



**Parks Master Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #3
Parks Training Room
January 30, 2007 7pm**

Present: Vernon Wiebe, Dennis Seed, Helen Tremaine, Bryan Melnyk,
Lynette Hiebert, Hal Gibbard

Staff: Alison Meyer, Planner; Joe Daly, Manager – Research, Planning &
Design; Deirdre Peters, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Katia Gauvin, Larry Hutchings, Gary Darrah

1. Review of Agenda

- Agenda reviewed and accepted

2. Review and Discuss Proposed Process

- Alison reviewed the process
- **Large Public Event – March** - to generate:
 - Excitement
 - Education
 - Opens up people's minds as to what is possible
 - Visioning
 - Trends/Facts (SWOT)
 - Identifying/actions to move forward
 - Prioritize & resource allocation
- **Focused Consultation @ Community Level -April**
 - Actual habits (what parks do people visit, when, why, how do they get there?)
 - Local needs/issues/problems
 - Local successes
- **Part 3 –Survey - developed & distributed with a consultant – April**
 - Random
 - Get contact with people who don't use parks or don't typically participate
 - Data collected can be used in information booths

The Committee agreed that the proposed process was acceptable

- Committee wants to ensure that the influx/impact of tourist is taken into consideration, this could be incorporated into the March event
- What amenities do tourist look for in parks
- How do residents feel about tourists using City parks?

- The Committee questioned as to why a consultant might not be used in the consultation process with the community.....past experience has shown that most consultants do not produce great success in capturing the 'Victoria Community' and that City staff have produced better results
- Committee agreed that a baseline needs to be created – inventory of what is currently in stock
- Suggested use of Common Ground Community Mapping Organization – they will be kept in the loop.
- Ideal to have event outside but may need to be moved indoors possible suggestions were: Crystal Gardens, Victoria Lawnbowling Club

Possible Warning Flags

- Creating Focus Group...missing a representative group or group come out of the woodwork
- To avoid missing anyone make sure the word gets out: media releases, ads in newspapers, post to website, radio/talk shows, flyers distributed to apt./condo management groups
- Committee questioned if process open to anyone interested in parks or just City residents.....open to anyone
- Demographics change rapidlyhow do you capture real future needs from current users – youth and children in schools will partially capture this.
- Need to ensure that the following groups are included: youth, school groups, people of other cultures (may have different expectations of parks)
- Need to capture aging population ...grandparents bringing grandchildren to parks
- Need to ensure people of different cultures are included, this is important as the demographics of Victoria are changing.

3. Review and Discuss Agenda/Exercises for Big Event

what do we want to achieve? what info should be gathered?

- How do locals feel about tourists in the parks..how to accommodate this
- What do people get out of parks and what would they like to see in the future?
- 'Who' are the people at the event? Interests, background, origin of birth?

- **Vision of Event**

- Scheduled date March 17, 2007

- 1) Begin with a speaker approx ½ hour

- 2) Exercise – bring a story of a favorite park (pictures, brochures)

- 10-12 people in a group with map of world
- discussion facilitated by a City staff member
- create a collage
- also include what they didn't like

- 3) Vision – What City parks should look like ideally

- Social - who is using the parks
- Economic – Parks Budget

- Economic – How to acquire more land
- Vision what parks will look like in 25 yrs
- Parks designed for spirituality/contemplation
- Discuss values –now and in the future—will they change
- What types of parks: recreation, leisure, biodiversity
- How neighbourhood change will affect park Demographics
- Park acquisitions – not a great deal of available land
- Security & safety of park, amenities and users
- Balance between different types of parks—getting the right mix
- Special user groups and their specific needs ie: trails, amenities
- Are current parks use static or will a park's use change over the years
- Enticing children to parks....make them more challenging
- What did parks look like 50 yrs ago – what will they look like in 50 yrs from now
- Increase in dogs in parks?
- Community gardens – food production
- School property redevelopment
- Utilizing other City property ie: boulevards
- Tying park to development projects
- Park linkages – a system of pathways between parks
- How to deal with stewardship of heritage/historical sites
- Value of open-spaces
- Accessibility for people who face mobility challenges, as safety and emergency response
- Incorporating special events/festivals
- Incorporating volunteerism
- Having residents act as custodians/wardens of neighbourhood parks
- Addressing Social issues ie: homelessness, campers
- Will Budget for parks remain static? increase?

4. Brainstorm Trends/ Factors/etc affecting Parks over the next 50 years

(We will eventually combine/ compare this list against what people say at the March 17th event)

- “lack of “ space
- Picnic areas – used for picnics
- Family use
- Demographics
- Environmental concerns/impacts
- Social Issues
- Global warming and its effects
- Use of tidal areas as parks
- Conservation areas
- Reconstruct view of shoreline
- Affordability of park
- Dog issue
- Need for nursery development to support planting

- Strategic planning for urban forest (need for up-to-date inventory)
- Recreational trends
- Accommodate aging population
- Water conservation and impact on parks
- Issue of Public liability
- Impact/reduction of vandalism/graffiti
- Impact of commuters from outlying areas (mainland)
- Organized crime
- Impact of invasive species
- Impact of tourism -- will it increase or decrease?
- Implementing user pay system or pay parking
- Trends in urban planning

Actions to undertake to acquire land

- Monetary donations
- Bequests
- Government grants

Event should take approximately 3 hours with an ½ hour break

5. Field Trip

- February 17, 2007 9am start at Parks Yard and return to Parks Yard by 5:00 pm
- Will stop for lunch

6. Update on Public Survey

- Alison has commenced work on Requisition For Purchase for the consultant for the survey
- Please email Alison any recommendations as to who would be good consultants for the survey

7. Suggestions for our next meetings' agenda/format

- The Committee will do a trial run of some of the exercise for the March Event
- Committee members to bring with them photos, brochures, memories, etc of parks they have enjoyed around the world

8. General discussion

- Helen mentioned the upcoming workshops at UVic and possibility of having the City sponsor members attending
- Alison did not think this was within the City's policy but as the City is a co-sponsor of the event, there maybe a free spot

ACTION: Alison to inquire re: availability of free spot at workshop

9. Next meeting date:

- February 13, 2007

