

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Held at City of Penticton Committee Room A
171 Main Street, Penticton, B.C.

Wednesday, January 18, 2017
at 2:00 p.m.

- Present:** Andrew Jakubeit, Mayor
Judy Sentes, Councillor
Ron Ramsay, Chair
James Palanio, Vice-Chair
Doug Gorcak, Penticton School District 67 Representative
Ezra Cremers, Organized Field Sport Representative
Barb Hoolaeff, Special Event Group Representative
Adolf Steffen, Development Community Representative
Sharon Devlin, Member at Large
Peter Dooling, Member at Large
Gary Denton, Member at Large
- Staff:** Peter Weeber, CAO
Jeff Lynka, Parks Supervisor
Lori Mullin, Recreation & Culture Manager
Blake Laven, Planning Manager
Lorraine Williston, Corporate Committee Secretary
- Guest:** Catherine Berris, Urban Systems Consultant (via conference call)

1. Call to Order

The Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee was called to order by the Chair at 2:02 p.m. The Chair introduced and welcomed the City of Penticton's newly hired CAO.

2. Adoption of Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee adopt the agenda for the meeting held on January 18, 2017 as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Adoption of Minutes

- 3.1 Minutes of the December 14, 2016 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Peter Dooling spoke to the addendum added to the minutes stating it is for your information only and its purpose is to answer and explain the questions that were raised from his submission (Item 4.4) more thoroughly.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee adopt the minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Business Arising from Prior Meetings

4.1 Urban Systems Update

The Urban Systems consultant reviewed the responses received from the master plan survey noting only a small percentage of the responses commented on the master plan. The consultant stated she is looking for direction from the committee on what changes should be made to the master plan based on the responses received. Discussion and questions followed. Peter Dooling asked the Urban Systems consultant to explain the use of the words 'commercial' and 'concession' in the master plan and stated this committee needs to make the distinction between commercial vs. concession and should be noted in the master plan.

James Palanio arrived at the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Gary Denton stated the committee still needs to define the definitions and referred to the Chair's recommended list.

Peter Weeber left the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

Proposed Draft 1 Revisions

The Urban Systems consultant presented and reviewed the proposed revisions to the master plan. Revisions to be made to the master plan were discussed and noted as follows:

Commercial Use Section

- Revise wording in Executive Summary;
- Add table from the Steering Committee on what types of commercial use are considered acceptable in each park;
- Keep the recommendation for a commercial use policy;
- Add recommendation to amend zoning bylaws.

Natural Areas and Oxbows

- Add more about the importance of the natural environment in parks and ways of protecting these areas.

Outdoor Artificial Turf Field

- Recommendation that this be considered as part of the review of the Sports Field Strategy, noting Pen-Hi as a potential location and suggesting the need for a business case to support an artificial turf field. Discussion followed on the need for a business case and a suggestion was made to change 'business case' to 'feasibility study'.

Biking

- Need to put more emphasis on all types of biking, including mountain biking and its importance in the community.

Pay Parking

- Add information about the history and decisions related to pay parking in parks and at recreation sites including a notation that user fee revenues go towards amenities and maintenance costs associated for the parks.

Discussion followed zoned parkland being used for parking lots and it was suggested the committee look at the pros and cons of paid parking and what should be included in the master plan about this subject.

Blake Laven left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Youth Centre

- More commentary added and a recommendation related to a youth centre.

The Recreation & Culture Manager informed the committee of the Youth Wellness Centre initiative that is underway in Penticton and more information on this initiative will be added in the master plan. The group behind this initiative has requested to be a delegation at a future meeting. The Chair stated the committee will endeavor to accommodate their request.

Hockey

- Remove reference to "hockey town".

Discussion followed on this point and if this term should be included in the master plan. Concerns were raised over specifying certain sports e.g. soccer vs. hockey. It was noted Penticton is known for its hockey history however the master plan should not focus on one specific thing. It was suggested that certain sports could be highlighted, leveraged and celebrated. We should also be asking the question of why people visit Penticton and if tax payers' money is being allocated towards what they want (i.e. more green space). The Urban Systems consultant suggested a feasibility study could be done to answer some of these questions.

Soccer

- Add more numbers on participation in and economic impacts of soccer, if that information is available.

Discussion followed and staff confirmed they are working on gathering additional information. The question was asked why information on a select number of sports is being collected and why are we not looking at the top reason of why people visit Penticton. The Urban Systems consultant stated as much information as possible will be included for other sports. This list includes only the revisions that are being proposed.

Lawn Bowling

- Add more on trends in the activity and a recommendation that the City will provide the land if the club will pay for the improvements.

The Parks Supervisor noted that the City has not made any decision yet and the wording of 'will' be changed to 'consider'.

Culture

- Note the intentional exclusion of culture in this document, and how the City is dealing with culture (e.g., Culture Study done previously, not a priority for this plan)

3 Mile Beach

- add clarification to text and recommendations

Additional Feedback from Steering Committee on Draft 1

The Chair stated he would like to see a recommendation included for Campbell Mountain and the Esplanade (that includes the marina, tennis courts and beach area) recommending a master plan be developed for these two areas. The Urban Systems consultant noted the recommendation for Campbell Mountain is already included in the draft master plan however the wording can be changed for clarification. The Parks Supervisor stated that until an agreement is in place with the Province for Campbell Mountain, a plan cannot be established. The Mayor stated that Council has already instructed staff to start the process once Campbell Mountain is under our tenure to start engaging the community to determine what uses would be appropriate and acceptable. As for the Esplanade, the Urban Systems consultant noted the two areas (being the upper park and the marina, tennis courts and beach area) can be separated or combined as each have very different issues and could be separate processes. In the master plan, the upper Esplanade section is referenced in the Parks section and the lower part is in the Beach section. The Mayor stated the master plan can reference that the two pieces are side by side but aren't necessarily married together. The Chair stated the Esplanade needs more clarification in the report. The Urban Systems consultant suggested that the committee review that section and provide feedback to staff for any potential changes. Peter Dooling stated we need to define what is publically owned and then look at a basic policy for the Esplanade.

