



COMMENTS / QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

|                          |   |                       |                |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| <b>Meeting Location:</b> | WebEx Virtual Meeting   | <b>Time:</b>          | 6:00 – 8:00 pm |
| <b>Project Title:</b>    | Mountain Drive Park Masterplan  | <b>Date:</b>          | March 10, 2021 |
| <b>Purpose:</b>          | Overview of updates including public engagement launch and next steps | <b>Date Prepared:</b> | March 12, 2021 |

The following are comments provided by the task force members and is not a verbatim transcription. The comments are not necessarily shown in the order asked. Responses to the comments and questions are provided.

| ITEM | COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS  | RESPONSE  |
|------|--|---|
| 1.1  | Review opportunities for inclusive playground design like Harper’s Playground in Portland, Oregon. Requested that we review playground examples that exist in Hamilton and in neighbouring municipalities. | <p>Noted. New playgrounds installed meet current accessibility standards to ensure that we are providing inclusive play environments. We will review the playground design in more detail and provide options to review with the Task Force and broader community after the amenities for the park are selected as part of the masterplan process.</p> <p>Councillor Pauls provided Inch park as an example where a new inclusive playground is being installed, including a swing that can accommodate a wheel chair. The playground at Cootes Paradise School and Burloak Park were more examples provided by Task Force members.</p> |
| 1.2  | Why are we replacing the trail that was redone recently?   | The trail that runs along the north edge of the park was redone in 2006. There is opportunity to review its current conditions, widen it per the Mountainbrow trail Masterplan and include additional amenities along the trail. Trails that experience higher volumes may warrant wider trails than the 3m wide standard. Bayfront park is an example of this and is approximately 6m wide.  |
| 1.3  | Can we use the NextDoor Community Tool or have similar features?   | The City uses the Engage Hamilton platform to engage with all ward residents as it is a useful tool to post all city updates that residents can become familiar with. To engage with the community immediately surrounding the park, the City undertakes a mail drop in the neighbourhoods within 800m of the park.   |

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|      |   | There is opportunity to add more commenting tools on the Engage Hamilton Platform and for residents on the NextDoor Community App to share the Engage Hamilton platform link.  |
| 1.4  | Can we add another poster at the park near the playground?  | There is opportunity to add a second poster at the park and we can explore this for the next survey.   |
| 1.5  | Will there be accessible parking?                           | Per the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act there are standards for the provision of accessible parking based on the number of parking stalls. We will follow the standard to ensure that the required number of accessible parking spaces are provided.   |
| 1.6  | Will we be referencing the cycling masterplan?              | Yes, we will be coordinating with the Transportation Masterplan which the cycling masterplan forms part of and coordinating with the City's Active Transportation Section. For example, we did receive requests for drop curbs at specific intersections to ensure that cyclists using the on-road facility can be access the park.  |
| 1.7  | Can the washroom doors face the playground?                 | We will review the location of the bathroom doors in relation to the playground to allow visibility for parents / children using the washroom and to ensure that the doors are still visible from the street per the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Audit recommendation completed with Hamilton Police.  |
| 1.8  | How will outreach to non-tech savvy residents be completed? | A mail drop of over 7,000 letters to residents living in neighbourhoods adjacent to the park was performed to inform residents of the masterplan process with key dates and a 24' x 36' poster is affixed on-site. The mail drop and poster include a telephone number to reach the City's project manager should a resident have comments or suggestions and does not wish to use the online tools.   |
| 1.9  | Do we have any data on which wards park users live in?      | We do not have current data on which wards current park users reside in, but we will be collected ward information as part of the online survey.   |
| 2.0  | Can there be community gardens?                             | Community gardens were listed on the survey as an option to consider and will be reviewed when the survey results are received against competing priorities. Please note that community gardens require a minimum number of resident volunteers to run them. More information can be found at: <a href="https://www.hamilton.ca/parks-recreation/community-environmental-initiatives/community-gardens">https://www.hamilton.ca/parks-recreation/community-environmental-initiatives/community-gardens</a> . |

