Welcome & Agenda Overview (Diedre Beintema)

- This month’s agenda is fairly brief due to everyone’s (both staff and community members’) vacation plans.

- Please note that community members are able to email Diedre prior to our monthly meetings to arrange for some time on the agenda to give an update about something that’s going on in the West Harbour (i.e. events, public meetings, programming, etc.)

Community updates (All)

- The Hamilton Light Rail Transit (LRT) team will be hosting public information meetings (open house format) to discuss the main features of the transit system, some of the key benefits and next steps for the project. There will be an open house at City Hall on September 13 and Liuna Station on September 14. More details are available HERE.

- Parish & Heimbecker LTD (grain facility east of Pier 8 at 231 Burlington St E) are applying to the Ministry of the Environment for an amendment to the limits of emissions which the facility is able to emit. Emissions from this facility include nitrogen oxides and suspended particulate matter. The public is able to submit their comments until August 6, 2016. Submit comments online, HERE.

- Beasley residents are holding a community meeting on Tuesday, August 2 (7:00 – 8:30 pm) to discuss the planned construction on the Hydro One station that shares a parking lot with Dr. Davey School and Beasley Park. Information is available on Facebook, HERE. For more details,
Implementation of Public-Space Projects: Guidelines to Conceptual Design to Construction (Chris Phillips, Ed English)

This presentation addresses questions staff received concerning the design of Pier 7 Boardwalk and Dock project. The presentation outlines the process of how policies and plans were designed and constructed, as well as the points in the process where the public should be consulted for input.

- The planning process follows this path:
  
  o First, at the “Policy” stage, guiding principles (the documents that are already approved by Council such as the Setting Sail Secondary Plan, Recreation Master Plan, Parks Master Plan, urban design studies that apply to the area) are analyzed to understand how they will impact the project in question
  
  o “Conceptual design” is the stage where ideas for the public space are put down on paper – but the concepts need to align with the guidelines outlined in the officially approved plans
  
  o “Detailed design” is where engineers look at what it will take to actually build the elements of the conceptual design – how to make it safe, how to build around the existing sub-surface infrastructure, etc.

- Where does the community have input/involvement/participation in this process?
  
  o Community is involved or consulted at policy stage
  
  o Community is involved or consulted at conceptual design stage
  
  o Community is informed or consulted at detailed design stage (because changes or alternations to the plan at this stage are based on our technical experts’ opinion)
  
  o Community is informed at the construction stage

- Timeline of the Pier 7 boardwalk and dock project:
Project (shoreline and dock as conceptually designed in the Recreation Master Plan) was approved in the capital budget in January 2013 – Council asked staff to make this project a priority

- Budget estimate was based on Recreation Master Plan and estimates from consultants who were doing work on the marina

The conceptual design process started in September 2013 and finished in July 2014. Through this process, it became clear that in order to create a design for the boardwalk portion, staff needed to know what was going to be behind it on the shore (that is, the park that was suggested in the Recreation Master Plan) – so the process began to include conceptual design for the future park as well even though the budget didn’t include detailed design or construction for the park

Detailed design for the Pier 7 shoreline rehabilitation, boardwalk and dock project (developed between September 2014 – May 2015) did not include detailed design for the rest of gateway Park

The Pier 7 & 8 Urban Design Study (released May 2016) incorporated the existing conceptual plans for the boardwalk and park

- City staff recognize that the process to design the Pier 7 dock and boardwalk didn’t include community input/engagement about the design but the process would have benefited from community input, particular at the conceptual design stage in September 2013 – July 2014
  - Community engagement wasn’t done because the project was initially about the need to reconstruct the shoreline
  - Stakeholders were consulted at the Policy stage as part of Setting Sail and the Recreation Master Plan (but this did not cover the detailed design plans, nor did it involve extensive community engagement)
  - People are not using the space the way that the policy documents originally expected (i.e. people are not fishing from the benches but on the path further south). However, the actual use of the space is difficult to predict prior to construction and some of the
boardwalk elements are flexible to better accommodate the actual use of the space

- Since a detailed design for the rest of the park has not been completed yet, City staff will come back to the community to collect input on the design of the rest of the Pier 7 park when we get to that point in the project. There is currently an overall conceptual design for the park, so the discussion will start by looking at that and determining what the community would like to be done differently, then looking at specific details within the design. The furniture that is currently in place on the boardwalk section is easy to move so this can be part of the discussion with the community as well.

