
Lake Ontario Park Revitalization Study

Staff Advisory Group Workshop #4: Meeting Minutes

Time and Place: Wednesday, October 4th, 7:00-9:00, Loyalist Room, City Hall

Attendees:

1. Mark Fluhrer (Director, City of Kingston Culture and Recreation)
 2. Kristine Hebert (Parks & Open Space Co-ordinator, City of Kingston)
 3. Robin Etherington (Manager, Culture and Heritage, City of Kingston)
 4. Marc Letourneau (Heritage Planner, City of Kingston)
 5. George Speal (Kiwans Club of Kingston)
 6. Jim Cannon (Portsmouth Villager's Association)
 7. Liz Schell (Portsmouth Villager's Association)
 8. Hans Vorster (Commodore's Cove resident's association)
 9. Barbara Bennett (1000 King Street West resident's association)
 10. Alida Moffat (Friends of Lake Ontario Park)
 11. Wendy Mayoff (Friends of Lake Ontario Park)
 12. Krista Wells (Providence Continuing Care)
 13. Carl Bray (Heritage consultant, lead consultant/facilitator)
- (Regrets: Beth Pater (Councillor); Jay Gazeley (Catarauqui Golf & Country Club); Mark Lewis (Chamber of Commerce); Blayne Mackey (St. Lawrence College); Enid Barnett (600-1000 King St. W.); Mary Vincent (Friends of Lake Ontario Park); Charlie Mignault (KEDCO); Mark Lewis (ORC))
- [Kris: please confirm attendees list]**

Carl Bray facilitated the meeting. The agenda had three main items: discussion of the results of the opinion survey; selection of the preferred development scenario, and; discussion of next steps. **[Kris: please add your notes to what follows here, and make any edits to my recollections of what transpired at the meeting]**

Opinion Survey

Hans Vorster and Kris Hebert reviewed the survey results. They commented on the survey structure, on the high rate of response, and on the consensus that emerged from the survey results regarding the future development of the Park. They circulated charts showing the responses to each survey questions and commented on the Park uses that had most support from the public. They also displayed a map of the city showing the distribution of survey responses, by postal code. The map clearly demonstrated that the survey respondents came from all parts of Kingston, and not just the area next to the Park.

Preferred Development Scenario

In the discussion following review of the survey, group members noted that there still are a few lingering suspicions by members of the public regarding the City's intentions for

the Park, and that a Council resolution supporting the vision and planning principles resulting from this study would be beneficial in allaying these fears.

Group members also commented on the ways in which Park use had evolved over the previous summer, since the June open house. They were pleased to report an increase in Park maintenance by City staff as well as more dog walkers, family picnics and events than had been present in previous years.

As for the three development scenarios based on the vision and planning principles, group members supported the scenario that had an emphasis on the waterfront. In doing so, they also noted elements of the other two scenarios that they thought merited further consideration.

On the negative side, the issue that caused the most concern was the potential for a public boat launch and parking lot on the northern half of Elevator Bay Park. There were concerns about the impact of parking and boating activities adjacent to both the residential towers and the essentially passive uses on Elevator Bay Park. City staff agreed to check the agreement between the residential property developer and the municipality to clarify the degree of public access and public rights-of-way through that property. The consensus was that there should be no boat launch or large parking lot in that area and that the Bay should be restricted to non-motorized water craft, with access from the existing Lake Ontario Park boat launch (note: the survey showed little support for a boat launch of any kind in the Park). Group members also worried about proposals illustrating a road loop around the tableland, giving access to the existing buildings: they wanted to restrict vehicular access and promote pedestrian use.

On the positive side, the group members agreed with the consensus in the survey results for improvements to the natural areas, provision of swimming (especially a beach), and provision of such family-oriented uses as picnic areas, space for special events, a pavilion for group activities, a children's playground, and camping. Also supported were improvements to the Park infrastructure, improved walking and cycling trails, provisions for winter activities, improved public transit access to the Park, and a live-in Park supervisor.

Next Steps

Mark Fluhrer summed up the study process and gave an overview of the next steps in the planning and development process. **[Kris: I need your notes here]**

Carl agreed to prepare a draft final report for review by City staff and the advisory group. Following their comments, Carl will produce a final report and be available to present it to Committee and Council, if required. The intent is to seek Council approval for a budget allocation for a park master plan, development feasibility analysis and implementation strategy, to commence as soon as possible in the new year.