



**Public Meeting of Council  
Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 7:00 PM  
MacKenzie Theatre – Grafton and University Avenue**

**Mayor Clifford Lee presiding**

**Present:**      **Deputy Mayor Stu MacFadyen**      **Councillor Melissa Hilton**  
                         **Councillor Cecil Villard**                              **Councillor Terry Bernard**  
                         **Councillor Mitchell Tweel**                              **Councillor Jason Coady**  
                         **Councillor Edward Rice**                                      **Councillor Rob Lantz**  
                         **Councillor Danny Redmond**

**Also:**            **Sue Fraser, PRM**                                      **Nancy McMinn, PS**  
                         **Frank Quinn, PC**                                      **Beth Hoar, PLC**  
                         **Todd Saunders, HO**                                      **Jill Robertson – Ekistics (Presenter)**

**Regrets:**        **Councillor David MacDonald**                      **Roy Main, CAO**  
                         **Donna Waddell, DCS**

**1.      Presentation of the Final Draft of the Comprehensive Plan for Victoria Park**

Sue Fraser, Manager of Parks and Recreation welcomed members of the public to the meeting and acknowledged the Mayor and Councillors in attendance as well as MLA Richard Brown and members of the Plan's Steering Committee.

The PRM thanked the public for the high level of interest in the Plan development to date and stated that the input received through interviews, workshops, the online survey and one on one conversations have formed the foundation for the document they are about to have presented to them. She reported that the process will allow further input on this draft before the final document is presented to Council for adoption. She then introduced Jill Robertson who is the Project Lead and Director of Planning and Landscape Architecture with Ekistics.

Jill Robertson took the floor and gave an overview of the process to date and then presented the Comprehensive Plan in its final draft form.

The PRM then opened the floor to questions. (Comments provided not verbatim)

Councillor Rob Lantz congratulated Jill on a great presentation and stated that he really liked the plan, with a focus on high quality design and that implementation of the plan needs to demonstrate the order of precedence this has as a premium park property.

Janice Harper stated that she also thought it was a great plan and asked about connectivity and using the existing parking lot at the Provincial Government buildings for offsite parking.

Jill reiterated that the plan is to encourage people to walk and that the entrance off Terry Fox Drive will be reconfigured to make that entry point look more like a park entrance and less like a street connector.

Kirsten O'Connor raised a questions concerning the National Historic Site and Jill clarified that it would require an application process for proper designation and that the purpose is to weave the historical and cultural significance into the balance of active and passive uses.

Jennifer Keenan inquired about lights in trees, a checkerboard and lawn bowling area. She expressed concern about ball field decommissioning and that area could also be used for ultimate Frisbee and soccer. She further expressed the need for a hard surface requirement for skaters and bikers, the need for more not less parking, the garden area should be a barbequing area (too shady for gardening) and that the dog owners have not been considered at all and a dog park is needed.

Jill responded to each item stating that the ball diamond decommissioning will only be if the demographic shift is such that a field for minor ball is no longer needed or if there is another location found as a replacement venue. She added that it is too small for ultimate Frisbee and soccer. She advised that the boardwalk can be used for skaters and cyclists as is the case in other jurisdictions. Parking lots should never be added to a park design for event purposes. She added that sharing with the Province is key to advancing event type functions. The garden location is in fact a sunny area and is suitable for such a use but a barbecue area could also be considered at that site. Tree lighting could be considered in management plan as well. The dog park idea was considered but that there was about a 50/50 split on dogs being off leash in the park so it is not being recommended for this property. The City is looking at alternatives for dogs off leash for other city parks.

Jennifer Keenan reiterated that there is no allowance for dogs in this plan and dog owners are a significant user group. This needs to be addressed in the next two to five years in this plan.

Jill responded that there is a community need but it is not suggested at this site due to the number of people who are opposed to dogs being off leash.

Councillor Tweel raised a question regarding the pottery studio displacement and if another suitable location in Victoria Park could be found. He also asked about the cost implications for a multi model path.

Jill responded that the potters have stated that the current building does not meet their physical needs and the plan is suggesting that they, over the course of time, find a better space with

respect to their needs but another location in the park is not recommended in this plan. With respect to the multi model path, cost estimates will be directly connected to the conversion decisions when the boardwalk has reached its lifecycle expectancy so the boardwalk would be getting replaced anyway and the conversion to multi model could happen then. The type of surface would also impact the overall cost implications as well (asphalt vs. boardwalk.)

Councillor Tweel also inquired about the ball field conversion to an ecological area and expressed concern about the movement of families to the downtown and ensuring they have the amenities they need.

Jill responded that it is a matter of balance and there are a lot of amenities for children in Victoria Park now and that would not change. The park design is intended to be multigenerational but keeping in mind that Victoria Park cannot be everything to everyone.

Barb McDonald stated that the plan is great but that she is very unhappy that the potters are not being considered in the long term plan; as the members are happy in their space and want to see it expanded. She noted that they were part of the focus group discussions and the potters do not want to relocate.

Jill reiterated that in the long term it is not desirable to expand that space for that purpose and the space needs to be a more public venue.

Ms McDonald emphasized that blending arts with nature is important and that there should be more emphasis on the arts in the overall plan.

Jill responded that there are many divergent values and it is important to establish the best balance possible.

Brian Gillis stated that he has been a resident of this area for the past 30 years and he congratulated Mayor and Council and the Steering Committee for their leadership and big picture thinking. He also thanked Jill for a great presentation of the plan and for making the connection between input and what the plan ultimately presents. He added that it would be nice to see more story telling on the history component of the park with the Samuel Holland ties and Fort Edward. He noted that one missing element would be the Brighton Road access with a visible pedestrian connector on the map entering into the park rather than walking down Brighton Road to get to the park. He noted that the roundabout type entry in the park might be effective and deemphasizing the asphalt was important. He stated that it will be important to emphasize that Prince Edward Home Lands stay in the public domain.

Jill stated that she will add that connector from Brighton to the Park.

Stella Newman stated that it was a great presentation and asked about the Dairy Bar parking area and the parking by the Cannons.

Jill emphasized that both of those parking areas exist, the dairy bar one has just been moved further west of the dairy bar instead of out front.

Danny Jenkins spoke about the area south of the pool which is extensively used for picnicking and expressed concern if that was to be the new location for the skate park.

Jill noted that play area consolidation would be required so there would still be lots of open space remaining.

Mr. Jenkins also expressed concern for two way traffic being reintroduced.

Jill stated that it is a safety decision and there is much better functionality associated with a multi model trail based on the Active Transportation literature.

Mr. Jenkins asked about the feedback on the two way lane and Jill stated that it was mixed on the dedicated lane for cycling but stated that because it comes to a dead end, it is not really functional. She added that there are two types of cyclists, the ones who would behave like a vehicle anyway so are going to be on the road and the ones who are the Mom and Dad with the kids demographic and they are much safer on the multi model.

Mr. Jenkins reiterated that he does not think the two way traffic is necessary or wanted.

Jill responded that we would be deemphasizing the road as a road way or thoroughfare and that it would be redesigned to have an internal road distinction.

Councillor Tweel asked about provisions for event requests and if there would be policies and procedures in place in this plan to decide upon events like the National Folk Festival.

Jill advised that there would be work done on the current bylaw so that a framework could be considered for determining what constitutes a large scale event and how that would be managed operationally.

The PRM thanked everyone for their attendance and advised that the Plan will be on the City's website for full review for the next few weeks and a survey for people to complete, if interested, will be included.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.**