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|      |  | Please note that the Eastmount Park Neighbourhood is currently planning a community garden that could potentially accommodate users.   |
| 2.1  | Pedestrianize Mountain Park Avenue from Upper Sherman to Concession Street.          | This will need to be reviewed with Transportation Planning and Engineering and other City staff. An overview and analysis of egresses/ingresses to adjacent buildings, access for maintenance and existing sewer works etc. will need to be performed.   |
| 2.2  | Can there be a water bottle filling station?   | The City's new standard is to install drinking fountains that include a water bottle filling station and a pet bowl.   |
| 2.3  | Can there be a stair connection from Mountain Drive Park down to the lower city?     | <p>Within the Recreational Trails Masterplan, a link is proposed from the Rail trail to the lower City. Part of this masterplan can investigate a link from the rail trail to Mountain Drive Park to complete the connection between the lower and upper mountain.</p> <p>The Recreational Trail Masterplan is available at <a href="https://www.hamilton.ca/city-planning/master-plans-class-eas/recreational-trails-master-plan">https://www.hamilton.ca/city-planning/master-plans-class-eas/recreational-trails-master-plan</a>.</p> |
| 2.4  | Is there a custodian assigned to this park?  | There isn't a custodian assigned only to this park, but that will be reviewed again after the masterplan process is complete by Park operations to determine if assigning a custodian to the park will be necessary.   |
| 2.5  | Can we bring the incline railway back?   | This would be an initiative that would need to be reviewed as part of a larger city-wide tourism strategy as the upfront costs of installing an incline railway and the on-going maintenance and operations cost would need to be reviewed against potential revenue. The location would also need to be reviewed as part of a broader city-wide strategy particularly because an incline railway did not historically exist at this location.   |
| 2.6  | Is there opportunity to attract more cyclists and potentially install a SoBi system? | As the Mountainbrow Trail and the cycling masterplan initiatives continue to be implemented there will be more opportunities for cyclist to enjoy the City and its trails. SoBi was contacted when the Mountainbrow Trail Masterplan was completed to determine if there would be opportunity to expand the system to the Mountain. The City was informed that there was insufficient revenue and usership to support the extension of the program to the Mountain at this time.   |
| 2.7  | Can other sections of the Mountainbrow   | The detailed design and construction of the  |

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|      | Trail adjacent to Mountain Drive park be upgraded?  | <p>section of the Mountainbrow Trail from Upper Sherman to Upper Wentworth that lies west of the park is being undertaken by Engineering Services as the area requires watermain works. That project will include trail upgrades and is being planned for 2022 construction.</p> <p>The detailed design and construction of the section of Mountainbrow Trail from Upper Gage to Oakcrest that lies east of the park is being undertaken by Engineering Services as the area requires road, sewer and watermain works. That project will include trail upgrades and is being planned for 2022 construction.</p> |
| 2.8  | Can there be binocular viewing stations to tie into the history of the park, along with benches placed near the lookouts? | This item has been noted for consideration along with expanding the commemorative / historical plaque story. The provision of benches is noted.   |
| 2.9  | Will the shade structure be completely removed?   | Clarification was provided that the sun shelter wouldn't be completely removed from the park, but that the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Audit suggested that the sun shelter be separated from the washroom building structure in the future to improve sightlines and surveillance.   |
| 3.0  | Was there a condition assessment completed of existing trees? Can this be shared?   | <p>Forestry does have an inventory of the trees for the City's park system and has completed one within the last 10 years for Mountain Drive park. We inquire with Forestry if they have the assessment in a shareable format as they use a specific software to manage and retain the data.</p> <p>As part of the detailed design, Landscape Architectural Services (LAS) will also undertake a vegetation assessment to ensure that we have a recent representation and understanding of the trees on site.</p>   |
| 3.1  | Can larger trees be planted? Can evergreen trees be planted?  | <p>As part of park redevelopment or new park developments, LAS will source new trees from tree nurseries and select the largest available stock which is typically 70mm caliper depending on the species.</p> <p>It is difficult and costly to find trees that are larger than this and the survival rate is poor since a large portion of the trees' root system is lost during the spading process and larger trees have more difficulty adapting to the different microclimate.</p>  |

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|      |   | We do plant evergreen trees but must select appropriate locations and species to ensure that sightlines and public safety are maintained.   |
| 3.2  | Can there be an observation platform built on top of the washroom building? | <p>The City installs a specific style of washroom buildings City-wide to ensure an equitable distribution of amenities for all Hamiltonians, to ensure ease of maintenance and assurance that the materials specified are robust and vandal resistant.</p> <p>The washroom building will remain generally in its current location and a view to the escarpment and lower city may be difficult to achieve. The existing views to the lower City from Mountain Park Avenue are clear and well-used and the addition may be a duplication of resources.</p> |
| 3.3  | Does the City account for liability and safety?                             | The City follows all current standards, regulations and guidelines such as the Accessibility for Ontario's with Disabilities Act (built environment), the Ontario Building Code, the Ontario Traffic Manual, Canadian Standards Association, etc.   |
| 3.4  | Can there be consideration for exercise equipment for the elderly?          | Consideration for exercise equipment that can be used by the general public and the elderly can be considered and was included as part of the survey questionnaire.   |

Next meeting: **Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 6:00-8:00pm**

This report is a summary of discussions and is not a verbatim transcription. Please contact the Project Manager within two (2) days of receipt of this document if you wish to make any changes to the record.