

Minutes of Mountain Drive Park Redevelopment Public Consultation Centre (PIC) Virtual Meeting September 9th, 2021

(Recorded by Meghan Stewart, Supervisor at the City of Hamilton and transcribed by Louise Thomassin, Landscape Architect at the City of Hamilton)

Item 1

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Louise Thomassin, Landscape Architect and Project Manager for the Mountain Drive Park Masterplan, and everyone was welcomed to the meeting. Housekeeping rules and the meeting format were presented by Louise Thomassin, Landscape Architect. City staff present at the meeting introduced themselves.

Item 2

Councillor Jackson and Councillor Pauls introduced themselves and the project.

Councillor Jackson, thanked all staff working on the Mountain Drive Park Masterplan to bring recommendations and proposals forward to the Community. Councillor Jackson thanked the community members in Ward 6 and Ward 7 involved in the process and noted that unique projects like this don't come along very often. Councillor Jackson provided the example of Peace Memorial Park as another legacy project.

Councillor Jackson thanked the Mountain Drive Park Task Force of over 40 residents who are volunteering their time to contribute to the project, with a special thank you to the Chair and Vice Chair leading the Task Force. Councillor Jackson identified some of the new initiatives being considered in the park, like a spray pad, and potential upgrades, including walkway upgrades, facility upgrades and lighting. Councillor Jackson expressed the importance of protecting the greenspace and that this is paramount to the Community.

Councillor Pauls thanked Councillor Jackson for the working in collaboration on the Mountain Drive Park Masterplan project and for

sharing the history of the project. Councillor Pauls also thanked the Task Force for their dedication to the project, their knowledge and their input. The effort of the community and city staff working to improve Mountain Drive Park was recognized, as was the team work. Councillor Pauls noted that we are making a significant investment in the project for this great showcase of a park.

Item 3

Louise Thomassin, Landscape Architect in collaboration with Lu-Ann Duxbury, Project Manager for Facilities and Ken Coit, Program Manager Public Art and Projects provided a PowerPoint presentation.

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

Purpose of a Masterplan

- Planning tool used to establish a vision for future park improvements, identify a budget and identify a timeline for implementation

Components of a Masterplan

- Inventory and analysis of existing conditions, regulation and policies
- Establish a park vision and generate criteria for success
- Develop and evaluate feasible design concepts and select a preferred option
- Identify a budget and timeline for implementation
- Through the whole process receive community, city staff and stakeholder input

Masterplan Example

- Sam Lawrence park is a recent park example that underwent a masterplan

Boundary and Context

- Mountain Drive park is located at 935 Concession Street in Ward 6 and Ward 7. Existing features within the park include the mountain brow trail, a play structure and swing sets, a washroom building, floral display, parking, mature trees, Niagara escarpment, fencing, rock walls and open lawn space.

What We've Done and Where We Are

- Establish a task force committee and on-going meetings
- Inventory and analysis including relevant studies (geotechnical, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design review with Hamilton Police, surveys)
- Stakeholder engagement (internal staff, external stakeholders, task force, community Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities)
- Establish a project vision and priorities, and creation of development options
- Evaluate development options and select preferred option (We Are Here!)
- Prepare masterplan report
- Finalize masterplan report and make available to the public

Community Engagement

- November 2020: call to residents to serve on the Mountain Drive park task force
- March 2021: launch of survey #1 “Inventory and Analysis”
- August until September 2021: launch of survey #1 “Park Improvements”, Public Information Centre on September 09, 2021

Survey #1 results

- To see full results please follow link below:

- <https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/broswer/2021-04-14/survey1-response-report.pdf>
- An overview of the results was provided by Louise Thomassin

Vision Statement and Goals

- Protect the natural beauty and passive feel of the park through 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.

