



**Parks Master Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #7
Parks Training Room
March 20, 2007 7pm**

Present: Larry Hutchings, Bryan Melynk, Helen Tremaine, Lynette Hiebert,
Hal Gibbard, Councillor Pam Madoff, Vernon Wiebe

Staff: Alison Meyer, Planner; Gary Darrah, Manager, Park Development;
Lori Stewart, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Katia Gauvin

One member of the public sat in on the meeting

1. Review of Agenda

- Agenda reviewed and accepted

2. Debrief March 17th Workshop

What worked well?

- people being able to work with facilitators was highly regarded
- having upbeat and enthusiastic speakers kept tempo high and attendees interested
- format and demographics worked well and kept flow going
- pace was quick enough so there were no awkward moments or pauses-this kept everyone involved
- people were pleased that throughout the workshop they were not being led to conclusions
- children's presents were well appreciated and really set the tone for the workshop
- The various exercises brought new ideas and different concepts forward that had not been previously discussed

What didn't work well?

- presentations were quite rushed
- venue not big enough for amount of people interested in attending
- not enough tricks to get people started on ideas
- group sizes may have been too large
- not enough on the topics of natural vegetation and invasive species
- lighting issues in venue did not work well for picture taking of the event

3. Review list of people registered for March 17th Workshop

The committee felt there was a fair representation of the community however; a few key groups may have been missing. The committee listed the groups they felt were missing and discussed how they would like to go about consulting these groups.

- **Youth and children**

A special plan should be devised to reach this group. Sarah Gallsworthy (City Staff) has key contact information and could assist us in getting into the Schools.

- **Sports Groups (Ball and Tennis)**

Will be sent a special invitation and clubs will receive emails to attend group meetings. A suggestion was made that they could be consulted individually but this may be perceived by other user groups as receiving special treatment. If the sports groups do not show up to the neighborhood meetings the committee will revisit the issue.

- **Horticulturists**

- **Native Plant Society**

- **ICA**

- **Disability Groups**

- **Business Community**

Research will be done in finding the key contacts for the above groups. We will email and advise these groups of the neighbourhood meetings.

4. Begin developing principles/goals/objectives for the Parks Master Plan

The committee discussed what their interpretation of the terms were and agreed on the following:

- **Principle**

A doctrine; a code of conduct; the foundation that guides your actions.

- **Goals**

What you want to achieve. A measurable outcome. Actions/strategies.

Objectives are typically subsets of goals. The committee had some discussion as to whether objectives were really necessary or would strategies matched with actions be more

Following are a number of ideas conveyed by the committee as important factors to be considered as principles for plan.

- Making best sustainable use of what we have
- Developing a sustainable and accessible park system that recognizes and responds to community needs
- Respond and plan for future demographics
- Strive to create an inter connective park way system
- To promote an active and healthy population
- Include ecological integrity in our park systems
- To devise a complimentary regional infrastructure (link) in preservation/enhancement of local native habitats and their flora and fauna
- Accommodating shared uses respectively while sustaining resources
- Capturing every opportunity for public/green spaces and strive for something beyond traditional park systems

- Continuing beautification throughout the City of Victoria
- Preservation of capital and operating funds to sustain parks
- Bring back natural aspects of Parks (streams/groves)
- Provide tools and facilities for education within the Parks system
- Prioritizing methods
- Maintain existing land, prioritization for acquisition of park land
- Maintain or increase percentage of green space
- Manage urban forest with emphasis on perpetuation of native species that are at risk and native to the area
- Parks to support health of City and healthy experience
- Free access to parks and trails (different from sports facilities)
- Make sure there is a range of activities within the system
- Parks Master Plan be responsive to trends
- Review, monitor and check processes
- Ensure the consideration for individual Park management plans
- Public safety and accessibility
- Focus on building more balanced and evenly distributed parkland in each of the neighborhoods (equity)
- Keep up to growth in the City of Victoria review OCP principles as a guideline
- Celebrate water as an aspect included within the plan

Following are a number of ideas conveyed by the committee as important factors to be considered as goals for the plan.

- Provide a long term framework for the development and management of a system of Parks that meets the diverse needs of community residents
- A street and park system that give order and linkages internally to the region
- Identify key acquisitions (eg: schools), to expand park inventory
- Ensure that the plan responds to trends and factors affecting parks
- Acquire a detailed baseline and inventory of current park land. This will assist us in knowing what we currently have and what we need, and help us devise a plan how we will acquire it
- Identify geological land forms
- Ensure each of the public spaces make considerations regarding accessibility, comfort, activities and sociability
- Preservation of natural and physical attributes of each green space
- Define a goal that identifies gaps and address needs
- Develop more community ownership (stewardship)
- Research history of parks
- Ensure the status of each Park is clear and definite (define which parks are designated)
- Define what permitted uses of individual parks are – review the Park classification system
- Identify potential contributors to Parks
- Define use of Parks for economic benefit
- Keeping Parks in the Public realm

- Plan for climate change and invasive species within the Park system

5. Update and Discussion Regarding Neighborhood Level Consultation

Alison gave an update on the status of arranging these meetings. She has phoned a contact in each association and has discussed the possibility of grouping neighbourhoods together to make the number of meetings more manageable. The community association representatives have been very receptive and flexible towards this idea. The Committee discussed whether Fairfield and James Bay should have a joint meeting and if they did would Rockland and Gonzales join in that meeting or meet separately. It was felt that there may be some benefit of having a meeting with James Bay, Fairfield, Rockland and Gonzales, however it may also be too large of a grouping. Alison will check in with representatives in the community and make whatever arrangements work best. The Committee had a brainstorming session regarding the types of questions that should be explored at these meetings:

- Use aerial photographs of Parks to define use of space
- Finding problems, successes and gaps
- Asking people what the classification of the Park should be
- Identify conflicts that may arise
- Ask how the neighborhood feels in terms of demographics
- Is there enough green space in the community
- Challenges the neighborhood may face
- How the neighborhood would like to be involved in stewardship of parks
- Identify Safety issues
- Identify current usage and successes
- Identify barriers or needs that have not been met
- Define the special places or sacred spaces within the community

6. Update on random survey – RFP for consultant

- A request for proposal has been written. It is currently with the City's Purchasing Department. Hopefully it will go out soon.

7. Next meeting date: April 3rd

- Hopefully some of the data will have been transcribed and sorted prior to the meeting. Alison will e-mail it out as she receives it.