



**Parks Master Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #8
Parks Training Room
April 3, 2007 @ 7pm**

Present: Larry Hutchings, Helen Tremaine, Lynette Hiebert,
Hal Gibbard, Councillor Pam Madoff, Vernon Wiebe, Dennis Seed, Katia
Gauvin

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

Regrets: Bryan Melynk

One member of the Public sat in on the meeting

1. Review of Agenda

- Agenda reviewed and accepted

2. Debrief March 17th Workshop

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Begin to review some of the transcribed comments from the March 17th workshop
- Advance work on the Parks Master Plan's principles
- Further discuss neighborhood level meetings and other forms of consultation
- Set up interdisciplinary committee, all areas of the City ie; Finance, Engineering, Fire, Parks, will all help when initiatives take place
- Discuss future meeting dates, cancel some meetings due to community center consultations

3. March 17th Workshop – Emerging Trends/Themes

- Natural habitat/natural space/environment, committee members are worried that this may be interpreted as all park areas need to be preserved. The committee needs to be clear on:
 - Terminology
 - Areas that should be dedicated as natural areas and be clear about the term “natural”
 - Need to identify indigenous areas where important
 - When we need to replace or replant (consider indigenous species)
 - Food production needs to be kept in mind
 - Safety- walkways/bike paths
 - Socializing
 - Natural areas (small wild areas)
 - Interconnectiveness (local and regional)
 - Sports fields
 - Accessibility (see greenway plan definition for accessibility) proximity), public transport

- Surprise/exploration
- Dog infrequently mentioned

4. Review first draft of principles

1. The committee agreed the Parks Master Plan Principles should start with a mission statement to include and balance all social, environmental, and cultural significance. The statement should be universally age inclusive from children to seniors.
 - Parks shall accommodate community needs. A range of uses and user groups respond to community needs where appropriate.
 - Parks will be developed and managed using practices which support and restore natural ecosystems. Not all parks are natural. Species and ecosystems that are at risk (as defined by current legislation will be preserved and enhanced.
 - Parks shall be easy to get to and linked by a series of greenways or other routes that are friendly for pedestrian and non-motorized rolling traffic and be in close proximity for neighborhood communities.
 - Parks shall meet a minimum standard throughout the City based on the standard of a measurement of distance or an amount of time it should take to walk to the park. This standard shall be reflected in the Official Community Plan proportioned to population. Each neighborhood would have a minimum standard regarding acquisition of green space and development and include public space in the calculation.
 - The allocation of resources for parks shall consider all and be prioritized on the basis of : protect, maintain and enhance existing park space (main principle for future acquisitions); on a case by case basis, acquire and develop park land in areas of the city where there are deficiencies; and take advantage of unique acquisition opportunities.
 - Park design will include in no particular order:
 - Promote personal and public safety
 - Promote healthy lifestyles
 - Support a range of uses
 - Celebrate water
 - Incorporate the elements of mystery and surprise
 - Respect/celebrate/include the needs of children
 - Maintain and enhance natural ecosystems
 - Keep up current and innovative design
 - Include energy saving measures
 - Involve environmental planning
 - Be responsive to community needs
 - Capture non traditional opportunities ie: boulevards/greenways to provide magical/special public open spaces that are outside the “official parks system and recognize the importance that these public open spaces play in animating daily life and providing much needed open/green space for visitors and residents.
 - Provide educational opportunities and interpretative and directional signage highlighting areas of cultural, historical and natural significance.
 - Develop partnerships (funding, stewardship, sponsorship) to ensure the ongoing maintenance and improvement of Victoria’s Park System. When considering volunteers, be clear of rules and regulations in regards to Union Policy.

- During its' implementation, the plan will be dynamic and will respond to emerging trends and demographic shifts through routine monitoring ie: establish a regulated review system.
 - Test what has been done so far in regards to children/youth principle.
 - Find resources to acquire more money for parks.
- 5. Children and youth groups will be consulted, Cornelia and volunteers will present a proposal to the committee for approval.**
 - 6. Neighborhood Level Consultation will group Rockland and Gonzales together, and James Bay and Fairfield together.**
 - 7. Alison will check with the purchasing Department regarding the update on the random survey – RFP consultant.**
 - 8.. Next meeting date: April 17th – Discuss Community Consultation**