

Sibelius Square Working Group Meeting – December 6, 2006
Room 114 Royal St. George's College
Meeting commenced @ 7:30pm
Chair: Patrick Kennedy

Also present: Julie Markle, Chris Ronson, Kristina Renders, Jamie Waese, Gillian Morton, Mike Coleman, Fred Freedman, Caroline Harvey, Premika Ratnam, Tom Friedland, David Mills, Roger Horst, Sandy Straw, Adam Vaughan, Ginny Brett

1. Agenda approved
2. Minutes approved
3. Next WG meetings: January 10th and 31st
4. Chair reports that Don Ferguson, an immediate neighbour of JSS has agreed to give up his seat in WG due to scheduling conflicts with our meetings.
5. Committee Reports and Developing Objectives
 - a. Julie reports on Playground and Play Areas in JSS. Draft Objectives discussed.
 - b. Tom reports on Playing Field Objectives. Draft Objectives discussed.
 - Fred has concerns regarding the plastic rink with PVC tubes
 - Fred would like to see more community focused events
 - “Movie Night” options discussed
 - Gillian would like to consult with schools and programs that use the field
 - discussion of passive vs. active use
 - Chris Ronson suggests using the term “Open Space Objectives” and think
in terms of a common green to allow for design flexibility.
 - Roger Horst expresses concerns that by dividing into committees the WG
is losing sight of the “common”, “core” things the WG is trying to
achieve instead of trying to address/accommodate everything/everyone. Roger suggests the WG work toward presenting a disciplined community meeting; getting the community around a few simple ideas.
 - c. David reports on Perimeter of Square; distributes handout from Greg Pereira from City Planning Division-Transportation Section, illustrating street statistics.
 - Patrick discusses traffic patterns and pedestrian crossings; David Mills
follow up with traffic volume studies.
 - Adam offers example of chicanes and the dead-end street at Boswell as a

to create park space.

-Discussion regarding section 37 funds and funding for widening sidewalks; it has been done.

-Adam mentions water main construction through JSS will require Substantial redevelopment of streetscape; can be tied to JSS park redesign depending on “trough” or “tunnel”

technique

-Patrick mentions upcoming roadwork around Kendal

-Kristina suggests looking at Missing Sidewalk Program

d. Caroline reports on horticulture. Draft Objectives discussed.

-Chris suggests adding tree succession and management and

focus on

canopy.

-Fred likes that native species are integrated with non-native

species.

-Chris and Sandy suggest bringing the “Hort Group” from the City into the discussion

-Gillian expressed concerns over plant theft; Chris suggest put budget for replacing plants and trees

money into

-Gardens at JSS would be mostly city-maintained

e. Jean Sibelius Statue-(no report – Nena absent)

f. Building or Storage Requirements- (no report – Fred left early)

Note from the Chair: Two other sets of Objectives are being developed by the WG as a whole: “Overall Community Objectives”, and “Analysis and Recommendations for Dogs off Leash”

OTHER COMMITTEES

- a. Community Meeting Facilitation report from Gillian. She contacted two Facilitators, but only heard from John Vincent from Public Dialogue. Suggested two ideas for community mtg. 1.) community mtg. for dissemination of info and feedback on one/two issues and charrette at a later date. 2.) community meeting with feedback from the floor regarding design ideas, perimeter, dogs. John suggested a facilitator with Adam Vaughan in attendance. He volunteered. Pitch community meeting as “input seeking” without any decisions being made. Go with 3or4 community presentations and break into groups; use volunteers to facilitate breakout groups
 - discussion about length discussion/breakout groups and meeting format.
 - Chris suggested the community mtg around 2-2half hours
 - Chris mentioned a participators notebook to help define Parameters of mtg and topics.
 - Important to have notetaker and facilitator at Comm. Mtg

- David suggests coordinating Comm. Mtg. with school schedules, avoiding Spring Break.
- b. Community Meeting Facilities and Childcare (no report – Premika left early)
- c. Communications Website – Mike asked for documents for site to be submitted in Word format

Note from Chair: *Website policy* as discussed at earlier meetings: Web content is approved at working group meetings, often informally, and coordinated by the chair. Notice of the posting of new website content is sent to the working group via email by the webmaster. Corrections should be directed to the chair. Any wording that seems controversial, excepting that which has been approved verbatim, can be pulled at the request of a WG member to the chair pending discussion and possible revision at a WG meeting (or via email conference if necessary).

- d. Design and Tendering Process-report tabled until Jan 10th meeting; committee will reschedule mtg. with Chris and Sandy.
- 6. Timing and Structure of Community Meeting- discussed as noted above under “Other Committees”
- 7. Recommendations Regarding Dogs Off-Leash (discussion was tabled at last mtg)
 - discussion continued concerning a recommendation being brought to the Community Meeting by the WG.
 - Tom supports bringing a recommendation since it will offer the best opportunity for consensus building; Sandy agrees adding that is was the job we were sent to do.
 - Kristina would like to see a more thorough community consultation on the topic
 - David mentions that PATP prefers to look at alternate spaces with dog owners rather than support an enclosure
 - Tom suggests that there is risk of polarizing the community with this unwinnable debate and a recommendation will steer the community toward community consensus
 - Gillian suggests looking at compromises rather than recommendations; Tom adds that this can be done as part of a more neutral presentation.
- 8. October 4 Minutes- Sarah Scott will put together minutes from the October 4th WG mtg. in time for the January 10th meeting.
- 9. Meeting adjourned @ 9:30pm