the site and the relationship between each)
- Start exploring what the priority items will include, i.e. materials, components, etc.
- Public engagement, part two

Item 4

Sara and Micheline discussed a poll to be sent out via email to taskforce members to focus on the detailed improvements and additions that the initial survey has identified as priorities. Micheline provided a detailed specific example of a narrow part of the trail that she would like to see widened for safety.

Item 5

Comments and Questions can be found in the detailed attached document provided by Louise Thomasson.

Item 6

Sara reiterated the earlier statement about the email survey that will be sent out to task force members. Micheline reminded the team to check their spam folders and add the group mailing address to their safe sender list as some members had not received the zoom link for the meeting. Councilor Pauls commented that she likes the enthusiasm and engagement of the taskforce and is really looking forward to the future of this great park.

Item 7

The next meeting was set for July 14th 2021 from 6pm to 8pm. This meeting will be recorded for absent task force members. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

