



Belle Park Master Plan Community Engagement Summary

Indigenous People's Consultation – May 2, 2019

(Comments from Phase 3 will be considered in conjunction with feedback from previous phases)

On May 2, 2019, the City of Kingston and RIEL Cultural Consulting hosted an Indigenous People's consultation at the Belle Park clubhouse, in which proposed concepts for Belle Park master plan were presented by Thinc Design, followed by a question and answer period.

This event was an opportunity for the Indigenous community and their allies to meet and ask questions from the team. 6 residents attended the session.

The following points were made by community members during the consultation:

- It was explained by Indigenous members who have been involved through the whole consultation process that there is a distinct difference between what had been proposed May 2018 and May 2019. They liked the multi-use idea of the play field and less intensive nature of the amenities proposed. The woodland area near Belle Island and natural elements were well received.
- The location of the off leash dog area remains a concern as it appears too close to proposed children's playground and pavilion area. Future operations of not only the off leash dog park but dogs in the park in general is also a concern, including dog fecal, or risk of dogs potentially chasing water fowl and other animals in their natural habitat. There should be signs about no off leash on the island.
- More parking may be needed closer to the picnic areas, especially when considering accessibility needs.
- Greater accessibility from Montreal Street should be created such as the creation of a bus shelter. Space for bus inside the park should also be considered.

- Mentioned that there is a need for drinking fountains and washroom near play areas.
- Belle Park needs a place to share knowledge, awareness and understanding of Indigenous histories and cultures. Education components of the site could be displayed not only in the form of text but art. Sometimes less is more.
- Natural materials should be considered for the pavilion and trails. Asphalt was thought to seep into the soil and damage the earth, thus, this material is not desirable for the park. However, accessibility needs of the trail should still be considered.
- Planting native plants will help heal Mother Earth, especially along the water.
- Space is needed to be preserved on the bridge and when planning the tree planting to allow sufficient space for ambulance or emergency access to the island. However, the pathway to Belle Island should prevent the public from entering to protect the island.
- Indoor tennis was not a desirable amenity from the community members.
- Need for continual communication with the Indigenous community and Native Leaders.

Questions raised:

- **There was a desire to know how large the pavilion structure and clubhouse is proposed and whether it was large enough to gather.**

These details would be determined in the future when a detailed park plans were developed and shared with the community in future years. It wouldn't be determined at a high level master plan stage however, the master plan will recognize the desire for community gathering in the shade pavilion..

- **The video of Neal Unsworth's interview had mentioned that the land could turn fallow if there is not enough interest in the land. It was not clear what is meant by fallow land?**

If the site does not have adequate amenities for people to want to come and use the space, maintain a sense of ownership of the space and engage with the park then be it can become less used, feel abandoned and become abused and be less safe.

- **There was mention that Earth can heal itself if left alone. Why not leave it alone?**

The park is not a natural space below the surface. It's a managed former landfill and improvements are required to guide the parks changes from a golf course on a landfill to a natural park on a landfill. A metaphor was given, comparing the land to a child, much like kids, some guidance and principles /structure are needed to be instilled to set them on the right path.

- **There was mention that there is a lot of tennis around the City, how much do we need of this facility?**

Referring to the need for a seasonal air supported structure (bubble) indoor tennis facility, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is currently under review, will inform the need for this type of facility in the City. If approved, the plan will also lay out an approach to determining the right site in the City for the initiative of which Belle Park is one option.