

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
ST. ALBANS CITY TAYLOR PARK MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET
6:00 PM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017**

DRAFT

Participants:

Tom Koldys*, Chair
Stina Booth*
Kelly Wakefield
Laz Scangas

Warren Hamm
Robin Morrill
Bill Kelley
Stan Bradeen

Lisamarie Charlesworth
Joanie McGinn*

(* indicates members of City Parks Commission)

Staff:

Jeff Hodgson, Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architects
Hannah Loope, Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architects
Michelle Lockhart, Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architects
Chip Sawyer, City Director of Planning & Development
Andrew Gratton, City Recreation Department

- 1. Open Meeting – the meeting was opened by T.Koldys at 6:00 PM.**
 - a. Introductions – Tabled.
 - b. Discuss additions or deletions to agenda – There were none.
2. Presentation and discussion of park plan concepts and images

Consultants Jeff Hodgson and Hannah Loope presented a draft master plan for Taylor Park, along with associated visuals. There was extensive discussion about the draft plan.

Special note was made of a joint letter of formal comments submitted by Warren Hamm and representatives of the VFW, American Legion, and Vietnam Veterans of America. There was discussion of how to integrate these comments into the draft master plan.

Notes of the discussion were recorded by Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architects.

There was committee consensus in favor of the presented draft plan and additions/revisions discussed. There was one objection raised about replacing the current circle garden (maintained by the St. Albans Garden Club) with a “splash pad” without any acknowledgment of the garden’s historical value. Discussion included finding a new location for St. Albans Garden Club work. The consultants were also asked to make sure there was no other proper location for the splash pad. No participants raised further objections to elements of the draft plan.

3. Next steps and next meeting

The consultants would provide an updated master plan.

The Parks Commission and Master Plan Cmte. members would meet (likely Nov. 7) to discuss the updated master plan.

Participants and consultants would present the master plan to the City Council (likely Nov. 13) for comments.

The consultants would provide a final master plan, along with engineering and phasing information and estimates to the Master Plan Cmte.

4. Other Business.

- a. Approval of minutes. Tabled.

5. Public Comment.

There was no additional public comment.

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chip Sawyer, Minute Taker

September 25, 2017

TO: Chairman St. Albans City Taylor Park Master Plan Steering Committee

FROM: Veterans' Organizations of St. Albans

SUBJECT: Formal Comments Relative Taylor Park Memorial Monuments

REF: A. Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architecture Proposal

Encl. 1. Existing Park Plan

Encl. 2. Master Plan Concept A

Encl. 3. Master Plan Concept B

Encl. 4. Master Plan Concept C

1. The St. Albans American Legion, St. Albans Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Vietnam Veterans have thoroughly reviewed reference A with the four enclosures and hereby submit these formal comments for the record.
2. The Master Plan A with our comments is considered most desirable to the Veterans.
3. Specific Comments
 - a. The proposed crosswalks in the south end (neighborhood park) are excellent as they "tie in" the memorials. Walks and area around each memorial should be paved.
 - b. The relocation of the KIA/MIA memorial with the front facing north (south of small band shell) is strongly recommended. (Provides excellent name exposure.)
 - c. Black obelisk to veterans, past, current, and future, will stand out surrounded by walkway.
 - d. Flag pole (WWI) – move to location depicted in concept A. Provides much better exposure. If considered too high, we could discuss making it shorter.

- e. Civil War Memorial
 - 1) Relocate to west of present location (as depicted in concept A).
 - 2) Low stage behind Memorial is good (a good use of the Memorial).
 - 3) Veterans' organization flags to remain in current location. This is an excellent backing to the Memorial and stage.
 - 4) Appropriate paving should be laid.

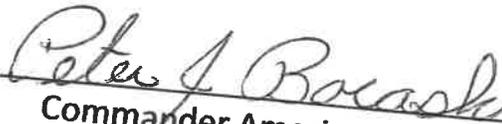
4. General Comments

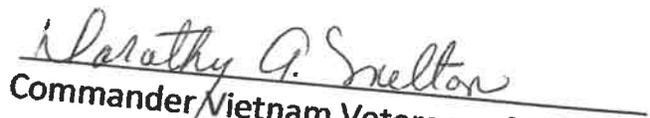
- a. Cost of moving flag pole and Civil War monument will be significant. However, new equipment should reduce the cost.
- b. The Veterans' bottom line is – nothing should or can be done in the park in close vicinity of the memorials that in any way detracts from the meaning of these memorials honoring those who gave their lives for our country.
- c. As noted, the above is the position and comments of the membership of the VFW, Legion, and Vietnam Vets of St. Albans.

Questions or variance from our proposals are respectfully requested to be directed to us.



Commander VFW Post



Commander American Legion

Commander Vietnam Veterans of America

W. C. Hamm RADM US Navy (Ret)