

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
ST. ALBANS CITY TAYLOR PARK MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET
6:00 PM TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017**

Approved April 11, 2017

Attendees:

Tom Koldys*, Chair
David Barber
Alex Lehning
Robin Morrill
Jeff Young*

Alec Kaeding*
Warren Hamm
Bill Kelley
Tom Gallagher
Stan Bradeen

Angie Sturm*
Joanie McGinn*
Lisamarie Charlesworth

(* indicates members of City Parks Commission)

Staff Present:

Chip Sawyer, Director of Planning & Development
Andrew Gratton, Recreation Program Manager

Observer:

Peter Mazurak, Trudell Consulting

- 1. Open Meeting - Chair T.Koldys opened the meeting at 6:00pm.**
 - a. Introductions – Introductions were made.
 - b. Discuss additions or deletions to agenda – There were none.

2. Continue discussion on ideas/goals for park

There was discussion on what the roles of Taylor Park were in the community. They included:

Public service to the community.

Interaction/Participation

Part of the City's brand

Informative

Introduction to the City

A safe place

Economic driver

Connectivity and unification, both physical and social

A poster child for the community

A centerpiece and attraction

Relaxation

Recreation

Historical significance

Quintessential

Appropriate memorials

Preface to the story of St. Albans

Open space and green space

Assembly/meeting place

Inviting

Ecological/environmental

Festive

Flexible/adaptable

There was extensive discussion. A. Lehning asked if a list of “Things the Park is Not” should be started. Some items were added to that list, but there was not total agreement on some, and many ended up on other lists, in the end.

The **Taylor Park is NOT** list includes:

Meant to do EVERYTHING

A sports field

A typical, structured playground. Look to other types of youth-related features.

The updated other lists are below:

<p>Facilities</p> <p>Tourism kiosk (sell space?) Bathrooms Water fountain Kid play areas Event/concert spaces (needing power and sound) Water and power supplies Public transit shelters Trash/recycling receptacles Movies What can be adjacent to Park? Parking Child-friendly water feature Public art</p>	<p>Design/Setting</p> <p>Places for weddings Gazebo: improve/reorient? Western sun on events and concerts Screening from traffic Signage for fountain and interpretive Walkway alignment/connectivity More sitting areas Stormwater planters and streetscape integration Lighting to match streetscape Public art Wayfinding Personality for the south end Food service area(s) Viewsheds Ideas for fountain and benches Stormwater treatment Redesign Civil War Monument</p>
<p>Programs and Policies</p> <p>Endowment for memorials Annual maintenance program and workforce Event/space scheduling Volunteers 501(c)3 Vehicles in park Ability to close Church and Main Streets Usage fees Park maintenance guide Art in process Walking tour Get churches and museum involved</p>	<p>Maintenance Issues</p> <p>Pervious sidewalks Better ready-to-use maintenance Civil war memorial: floor replacement and rounding of granite edges Tree replacements and care Landscaping and turf Surfacing of walkways Stormwater/drainage Horse rides Crows</p>

Gardening demos Public gardening station Little library and similar features Security	
What we want from this project O&M guides and plans O&M estimates Park revenue ideas Equipment list of what the City doesn't have Save what gets removed? Involve churches, police, RiseVT and the library Current park expenditures	Potential Conflicts Bathrooms and potentially any new structure (design, safety and nuisances, maintenance) Preservation vs. new things Desires vs. operations & maintenance costs Quantity vs. quality Size of the park People vs. turf Flexibility vs. security Needs vs. wants Kid play areas - playground Liability and risk management Monument discussion

3. Inventory of current park uses

There was some discussion, and additions were made.

Inventory of Taylor Park Uses

Recurring Events

- Winter Carnival
- Easter Egg Hunt
- VT Maple Festival
- Memorial Day Celebration
- Farmers Market
- Summer Concert Series
- Chair Affair
- Raid Half Marathon
- Historic Reenactments
- National Night Out
- Fine Wine and Food Festival
- Glow Run
- Veterans Day Celebration
- Holiday Tree Lighting

- Celebrations by Local/Regional Religious Groups

Ad Hoc Events

- Weddings
- Vigils
- Protests
- Advocacy Gatherings
- Celebrations
- Fundraisers
- Horse Rides
- Fireworks!

Use of Park Setting and Facilities

- Sitting, Relaxing

- Strolling, Walking
- Exercise, Meditation
- Reading
- Enjoying a Meal / Picnic
- Gathering with Friends
- Photo Sessions
- Appreciating Nature
- Playing Personal Instruments
- School Visits
- Youthful Play

Civic Aspects of Park Facilities

- Remembrance of People/Groups, Particularly Military
- Recognition of Those Contributing to Park/Community
- Preserving and Interpreting Community History

Other

- Stormwater Infiltration
- Attracting Visitors to City

4. Update on consultant RFQ

C.Sawyer reported that several consultants had expressed interest, and the due date for submissions was April 3.

5. Other Business.

J.McGinn asked what's next. How do we get from the sheets of paper on the wall to moving forward with the consultant? S.Bradeen stated that perhaps this is an opportunity for placing emphasis, rather than prioritizing, and that many things on the lists fell within similar themes.

C.Sawyer was directed to consolidate the list items and organize by theme for the next meeting.

A.Sturm asked if we need to discuss the desired aesthetic for the park before we engage with the consultants. C.Sawyer stated that normally consultants start by listening. S.Bradeen agreed that it may be a good discussion to have now.

T.Koldys agreed that the aesthetic could be discussed at the next meeting too.

- Approval of minutes.

Motion by A.Lehning to approve the minutes of February 23, 2017 as presented. Second by W.Hamm and approved with all in favor.

- Next meeting date. April 11, 6pm, as generally agreed to by committee members.

6. Public Comment. None.

Motion by R.Morrill to adjourn at 7:10pm. Second by T.Gallagher and approved with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Chip Sawyer, Minute Taker