

H.A.A.A. Grounds Master Plan Public/Community Meeting

- Date:** Thursday, June 14, 2018
- Time:** 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Location:** St. Joseph's Parish Church, 260 Herkimer Street, Hamilton
- Attendees:** Approximately 50 members of the public.
Lawrence Stasiuk, Supervisor, Landscape Architectural Services
Wes Kindree, Project Manager, Landscape Architectural Services
Marianne Mokrycke, Lead Consultant, OMC Landscape Architecture
Patty Lynes, Landscape Architect, Gradina Design

Purpose: *To obtain public input on the use of the park facilities and improvements they would like to see in the future.*

Prior to the presentation, Public Display Panels of existing conditions and history of the site prepared by the consultant were on display for public view as people arrived. Consultants and staff on hand to explain the purpose of the project.

General comments included the following:

- Consider permeable paving
- Washroom needed
- Lights are o.k.
- Parking issues in neighbourhood
- Field use-Practice three times (3x) a week
- Flower-good; The nicest park
- Park-is too busy
- Spray pay is old and not good
- Park uses- Basketball? Consider Skateboard –nothing in the area
- Park needs good waste management; recycling
- Keep park green
- No condos (3x) people asked if condos where being built on the site.

Presentation

Wes Kindree, Project Manager, City of Hamilton, introduced the project and consultant team and thanked the public for attending the first public information meeting.

Marianne Mokrycke, Consultant, OMC Landscape Architecture, explained the purpose of the project, described the park's existing conditions and brief history of the site. A number of photos of the existing park and a park plan were presented.

The presentation described the current issues at the park such as field drainage, age of play equipment, and accessibility issues.

Following the presentation, the public were asked for input on park use, issues and opportunities.

Please note that these minutes are as close to an accurate representation of the evening's session. Some questions and/or responses may be paraphrased below due their length and process of recording the minutes.

1. Question: *What is the budget and timeline of the project?*

Response: The Park Master Plan will be developed in 2018. The master plan will be developed first, and the preliminary budget created second to reflect the improvements included in the completed Master Plan.

2. Question: *What is the strategy for engaging the younger community?*

Response: Currently we have not scheduled any youth engagement in terms of the Master Plan phase. We'd be very happy to hear your ideas for engaging youth in the process

3. Question: *\$40-\$50,000 area rating has been set aside for H.A.A.A.?*

Response: Yes, that money is still being used for this park / process.

4. Question: *Young parents need washrooms.*

Response: The existing building has public washrooms that are open until 9 p.m.

NOTE: A number of guests indicated they were unaware of the public washrooms in the park. A few guests indicated the washrooms were in poor condition.

General Discussion Issues/Comments

- Park is maintained nicely.
- Feel park isn't as deteriorated as presented.
- Flowers-look good.
- Concern the focus of the plan will be on football with bleachers.

- Lights shine on residents.
- Concern to make it better; who to make it better for

5. **Question:** *Converting the existing asphalt court back to a parking lot. What are our plans to alleviate the parking issue that Charlton currently has.*

Wes, City Staff: *The asphalt area that is used for basketball was originally used for snow storage. City is looking at Ryerson Recreation Centre for additional parking opportunities as we are not looking to convert any current park space into additional parking areas or spots.*

Parking Discussion

Concern there is an over programming of football; no provision for parking during these times and

- Burden of parking along Charlton.
- How are we addressing the parking issue?
- Convert basketball courts to parking area?
- Multiple times a week, it's chaotic in terms of parking.
- Ryerson Recreation Centre parking lot is often full.
- Discussion on parking pressure-due to the parks permitted football (Hamilton Hurricanes)
- Don't think parking (as suggested where basketball court is located) will work; will be used by neighborhood/won't solve the issue.
- There are already parking pressures from Locke Street
- Discuss open connections and looking at Ryerson Recreation Centre for additional parking.

Basketball Court Discussion.

- Basketball use at midnight-3am 'noise issue'.
- Basketball is a wonderful opportunity for amenity space for teenagers-older kids (i.e. Toronto Coffey park, hub-precedent).
- Consider relocation of basketball.
- Basketball court is rarely used; most use is after 11 pm and noise reverberates throughout neighbourhood.
- Bring it up to good standards and must enforce by-law for hours of park use.
- Fencing along West side of park. Edge boundary is deplorable.
- More or better lighting.
- Field lights are on late (beyond park's operating hours).

Wes Kindree inquired with guests as to what time the lights were going off and multiple responses were provided with most noting a time outside the park's operational hours. We will reach out to parks operations regarding the scheduling in the short term and will address this on a long term level through

the MP. Sport lighting should only be on during the recreational permitted user groups use of the field (Tue, Wed and Thurs.)

Security at the Park

- No security in the park.
- Security patrol would be good addition.

