

John / Rebecca Master Plan
Public Stakeholder Group Meeting #5
 Hamilton Public Works Department, Landscape Architectural Services
June 27, 2012
 Hamilton Convention Centre, Room 206, 5:30-7:30PM

In attendance:

Regrets:

(JD) Jonathan Deveau	(AS) Anthony Sa
(PE) Paul Elia	(DM) Drew Mitchell
(DM) Dawn Manning	(CC) Christopher Cutler
(JN) John Norris	(JA) Jorge Afonso
(MQ) Mea Quindinho	(DR) Donna Reid
(LWS) Le' Ann W. Seely	(JH) Joel Hilchey
(PL) Patty Lynes	(MI) Micheal Iampietro
(JH) Jennifer Hachler	(JT) Officer Jamie Thompson

1. Review of meeting minutes –4th Meeting of Public Stakeholder Group

- Introduction of members
- Acceptance of Meeting Minutes for PSG Mtg. #4, November 14, 2011.
- Highlights of meeting meetings from November 14th, 2011 included the following:
 - Second Hamilton Emergency Services Meeting -held in October confirmed that the preference was to combined the commemoration space for Firefighters, Police and Paramedics;
 - At the PSG Mtg. #3, the three concept options were presented to the stakeholder group along with supporting precedent images explaining site features and functions. The stakeholder group discussed each concept and the open discussion provided likes and dislikes in comparing the concepts;
 - The purpose of this meeting was to review the three concepts for input prior to the public open house in December 2011.

2. Public Input to Date

A summary of the public input to date was presented. The Public Information Center held on December 7th 2011 was the last public meeting.

3. Evaluation of Concepts-Assessment Matrix

The purpose of this meeting was to evaluate the concept options by completing the assessment matrix, ranking how each concept best meets the list of criteria that had been developed for John/Rebecca Park.

Each concept was presented as well as the Public Stakeholder Group feedback from the November 11th, 2011, PSG #4 meeting. The summary of the feedback from the Public Information Centre (PIC #2) was also presented. After the presentation of each concept the Public Stakeholder Group was asked to complete the Evaluation Matrix for that concept.

The summary of the PIC #2 survey results and workshop preferences was also presented. 22 people attended the workshop session as part of the PIC #2. Four groups broke-out to evaluate the three concepts.

As a result of input from the PSG #4, and PIC #2, the project team had also developed a fourth concept for presentation at the Public Stakeholder Group meeting, which combined the features and functions of the design that were supported by the public to date. The Public Stakeholder Group was also asked to evaluate this concept.

4. Discussion

There was open discussion and general questions, following the presentation of each concept.

- The location of the proposed new bus stop along John Street and its proximity for pedestrians from King Street was discussed. The concepts all propose a new bus stop on this park block, relocating the existing bus stop on John Street just south of King William Street. The existing bus stop on John Street is busy, but the sidewalk width in this location is not very wide and there is no bus shelter for this existing bus stop. But relocating the bus stop on the John/Rebecca block may be too far from King Street for accessibility? Perhaps if the bus stop were located closer to the intersection of John and King William, on the John/Rebecca Park block, it would be more feasible. Further discussions with HSR are required to determine best location.
- Future road widening may occur on John Street and Catharine Street, however the proposed placement of trees is not affected by any potential future road widening. Street widening has not been confirmed;
- The function of the 'art gallery' which is a feature on each option, was discussed. This would include permanent and temporary installations, and also provide a flexible space for community art programs. The 'art gallery' has been positioned along King William Street to become part of the King William Art Walk;
- Two properties on the block are not owned by the City of Hamilton. There was discussion on how to move forward with the development of the block, as a whole. The current recommendation is to develop the entire block as parkland, as is currently shown in the downtown secondary plan. Comments from HES suggest they support developing the park all at once, not a phase approach while the two privately held properties continue in their current capacity. HES continue to support this location for HES commemoration as well as a neighbourhood park to serve the emerging/future residential neighbourhood, visitors to downtown, and downtown workers;
- The block is zoned as open space. When opportunities arise in the future to acquire the two privately owned parcels of land the current plan is to pursue the properties on a willing seller basis. With City ownership of all three properties, the park development would move forward. To prepare for this, the preferred conceptual plan will be further developed into a functional plan that will inform requests to City Council for project funding. Graphics will also be developed to assist Downtown Renewal in promoting the area. If, in the near future, the two privately held properties do not become available on a willing seller basis, the City will consider other options, such as a phased approach to development of the park. This will be determined at a later date;
- Generally the colour red and the ribbon wall feature make this a strong unifying element that is supported;

- The location of the seat wall in the ridge concept could impede capacity of space for concerts and larger events. However, the group re-confirmed that the block is not intended to host large concerts and events. Other than the commemoration functions, the space is a flexible space for all season uses, and can be programmed for neighbourhood gatherings such as art shows, lunch time music, evening film nights, skating;
- General discussion on the spaces, and how they function and the separation of spaces to allow a variety of activities to take place. Feel the ridge does this better than the revised concept. Like the water feature scale in the ridge;
- Do not like the red wall layout in the new June 27 concept as it interrupts the spaces;
- Discussion about the location of the mechanical building/storage building. Prefer this building abutting the water feature, and open space. The location of the building to respond to concerns about safety, providing better visibility around the building, and as a backdrop to the water feature, reducing this as a hangout/hideout place;
- The mechanical equipment cannot be stored underground due to safety regulations about confined-space entry;
- The size of the building has been determined by the consultant team to house mechanical equipment and a Zambonie and chillers for the refrigeration units;
- Moving forward, the City has identified Part 1-acquisition of land; Part 2-park detail design and construction;
- Other steps include determining the appropriate public art process, terms of reference for public art projects and also fundraising opportunities for HES for the commemorative piece;

5. Next Meeting/Steps

Comments from this meeting and all previous will be used to refine the preferred conceptual plan, which will be made available to the PSG and public on the project website. GSP will develop a Functional Plan to inform the process of requesting capital funds for detailed design and construction.

This was the fifth and final meeting of the Public Stakeholder Group. The group was thanked for their help in determining the preferred Conceptual plan for the John/Rebecca park.

These meeting notes are the interpretation of the author - GSP. Please forward errors and/or omissions to LeAnn.Seely@hamilton.ca by August 24th, 2012

To view and/or download the refined preferred conceptual plan and for additional project information, please visit: www.hamilton.ca/LAS .

~End~