

Parkside Cemetery -- Dundas Information Session Tuesday, February 19, 2019

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-Mail:

My comments / some thoughts on the design:

Main Entrance

The double entrances off Parkside is, in all probability, the best solution (as opposed to one single entrance) in the event of one funeral procession coming in and one concluding simultaneously (although I think those would be rare occurrences). Although it is obvious that the entrance closest to the intersection of Cayley Street and Parkside Avenue will be the main entrance (I think), subtle distinctions should be apparent indicating a separate entrance and exit. Aesthetically, the double entrance offers a symmetrical balance along Parkside Avenue.

The Parkside School Memorial situated between the two entrances should be 'gussied up' as a fitting tribute to the previous occupant of this site.

The Columbarium Areas are situated nicely along the paths that are intersected by the main asphalt path and leads smoothly to the commemorative rock area. But the western-most columbarium, with the outward convex curve, should be located on the other side of that pathway and curved inwards (concave) so as to look more inviting. The staggered locations would also offer greater visual variety and interest.

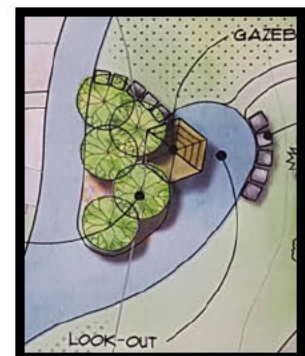
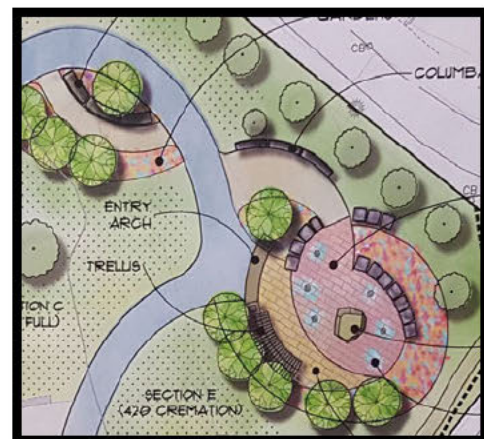
The Commemorative Rock Area

Assuming that the in-ground water spray nozzles would work intermittently, when activated, that action may disturb anyone there for some quiet time.

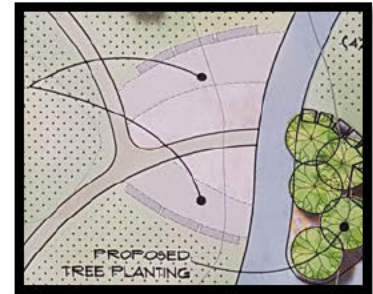
Perhaps the commemorative rock could incorporate a continuous gentle-running water fountain with a catchment area at the rock base, if not a small decorative pond. I think the sound of the water over rock would encourage a more contemplative behaviour, both visually and acoustically. If the in-ground nozzles are to be continuously running, the water heights should be fairly low (less than 1m), but they may present a potential safety hazard for patrons.

The 'Look-out' should have minimal vegetation impeding the vista of anyone situated in the gazebo looking out towards the Driving Park. At most, any proposed vegetation should be low-lying in the foreground. Perhaps taller vegetation may be used to 'frame' selected views.

The rock seating wall can be utilized as a bottom frame in the foreground for viewers situated in the gazebo, but sitters on the rock wall will have the option of sitting and viewing the scenery towards the gazebo or outwards into the Driving Park.



The Future Columbarium Expansion Area (when and if it's eventually built) looks like it needs a focal point -- or an aiming stake; perhaps a comparable commemorative rock feature as suggested earlier (with or without the water) and located at the western space of the walkway T-intersection would do the trick.



The Shed

As there were some concerns about the proposed shed's location, perhaps it could be moved further 'down the road' closer to Section E, still on the south side of the main asphalt path, but west of the proposed walkway, so it's just situated a little further away from any nearby residence. The shed structure itself shouldn't have an exterior 'industrial' look (e.g. concrete block), but a 'warm' or 'rustic' finish (e.g. 'distressed' brick or wood).

The Three Walkways to the Driving Park are at three 'corners' of the cemetery property abutting the Driving Park and are roughly equidistant accesses into the Park -- or from the Park into the Cemetery. They flow seamlessly from one site to the next, as they should.

The inter-space entrances at each walkway should be inviting from both sides, but especially from the Park into the Cemetery. Here's why: even in the 21st century, cemeteries still have a 'stigma' about them that is somewhat negative and most undeserved.

Having welcoming gateways between the Park and Cemetery may add to accepting Parkside Cemetery as a place for the living as much as for a memorial ground for our deceased.

Respectfully submitted,