Community Priorities

- Improvements:
 - Trail system i.e. lookouts with binoculars, trail widening, etc.
 - Biodiversity, tree planting and groupings
 - Playground being cognizant of accessibility, challenge and inclusivity
 - Sun shelter
 - Washroom building
 - Enhance park identity through history
- Additions:
 - Lighting, with trail being priority
 - Spray pad
 - Trail connection to lower City, including review with approval agencies

Review of Development Options

- Main park area:
 - <https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/broswer/2021-07-27/mountain-drive-park-development-masterplan-v2.pdf>
- Streetscape option A (one-way conversion)
 - <https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/broswer/2021-07-27/mountain-drive-park-streetscape-development-option-a-v2.pdf>
- Streetscape option B (full pedestrianization)
 - <https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/broswer/2021-07-27/mountain-drive-park-streetscape-development-option-b-v2.pdf>

Survey #2 Goals

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

Next Steps

- Share development options with stakeholders (complete)
- Select and refine preferred option with stakeholders
- Public results and findings to project web-page
- Prepare and share masterplan report with community

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Lu-Ann Duxbury discussed the following information:

Key Building Highlights

- Multiple washroom options:
 - Universal and accessible, male and female washroom
- Vandal resistant building design
 - Pre-fabricated concrete structure
 - Fast erection on site
 - Metal roof

- Open for winter use:
 - Facility open 12 months of the year
 - Insulated to maintain the asset
- Storage room for user groups:
 - Suitable size for SUPIE and winter rink users
 - Will include a hose bib for ice rink user group
- Small covered entryway:
 - Covers washroom entry doors
 - Complete within drinking fountain / water bottle filling station
- Blank wall for future mural:
 - To be coordinated with City of Hamilton Public Art

Washroom Building Schedule

- Schematic design (we are here)
- Detailed design (November 2021 until January 2022)
- Building permit (February / March 2022 submission)
- Tender award (late spring 2022)
- Construction (commence summer 2022)
- Open to the public (summer 2023)

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Ken Coit discussed the following information:

Public Art

- Possible public art mural on washroom building:
 - Artist and subject matter to be selected through a public process to be meaningful to the local community
 - Discourages graffiti tagging
 - Provides a colourful focus at the centre of the park

Item 4

Cynthia Graham, Manager of Landscape Architectural Services presented budget considerations for Mountain Drive Park and thanked everyone for attending meeting. Cynthia's role is to coordinate budgets for Landscape Architectural Services project (Mountain Drive Park being one of them) and

submit detailed budget sheets to Council for consideration. Cynthia Graham identified that we have the existing funds to complete the design work for Mountain Drive Park.

For the construction of the park, Cynthia Graham will need to submit a budget sheet. At current, we are estimating the construction of the park to be \$1.4M, but final budget numbers will depend on what's chosen as the preferred concept. The construction budget ask will be submitted to Council for consideration in 2023, with the aim of constructing in 2023. Note however that this budget number does not include the washroom building upgrades, which is accounted for through Facilities and is already being planned for reconstruction in 2022.

Cynthia Graham explained that the funding for new amenities only proposed at Mountain Drive Park, like the spray pad, we have a relatively secure funding source for called development charges. Development charges are collected from developers across the city to help support increases in amenity needs.

For existing amenities that are replacement amenities, Cynthia Graham explained that another City funding source would need to be found as these would not be eligible for development charges.

We have approximately \$700K identified and the remaining funds to get to the \$1.4K will need to be identified by working with the Ward Councilors and corporate finance staff to find the rest of the funding source for 2023. Good news is that it's an existing project underway with momentum and come budget time for 2023 there will be conversations with the Councilors to find the remainder of the funding to reach the estimate.

Item 5

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

Item 6

Louise Thomassin thanked the attendees for attending the Public Consultation for the Mountain Drive Park Masterplan and expressed that

this is an opportunity to positively impact the development of Mountain Drive Park. It was noted that the community's input is critical to the outcome. Louise Thomassin reminded everyone to complete the survey available at the link below, if attendees hadn't already done so as it closes on September 30th, 2021.

- <https://engage.hamilton.ca/mountaindrivepark>

Item 7

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.