Judy Sentes left the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

The Chair stated he does not feel there is enough verbiage in the master plan to protect the natural areas. All natural areas within our boundaries should be left unencumbered and untouched which includes the two creeks, hobo beach and oxbow lakes. There should be no intervention in these areas and it needs to be emphasized. By consensus, the committee was in agreement. Discussion and questions followed on whether maintaining certain areas for accessibility would be acceptable or not. The Chair stated untouched natural areas should be left alone. The Parks Supervisor stated staff are working on updating their environmentally sensitive inventory and best management practice for those areas and there is a recommendation in the master plan. Peter Dooling stated the prime focus is to preserve and protect.

The Chair stated that tennis issues were not addressed properly in the draft. There was significant community input regarding the uncertainty and lack of tennis facilities, much more than some other sports and activities. Tennis advocates have indicated that they may consider self-funding for new facilities if such facilities would be approved by the city.

Peter Dooling brought forth concerns of the timeline and definition of the terms, specifically what is a public park and the use of the word unencumbered. The definition of a public park was adopted by this committee and it should be inserted into draft 2 of the master plan. There is also no real commitment on the issue of connectivity of the trails system in the City and it needs to be addressed. With respect to the vision of the parkway tying the two lakes

together via the river channel, this is an important vision and this committee needs to gather a vision and push it in this plan so that community groups can get behind it.

Next Steps

The Urban Systems consultant stated the next open house can be held either before spring break or after. They will also be converting the master plan into a more graphic/better layout format and suggested this should be done before going to the public, however once the graphic version is completed you will not be able to move any sections around and only wording can be changed. Discussion followed on whether to present a full graphic version of the master plan or leave it in the current format. Some members felt it would be better to provide the graphic version for the second draft of the master plan to be able to help people visualize how it could look.

Discussion followed on the timeline and concerns were raised that the deadline of April 2017 to complete the master plan process will not be achievable as there are still too many issues to deal with. Suggestions to meet that deadline included increasing the number of meetings, creating sub-committees to deal with certain issues and limiting meeting agendas to a specific matter to discuss and finalize. The Chair asked the committee to submit suggestions and recommendations for the next steps in writing to the committee secretary as soon as possible. The Mayor suggested that the Chair meet with staff to review the suggestions and recommendations and come up with a strategic meeting schedule for specific topics and timeline.

Blake Laven arrived at the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

The Recreation & Culture Manager suggested that everyone send the Committee Secretary all the hot topics they want discussed. The Chair agreed to meet with staff to work out a plan.

5. New Business

5.2 City of Penticton Tree Protection Bylaw (2001-26)

Ezra Cremers left the meeting at 4:22p.m.

Gary Denton asked staff for clarification of its Tree Protection Bylaw specifically regarding whether the City is exempt from its own bylaw.

The Planning Manager stated the bylaw's intent is to protect trees located on City property, noting if a property owner illegally removes a tree that is adjacent to their property, in a lane or boulevard as an example. The City's Public Works department is exempt from this bylaw and does allow for the Parks Supervisor to oversee the removal of trees when required. When a tree is removed, there is a concession to replace those trees. Discussion and questions followed. Questions were raised over the removal of trees for the waterslide and Adolf Steffen stated a proper plan and approvals by the right people should be in place before any deals are made. Concerns were raised over the bylaw and the lack of protection of trees with respect to commercial development in a park and it was suggested a recommendation be included in the master plan.

4. Business Arising from Prior Meetings – Continued

4.2. Definitions Discussion

The Chair provided a list of proposed Park Classifications.

Barb left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

The Chair reviewed each park classification as attached to these minutes. The Chair suggested each park be specifically zoned with defined uses which would include a community engagement process/protocol. The Mayor stated when a commercial use policy is being developed, zoning changes can be included to define specific uses. Discussion and questions followed on how to implement classifications to zoning and permitted uses. The Planning Manager stated once descriptions and uses are determined for the classifications, staff will create the zones and noted that existing park zones can be changed. The Director of Development Services offered to attend a small workshop on zoning definitions. The Chair stated this should be set up as soon as possible.

5. New Business - Continued

5.1 Notice of Motion

The Chair brought forth the following motion for discussion:

That the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee recommends that Penticton City Council form a Parks Board. The mandate of this board is to review and approve all changes proposed to defined park areas including recommendations contained in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Discussion followed on the motion. The Committee Secretary explained that under our Community Charter, Council can only establish an advisory, select or standing committee. The Mayor suggested this committee include a recommendation in the master plan for the establishment of a standing parks committee. Concerns were expressed as to this being premature. The Chair noted with Council reviewing committees in February, the timing is appropriate for this motion.

Blake Laven left the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

The Mayor stated there has been a significant amount of time and resources invested to develop a master plan and an advisory committee will be formed to deal with the recommendations in the plan.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee recommends:

THAT Penticton City Council form a Parks Board. The mandate of this board is to review and approve all changes proposed to defined park areas including recommendations contained in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

DEFEATED

Sharon Devlin, Adolf Steffen, James Palanio and Doug Gorcak, Opposed

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee to be determined. A zoning workshop to be scheduled. Committee members were requested to forward any outstanding issues with the master plan to the Committee Secretary.

7. Adjournment

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**

THAT the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified Correct:



Lorraine Williston
Corporate Committee Secretary

