

APPENDIX IV

CENTRAL PARK INPUT

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Summary of Central Park Stakeholder Interviews and Community Consultation

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The following summarizes the results of the stakeholder interviews and community consultation work that took place thus far in the study process.

1. Staff focus group with 8 city staff on March 28th, 2000;
2. Interviews with 23 key informants, councilors, stakeholders on April 3rd and 4th, 2000;
3. Public meeting / workshops held on May 11th (8-10 participants) and May 16th, 2000 (approximately 40 participants);

Key themes emerging from the consultation program are outlined below:

Overall Conceptual Issues

- Maintain the city-wide and community appeal and diverse range of recreation, education and cultural activities and facilities;
- Maintain and improve the campus and the park setting;
- Need to balance the expansion of facilities with the amount of green space;
- Address the overall lack of cohesion among the various facilities and park areas;
- Continue to provide open space relief from the surrounding urban areas;
- Address the park circulation problems.

Park Identity

- Strengthen the overall identity of the park as well as the individual identity of each facility within the park;
- Enhance the user experience of the park – currently confusing and congested;
- Identify and enhance more passive and active open space that is accessible and useable for people;
- Need to improve the synergies among the facilities and activities, indoor and outdoor uses, evening and daytime, etc.

Circulation

- Parking lots appear to be at capacity at many times;
- Road system needs improvement – confusing one-way / two-way lack of interconnection throughout park, safety issues, etc;
- Parking lots are dedicated to each facility – need for overflow when busy;
- Bus and service vehicle accessibility needs to be improved;
- Pedestrian walks are not always safe due to traffic and personal safety issues;
- Poor pedestrian links among existing facilities and into park areas.

Facilities

- Some facilities (buildings and sports fields) are aging and need to be updated;
- Improve the physical inter-relationships among buildings, facilities, roads, parking and pedestrian systems;
- Consider additional facilities to widen appeal for children, teens and families;
- Improvements needed to site amenities including washrooms, lighting, drainage, etc;
- Upgrade quality of sports facilities.

Management

- Need to improve site and landscape maintenance;
- Need for improved scheduling/coordination among facilities and programs – too busy at certain times and not at others.

**Central Park Stakeholder Interviews and Community Consultation Details
Burlington Central Park
Public Workshop – May 11, 2000**

FOCUS GROUP 1

The Future of Central Park

- Maintain green space.
- Continue multi-purpose focus, including both passive and active areas.
- Continue to host site for community events and meetings.

Strengths of Central Park

- Variety of activities.
- The overall park setting.
- Its location and proximity to a large number of citizens.
- The maturity of the natural components of the Park, as well as the buildings.
- Meets a diversity of interests of residents.
- A friendly place to meet in a small town.
- The strong sense of community it conveys.

Weaknesses / Problems of Central Park

- Parking, which is scattered. There is competition for parking that results in a perceived capacity issue that needs a full traffic analysis.
- In the future, can the Park support all the uses and capacities.
- The appearance of the Drury Lane Theatre building.
- In twenty years, based on demand that currently exists, the Park may not be able to support all the use as it cannot expand.

FOCUS GROUP 2

Future Role of Central Park

- Fewer uses
- Facilities should continue to support the seniors population and youth.
- Potential need to move the Teen Touring Band.
- Need for passive green spaces.

Strengths of Central Park

- Its central location.
- Its open space areas, which could be used for the Teen Tour Band or the possible relocation of other amenities.

Weaknesses and Problems with Central Park

- The Teen Tour Band takes up too much space in the parking lot.
- Too many facilities in the Park.
- A lack of parking.
- The Y uses the parking.
- Need for upgraded playground equipment.

Burlington Central Park Public Workshop – May 16, 2000

Summary for the Park Component

1. What we like ...

- The variety of uses and activities and the notion of one-stop shopping is an important factor and should be maintained. This multi-use quality appeals to most age groups and to a variety of interests.
- The existing open green space, mature trees, gardens, orchards and pine forests serve as a source of peace and quiet and as a refuge from the surrounding urban area.
- The balance between the open space / park areas and the built facility areas and parking lots is an important goal.
- The central location in the city, south of the QEW and its ease of accessibility by bus, car, pedestrian and cycling have been key factors to its success.
- The role of the park as a central gathering space for the City should be maintained (eg. Lobsterfest, concerts in the park, etc).
- Specific activities and facilities identified include watching baseball and soccer on the (unlit) sports fields, summer concerts, band practices, sledding hills, walking trails, heritage features, playgrounds for children.

2. What we don't like ...

- There is no clear, overall organization of the facilities – a plan is needed.
- Lack of integration between the active facilities and passive areas of the park.
- There is a perception the park is too busy – especially the roads and parking lots.
- The traffic situation is dangerous at the park entrances due to high speeds and confusing one way entrances. This occurs at the Guelph Line and along New Street.
- Drury Lane entrance is dangerous due to poor sight lines.
- Internal traffic flows are not clear.
- Concern that parking lots are often full to capacity. This may be due to insufficient lot size, poor distribution and interconnections, use by the YMCA, and/or perceived ownership of lots by certain facilities.
- The park gets too busy at certain times with cars parking on the grassed areas. Improved use management and curbs may help this situation.
- There is an overall concern that the park is vulnerable to being paved over if all the parking demands are met.

- Improvements to the site lighting (walkways, open space areas, parking lots) and tree replanting program is needed.
- Maintenance is not good in the landscaped areas – require more trash receptacles for litter, etc.

3. Future Needs and Role of Central Park

- Balance green space with buildings and paving.
- Continue to serve a variety of community needs especially as a community gathering place.
- Need better scheduling and management of activities to minimize conflicts.
- Need for more/upgraded public washrooms, picnic areas, sitting areas with benches, children's playground and spray pad, bigger drama centre and tree planting program.
- Conflict between lighted play fields vs no lighting.
- Tree planting program with more variety.
- More / convenient parking lots or a ramp is needed.
- Better public transit to / into the park.
- Concern that an adequate operating budget is in place to go along with capital, as improvements are made.