General Comments

- Beautiful park. Maintain what is there now.
- Basketball not used. Make that space more useful and attractive.
- Ryerson basketball net/hoop is used a lot.
- Park is functioning very well right now; don't impose a plan when what is currently there works very well right now.
- Wonderful park. Park in pretty good shape.
- The play equipment and splash pad have had some pieces replaced recently (2017).
- Play and spray - don't think it needs much.
- Don't want to see the park torn up at one time as to not have a park for the year.
- Park is a jewel.
- Ryerson Recreation parking is filled every day.

6. Question: *Is there any heritage designation – restrictions to development?*

Response: Track/infield amenity is key part of Cultural Heritage landscape and will remain.

Wes, City Staff: Track meets are not held here now, not a regulation track. (square)

7. Question: *Could public art be incorporated; something that could blend historic beauty and contemporary?*

Response: City staff will share this comment with the Program Manager Public Art & Projects, City of Hamilton as the City has a Public Art Master Plan in place.

8. Question: *Is there any heritage designation –restrictions to development.*

Response Consulting Team: H.A.A.A. grounds and building are identified as a Cultural Heritage Landscape in the Urban Official Plan. The property does not have any status on the Municipal Heritage Register as a Cultural Heritage assessment has not been completed as of yet. We will be taking the sites cultural heritage value into account during our MP process with the track and field being the features with the most heritage value.

General Comments

- Grass berms are used every night, kids like the berms.
- 22 years ago, basketball was a full court. The City moved the 2 basketball backstops side by side.

- Don't lose sight of this park is for all to use.
- Lots of people in apartment use the park.
- Water fountain would be good.
- Bench under trees is a quiet space.

9. **Question:** *Existing trees, concern we are going to remove trees. New trees take years to provide shade.*

Response, Consulting Team: An Arborist will be assessing the condition of the existing trees. We will be keeping the park green. Our intentions are not to remove any healthy existing trees, but the Arborist report will provide a professional opinion on the current health of existing trees.

Hamilton Hurricanes Football Club

- Hamilton Hurricanes parking more of an issue now than in the 80's when it was not an issue. Have permission to park at Ryerson Recreation Centre. Practice Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night from 7-9pm, until November. Right now, 3 times a week split the field; 2 teams per night. 70-80 kids/coaches, staff and trainer.
- Natural turf used for practice field. League play must play on artificial turf. Teams come from great distances and condition of field must be dependable
- H.A.A.A. field not available till June 1 for Hurricanes, due to poor drainage and field saturation.
- Organizational soccer teams have been using this field, but they do not have a permit to do so.
- Creates issue with condition of the field for football. Drainage and natural turf issues. If turf is damaged, Hurricanes need to pay to practice at Tim Hortons field.
- Hurricanes started in 1963. Canadian junior football level. Program is for talented football player to be recognized. Team folded in 1994. 2008 fundraised held to get the team back.
- Hamilton Hurricanes Have always played on H.A.A.A. grounds. They feel HAAA is deeply part of their heritage as well.
- Hamilton Hurricanes recently received a permit to allow parking on HWDSB lands.
- Ryerson Recreation Centre parking lot is also used by the tennis club.
- Consider coordinating, what is going on at the Recreation Centre the same nights.

General Comments Provided:

- Drainage issues of the existing field

Wes, City Staff: There is grading issues with the current field as well as lack of subdrainage system to help drain surface water. The field is also clay based and has (1) single catchbasin at the north east corner which is inadequate.

- Opportunity for basketball court; provide wide range of uses for all ages.
- The park's Cultural Heritage is strong.
- Entrance to park at Duke Street is poor.
- 'If it's not broke, don't fix it' (in reference to park walkways and entrances).
- Didn't realize washroom was open.
- Building could be an amenity; coffee shop amenity one idea.
- No impact of trees.
- Berms - everyone wants them to stay.
- Building-not including the use-seems a missed opportunity.
- Open charrette would be an opportunity to consider building/park/uses; bring in more stakeholder.
- Pearl Street cycling potential issue. Concern about circulation from Kent into park, around building.
- Crosswalks are a hazard; squeezed; not safe on a bike.
- Consider ways to do better bike circulation.
- Benches in good locations.
- Concern was raised regarding notification. Some people were not notified about this PIC

Wes, City Staff: The City reached out to the community via the Councillor's office, City Social Media, Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association, Durand Neighbourhood Association, door to door flyer delivery, Ryerson and St. Joseph's Parish community boards and posted a poster at HAA park. We will review our circulation methods before the next meeting to ensure the message is out there. We will also touch base via email for those that submitted contact information.

- More public input needed. Facebook, better notification, neighbourhood groups participation.
- Concern that we will be jumping ahead on design without public working session.

Response Consulting Team: The Intent of the first PIC to gather input from the public. Second Public information Centre will be a working session where the consultants will provide visuals (precedents) for the public to respond to. It is an interactive process.

- Summer students could talk to people in the park directly.
- Have the Hurricanes approached St. Joe's for parking?

Q&A session was completed, and remaining guests were encouraged to provide further comments on the boards and aerial imagery via sticky notes.

PIC completed at 8:30 p.m.