



**Parks Master Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #17
Parks Training Room
December 4, 2007 @ 7pm**

Present: Helen Tremaine, Cornelia Lange, Hal Gibbard, Larry Hutchings,
Bryan Melnyk, Alison Meyer, Planner;
Gary Darrah, Manager -Park Development

Regrets: Vern Wiebe, Katia Gauvin, Dennis Seed, Councillor Madoff

1. General Update on Process:

Alison reported that Gary, David Speed and her had a meeting to review the plan to date.

Tonight's meeting would be highlights from the neighbourhoods and then the timeline is four to six weeks to work out the details and to bring it back to the Parks Master Plan so they have something concrete to comment on. After it is reviewed again by the Parks Master Plan Committee it would be reviewed by an Interdisciplinary Staff Committee to ensure the goals and strategies are consistent with corporate objectives and are achievable. Once both committees were satisfied it will be presented to Committee of the Whole with a request that it be referred to key stakeholders and community groups for review along with an invitation to attend a public open house. Bob Yates will also be providing Council with a presentation.

2. Develop Goals and Strategies for each neighbourhood

A general discussion was held regarding what some of the wishes regarding neighbourhood park improvements were. It was discussed that given budget, feasibility, etc, not everything discussed would necessarily be included in the plan and the Committee would have a chance to review this again with the next draft of the plan. Some issues raised at the neighbourhood level may also be outside the scope of the plan.

Burnside/Gorge

- Bridge between Arbutus Park and Cecelia Cove Park
- Bike access
- Access from Arbutus to Washington streets
- Bridge to Galloping Goose

- Bridges require federal and provincial permissions
- Communities need to be notified that items/projects/upgrades to Parks will be prioritized
- Acquisition/access of Gorge Road Hospital grounds for future park
- Marine/wharf access between Bamfield Park and Cecelia Cove
- Idea of bridgeways is incorporated in Harbour Plan
- Trailway and ferry access at Point Ellice House
- Maintain Garry Oak and Douglas Fir stands
- Trail from Point Ellice to Bay Street
- Greenway from Cecelia Ravine to Maddock (in Greenways plan)
- Acquire School Board maintenance plant for future park/connector
- Replace culvert with bridge in Cecelia Ravine Park
- Easement for residents from their property to Cecelia Ravine
- Add adjacent space along Napier Lane
- Continue to acquire easement Maddock St. to Cecelia Ravine
- Preserve property – Burnside Elementary/Community Centre
- Government /Bay/Blanshard/Caledonia Industrial Site—want a major park when the area is rezoned
- Increase space in Ellice Street Park
- Parkside Motors has offered to install floodlights at Ellice St. Park
- Sumas Park - request for back alley lane for children to ride their bikes and if redeveloped, then incorporate bike paths
- Need for skateboard parks, washrooms, community arts space & space for community events

Downtown/Harris Green

- Pocket gardens to stop, sit
- Different elevations to overlook things
- Need for park in north end of neighbourhood
- Harris Green possible off-leash site?
- Convert parking spaces to park space using 'portable bench/sitting areas'
- Wharf Street parking lot/Ships Point consider converting it to parkland with support from CRD

Fairfield/ Gonzales

- Alison has Cornelia's notes will incorporate into plan

Fernwood

- Stadacona Park viewed as scary and used by homeless
- Stadacona Park need parking for park users

- Stadacona Park need better crossings at Pandora

Hillside/Quadra

- Mayfair Mall needs more trees and green roof
- Acquire Canada West University lands
- Hillside Mall, Jewish Cemetery, Cridge Centre—id these sites as important to citizens as greenspace
- Smith Hill Reservoir (near Summit Park) acquire and rehabilitate...liability is an issue and it isn't owned by the City.....corporately need to discuss the acquisition of the reservoir
- In Parks Master Plan make recommendation for staff to estimate the cost of acquiring the reservoir and converting it into a water/natural area feature
- Determine future use for reservoir....Friends of Summit Park willing to rehabilitate area
- Designate hilltops as pedestrian links...classify/identify them as hilltop vistas

James Bay

- 3 key issues: connectivity; under use (due to safety and lack of maintenance); enhance natural elements
- No signage to parks
- Inadequate greenway connection between Ogden Point and Downtown
- Pathways in Beacon Hill Park end with no connections to other pathways
- Need crossings between Beacon Hill Park and Dallas Road
- Interpretive signage system
- Better use of Parks
- One General Plan not a bunch of individual plans like: Greenways, Harbour Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Parks Master Plan
- Determine current and future use of parks
- Add benches to parks
- Improve/develop accessibility to parks for Seniors and Disabled
- Daylight streams, restore selective environments
- Create parks with elements to attract older children/youth
- Make Irving Park safe, improve maintenance level
- Boardwalk for access to Southeast woods in Beacon Hill Park
- Increase staff resources for Southeast woods in BHP
- Fisherman's Wharf Park: install irrigation system; amend field to facilitate organized sports usage; better connection to water's edge; upgrade west end, install playlot at west end

- Recommend that Beacon Hill Park Natural Areas Management Plan formalized ie: completed & implemented
- Beacon Hill Park Management Plan be linked with Parks Master Plan
- Establish a hierarchy of plans ie: natural areas are site specific
- Beacon Hill Park establish cycling trail versus pedestrian pathways

Jubilee (North and South)

- Need more bikeways and pedestrian connectors so neighbourhood can access parks across busy roads.
- Acquire north side of Bank at Leighton currently empty lot
- Acquire Royal Jubilee Hospital land corner of Fort & Richmond
- Improve Fern Street Park – sort out ownership

North Park

- Alison will review notes from consultation

Oaklands

- Holly Green---residents and City have worked together to restore this area
- Oswald Park currently used as a cut through...needs upgrading
- More basketball courts

Rockland

- Hate their park ----Terrace Park
- Want 'Pemberton Trail' connector finished
- Like private Truth Centre – sculpture garden
- Lot on Oak Shade Lane: create bike part or natural area

Vic West

- Connectivity
- Improve bikability
- Improve walkability
- Need continuous route/pathway along water
- Connect Lime Bay Park to area west of it
- 'green' the neighbourhood---reduce car use, increase walking
- Connections between Galloping Goose and Bamfield Park
- Access to E & N Railways access
- Vic West-Galloping Goose-Bamfield-Lime Bay: increase/improve connections
- Need for North-South spine Gorge waterway to Inner Harbour....along Catherine or Russell streets

3. Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Alison made an inquiry to the Transportation Division regarding the Plan and the recommendations for Clover Point and Beacon Hill Park. Before anything is implemented it will be vetted through Gary Darrah for review.

4. School Lands

Committee Members wanted it recognized in the Parks Master Plan that for all neighbourhoods, any available School Board land that should come up for sale be considered for acquisition. Would like to see an agreement in place with the School Board that when greenspace is not being used by schools (ie: after school/evening times and summer time) that the City has use of the space.

Mention of possible grant money from Union of BC Municipalities, an “age-friendly” grant. This is a pilot project, monies available for making parks more accessible to seniors and the disabled.

5. Next meeting date: January 15, 2008 or 29th Date will depend on progress on the plan.

6. Meeting adjourned: 9:00pm