

STANLEY PARK REDEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Project Kick-Off Open House and Barbeque – March 16, 2013

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Parks Administration Building in Stanley Park

Attendees:

74 people signed in at the reception desk

Project Team

City of Calgary

Michelle Wong
Keath Parker
Ron Neff

Stantec

Dave Spencer
Terry Koch

PURPOSE

This kick-off event was held to initiate the Stanley Park Redevelopment Initiative, specifically *Phase 1 – Start Up & Background Research, Assessment and Review*. It provided an opportunity for people to review project information now available in the resources tab at:

<https://www.placespeak.com/topic/619-stanley-park-redevelopment-plan/>

The background information included the purpose of the project and other contextual information included below.

Stanley Park has become increasingly popular in recent years, resulting in greater demands placed on the park. The City of Calgary Parks is working towards a redevelopment plan for the park. This plan will take into consideration the increasing number of park visitors, with goals to enhance park visitors' experience, boost the park's environmental health, and identify much needed lifecycle upgrades and replacements.

Why Prepare the Plan?

Stanley Park is a popular multi-use park with a long history and a place in the hearts of the communities and users it serves. The Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club expansion and the evolving needs and desires for the park will be addressed by this plan.

The goal is to ensure the park remains valuable for park users today and into the future. To do this, a comprehensive redevelopment plan is required to ensure all activities can be balanced in a sustainable way.

What are the steps in the Process?

The City of Calgary Parks has retained [Stantec Consulting](#) as experienced park planners and engagement specialists to assist with this project. The planning process involves a step by step approach:

- First, community and user input, suggestions and comments are gathered. This helps to inform how people and key user groups use the space. It will also help identify areas for improvement.
- Next, information is analyzed for appropriateness, feasibility, and suitability to determine how it should be incorporated into the redevelopment plan.
- Finally, this information is translated into a concept plan for the redevelopment of the park. The plan will be presented to the public for feedback and refinement

Stanley Park Process Chart



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED

The comments recorded by the Project Team have been summarized into 5 theme areas, Park Amenities, Park Activities, Landscaping, Funding and General Comments.

Park Amenities

We received a number of comments that users liked the park the way it is with little or no need to change it. Others had suggestions for ensuring existing amenities be retained and/or improved, including;

- continue to offer tennis and consider allowing private club to bubble and operate some of the tennis courts for year round use;
- ensure the pool continues to operate including the new splash pool area and spruce up the exterior;
- many people commented on the excellent skating rink operated by Elboya Heights Community Association;
- the day use area is very well used and accessible washrooms would be appreciated closer to this area
- clean and maintained washrooms are required in the park 12 months of the year

Many attendees questioned the need for the Parks maintenance compound in the park and thought the space could better be used for public park activities while others thought have the maintenance facility and staff within the park is efficient and appreciated. Parking was cited as an ongoing issue with several people commenting that parking should be allowed on both sides of 42 Avenue during special events and those parking spaces currently available within the park be retained.

The regional pathway runs through the park along the Elbow River and comments about how it is currently functioning and suggestions for improvements were also offered. Some people requested better access to the park north of the river from the day use area, perhaps by installing a suspension pedestrian bridge. Others noted that there are too many ad hoc pathways in the north escarpment area and that a pathway along the top of this ridge should be paved.

Other potential amenities include adult fitness equipment stations and pathway improvements within the park to mitigate user conflicts and address drainage issues.

Park Activities

The proposed lawn bowling green expansion garnered a lot of attention with plenty of support for the expansion of the bowling greens and also opposition to expansion because movement north and south through the park would be affected and more green space would be fenced off and not available for drop-in use. Many people commented on use of the park by dog walkers and that it is important that the park remain on-leash and better monitored to ensure dog owners are cleaning up after their pets. Attendees

commented that the large open spaces are ideal for drop-in active and passive park use and should be properly maintained. It was noted that fishing is a popular activity in the park because overhanging vegetation provides ideal conditions to catch trout and whitefish.

Landscaping

Some people commented that some trees in the park may need to be sacrificed/removed in order to improve the park in the long term while others questioned the possibility of removing the poplars to make room for an expanded land bowling green. Spruce trees, for instance, makes the area feel less safe for some users that poplars are badly pruned and that much better landscape planning, including planting more trees closer to the pool is required. It was suggested that the riparian area should be restored using native vegetation and removing previous concrete and open river bank structures to allow greater natural functionality.

Some Elboya Heights community members discussed the request for a community garden south of the community hall and that an application had been submitted to Parks.

Funding

Comments about park funding included an information panel about budget was missing in the display; a timeline for funding is required; that selling a portion of the north part of the park for townhomes could generate funds to improve the park; and that maintenance dollars are just not in place to beautify the park.

General Comments

We received several comments about safety concerns regarding accessing the park on foot or by bike at 42 Ave and 1A Street SW and within the park at areas where conflict occurs. Users noted that the baseball diamond, especially the bleachers are being used as shelter by transients. Others commented on that the noise generated during special events has increased in the last few years. Corrections were provided for the maps shown. The Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants Hall should be shown as the Memorial Hall and not a Club, it was requested that Lindsay's Folly be spelled correctly and others requested that the amenity be properly called a regional pathway and not a multi-use trail and that designs for safety and mitigation of user conflicts is paramount.

Summary Prepared By:	Terry Koch
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This summary is the author's best interpretation of meeting discussions. Please notify the author of any omissions or errors.