- Local residents often notice that people tend to drive their cars up on the asphalt walking path or up on the grass by the roller rink. Staff will look at strategies to discourage this.

- Staff decided not to include the shade structure in Phase 1 of the park so that it could be considered as part of detailed design the larger park. Constructing the shade structure as part of the Phase 1 (boardwalk/transient dock phase) could have resulted in the structure not working well with the design for the rest of the park.

- The benches were originally intended to be facing each other but, after seeing the configuration, staff (specifically the landscape architect from the City and Dillon consulting) thought it made more sense to have all benches face the water so that visitors could enjoy the sunset rather than look towards the road/parking/industrial areas that are currently present on Pier 8. The bench configuration can be reconfigured in the future.

Q&A:

- What’s the timing for the rest of the Pier 7 park and the 30-metre Promenade park?
  - All construction projects in the West Harbour are handled by Public Works’ Waterfront Development Office, the Hamilton Waterfront Trust is also involved. Yes, staff are committed to run a more open, transparent, extensive community engagement process on the remaining public space projects. That commitment
includes engagement on the promenade park. Timing – end of this year/beginning of 2017. Staff’s plan is to accelerate the public space component of the West Harbour work so the majority of public space will be completed by 2018.

- Keep in mind that first, Public Works needs to complete the sub-surface infrastructure

- Can Pier 7 & 8 sustain mature trees?
  - The entire patch of land is essentially rubble so, in order to plant trees, you need to dig down and essentially create a dirt “plug” for the tree’s roots

- Do you know where the fill came from?
  - Not sure specifically, it came various construction projects around the City of Hamilton

- Question to the group by staff: besides the concerns that we’ve already heard, what do people here tonight think about the boardwalk area?
  - Residents like the lounge chairs
  - As strange as the bench configuration seems, the logic is fairly understandable since the benches look towards the best view and there is always people sitting on them to enjoy the sunset
  - Concerns about the (lack of) mature trees on Pier 7 & 8 and the fact that it seems that existing trees will be removed to make way for construction. Can existing trees be protected during construction?
    - Staff will look at trees and let community know before decisions are made
  - Can staff look into purchasing larger trees instead of the small trees that are usually planted in new subdivisions?
    - This is one option that staff will consider in the future.

Community Engagement Evaluation (Jay Carter and Diedre Beintema)
Jay Carter from Evergreen and Diedre Beintema from the City of Hamilton to evaluate the past year’s community engagement activities and make improvements going forward.

- Jay Carter has conducted an online survey to gather the community’s feedback on the engagement process so far. Survey results and Evergreen’s observations are available in the slideshow. This information will be compiled into a recommendation report.

- Diedre Beintema will be using Evergreen’s recommendation report to work with the community to determine what we should “Stop, continue, start”. Implementing the community’s desired “Stop, continue, start” responses will be Diedre’s workplan for the next year.

Q&A:

- None

General Q&A (Diedre Beintema)

- None

Upcoming Dates (Diedre Beintema)

- West Harbour Sub-Committee: Thursday, August 4 (10:00 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers)
  
  o As of right now, the meeting is not planned to be live-streamed

- Conversation Couch Sessions (with Edward John): Thursday, August 4 and Thursday August 18 (both sessions will be held at 3:30-5:30 PM at 294 James St N)

- Land Solicitation Workshops: Thursday, August 11 (6:30 – 8:30 PM at New Beasley Community Centre, 145 Wilson St) and Thursday, September 8 (6:30 – 8:30 PM at Good Shepherd Bishop Tonnos Apartments, 10 Pearl St)
  
  o You only need to attend one of the sessions. The formal workshop only takes about 30 minutes and runs three times throughout the evening (at 6:40, 7:20 and 8:00 pm) so you don’t need to stay at the session for the full two hours.
• Community Conversation Meeting: Thursday, September 29 (7:00 – 9:30 PM at 294 James St N)
  o There will be no Community Conversation meeting in August 2016.