

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, APRIL 11, 2017

Approved on May 9, 2017

Participants:

Tom Koldys*, Chair

Bill Kelley

Stan Bradeen

Angie Sturm*

Stina Booth*

MaryPat Larrabee

Joanie McGinn*

Kelly Wakefield

Alex Lehning

Jeff Young*

Amy Paradis

(* indicates members of City Parks Commission)

Staff Present:

Chip Sawyer, Director of Planning & Development

Kelly Viens, Director of Recreation

Andrew Gratton, Recreation Program Manager

1. Open Meeting - Chair T.Koldys opened the meeting at 6:05 PM.

a. Introductions were made.

b. Discuss additions or deletions to agenda.

There were none.

2. Discuss thematic grouping of park ideas

S.Bradeen stated that he did not feel that the emphasis exercise should drop anything from the list. There was general agreement.

A.Sturm: should we assume maintenance is included with each item? General answer: yes.

T.Koldys suggested that the Turf maintenance item not be considered during the emphasis exercise. It was crossed out.

3. Group emphasis exercise

T.Koldys explained the exercise. Participants were asked to place a green dot on items they'd like to emphasize and an orange dot on items they would like to de-emphasize. Here are the results:

Connectivity and Wayfinding	Emphasis	De-Emphasis	Difference	Reaction Strength
Walkway alignment/connectivity	7		7	7
Signage for fountain and interpretive	5		5	5
Tourism kiosk (sell space?)	4		4	4
Wayfinding (signs, etc.)	2		2	2
Events and Activities				
Gazebo: improve/reorient?	14		14	14
Ice-skating rink or trails	5	8	-3	13
Accessible water feature	4	8	-4	12
Event/concert spaces	9		9	9
Places for weddings	7	2	5	9
Kid play areas	2	7	-5	9
Horse rides		5	-5	5
Walking tour	2		2	2
Gardening demos		1	-1	1
Movies		1	-1	1
Public gardening station		1	-1	1
Seeing, Viewing, Feeling				
Redesign Civil War Monument	5	5	0	10
Public art	5	3	2	8
Personality for the south end	6		6	6
Tree Inventory and plan	5		5	5
Lighting to match streetscape	4		4	4
More design around fountain area	4		4	4
Screening from traffic		4	-4	4
Endowment for memorials	2		2	2
Redesign base of the fountain		1	-1	1
Art in process			0	0
Facilities and Infrastructure				
Bathrooms	5	5	0	10
Walkway surfaces	8		8	8
Food service area(s)	1	6	-5	7
Transit Shelter		7	-7	7
More sitting areas	6		6	6
Reflecting Pool	5		5	5
Improve Stormwater Planters	3	1	2	4
Trash/recycling receptacles	2	2	0	4
Water fountain (drinking)	2		2	2
More Stormwater treatment			0	0

There was extensive discussion about how the group describes the listed items for the consultants. Right now, it is just a list of titles. Chip will send the compiled list out to the cmte. and invite 1-sentence descriptions from members for list items to then compile for the consultants.

4. Discuss park aesthetics

A.Sturm is interested in what the park used to look like and looking at historical records to inspire the designs of this project.

T.Koldys asked if that was a shared opinion that should inform the consultants' work.

A.Sturm mentioned that the City streetscape designs could inform the project.

S.Bradeen wondered aloud if the group will end up wanting the park more treed or less treed.

J.Young mentioned Don Minor's history of Taylor Park. A.Lehning said he might be able to send it out to the group. J.Young summarized some of that history.

There was extensive discussion on whether the group wanted to radically change the aesthetic of the park, or use the current look as a limiting factor, or replicate the park's historic look.

K.Wakefield suggested that there be a pro vs. con list for each item on the lists.

There seemed to be a theme to the discussion that the group did not want the character of the Park to be changed, and that new items on the list were welcome but should be designed to fit in to the current character. There was a strong feeling that the park needs more maintenance and "TLC."

There was a discussion about to what extent the group should poll the general public for ideas about the park.

5. Update on consultant RFQ

There was general consensus that the Review Subcmte. could pick the consultant. As requested, Chip will enable the cmte. to see the proposals.

6. Other Business.

- a. Approval of minutes.

Motion by A.Lehning to approve the minutes of March 28, 2017, as presented. Second by J.Young and approved with all in favor.

- b. Next meeting date.

The committee agreed by consensus to meet on May 9, 2017, at 6pm.

7. Public Comment. NONE.

The Committee Adjourned by consensus at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chip Sawyer, Minute Taker