

Wednesday, March 21st, 2007
7:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, Dundas Town Hall

The Dundas Community Council met.

There were Present: Russ Powers, Councillor
Donna Graham, Heritage
Mary Matthews
Jeff Saunders
Bill Kennedy, Environment

Regrets: Kerry McNamara
Nancy Gray, Culture and Recreation
Larissa Fedak
Jim Watson, Business

Also Present: Joanne Thorne, Councillor Powers' Office
Steve Barnhardt, City Architect
Craig Campbell, Dundas Star News

1. Remarks from the Mayor, M.P., M.P.P., School Trustees

None.

Councillor Powers welcomed Bill Kennedy, who will be the environmental representative on the Dundas Community Council, as well as Joanne Thorne, who is substituting for Arlene VanderBeek at this meeting and Steve Barnhardt, City Architect.

3 Previous Meeting Report

The report from the February 21st, 2007 meeting was received as circulated. Moved by Jeff Saunders, seconded by Donna Graham, to accept the minutes as reported. Carried.

2. Presentation

Steve Barnhardt, City Architect, presented an overview of the Dundas Driving Park Master Plan and detailed the progress to date as well as the plan of action for 2007 and 2008.

Steve provided an overview on city-wide parks procedures and detailed the revised master plan. The budget is now before council – park funds are allocated, but are still in residual to be used, although costs are greater than anticipated. 2007 budget approval is required to move ahead. Options were considered with regard to the existing bandshell, washrooms and central concession booth. The plan is to build a hybrid solution: remove the bandshell, the large double-size kitchen pavilion, washrooms and small concession building,

and build a central facility which will house the concession, washrooms, a bandshell area, and the ice rink. Parking will be addressed because we do not want to lose green space.

There are issues still to be resolved – The central building – drawing presented showing 2 washrooms, concession area, mechanical area, storage area (bandshell, winter storage) and “Tractor” area for ice maintenance equipment. Update meetings will be held to provide and seek additional public information, as required. The children’s wading pool has issues, but remains viable for another few years, then will be converted to family space when the wading pool is moved closer to the central complex.

Bill Kennedy inquired about the disrepair of the existing worksyard buildings within the park. Steve Barnhardt advised that they have been looked at. Those buildings are a separate issue from the master plan for the park, and will have to be looked at through the corporate building staff. Councillor Powers spoke of the former uses of these buildings and expressed that he is hopeful that they will be rejuvenated.

Donna Graham enquired about the timeframe for completion. Steve Barnhardt advised that staff must wait for budget approval, site plan approval & building permit issuance. They are hopeful that the project will go to tender sometime in September, and that they will be able to start to work this fall. He added that staff must also work with the Rotary Club’s timetable as well for the skating rink (they hope to have the 10,000 sq.ft. rink ready in 2008. He also talked about other uses in other seasons. Donna mentioned that the Dundas Cactus Parade Committee would like to continue to use the park for lining up of the cactus festival parade. Discussion ensued with Steve Barnhardt.

Mary Matthews asked what will replace the pavilions, if they are removed. Steve advised that only one will be demolished (it is called a double), the others will be upgraded. Some new trees will be planted, not too many to be lost. There will be no loss of baseball diamonds expected.

Jeff Saunders expressed his worry about the look of pavilions left as compared to new. Steve assured that they will fit nicely together. The total area of the new pavilion will be approximately 4,000 sq. ft...

Thanks to Steve – invited him back as required.

4. Updates on Business from Previous Report

(a) Property at 150 King St. East

Appraisal completed. City and owner have been advised that a maximum of \$300,000 has been allocated to assist in the purchase of the property. The Community Council was advised that a non-profit group is interested, in spite of the possibility that there will be a need for additional funds to return the lands to passive use.

(b) Hwy #6 and York Road

Councillor Powers reported that the streetlights on Newman and Maryvale are now being installed and will be activated in the very near future.

(c) Community Councils

Mayor will move to establish task force to look at Provincial Legislation and make recommendations to City Council.

Councillor reported that he has expressed his opinion that the Mayor's timeline is too long (mid to late September). In the meantime, Councillor Powers will go ahead with the Dundas Community Council until the end of June, at which time he will advertise for new members and resume with the new Council, in September. This will ensure that he doesn't lose the momentum – the Mayor concurs.

Bill Kennedy asked how many Community Councils exist within Hamilton and was told that Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, have Community Councils and there is a Mayor's Advisory Committee in Stoney Creek. Councillor Powers stated that both Ancaster and Dundas will continue to be active even before Council agrees to new criteria, etc.

(d) Dundas Post Office

Councillor Powers read a letter received from Canada Post. No real answer available, as yet. Councillor Powers has also asked that the roof repairs be completed so that the fencing can be removed to free up the 4 parking spaces. He hopes the building will be kept to be used by some group.

Bill Kennedy asked what is the cause for the delay in repairing the roof. Councillor advised that the original contractor has gone out of business and there is no recourse to get the final work done.

5. Information Items**(a) Dundas District Middle School**

District School has been deemed as surplus by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. The process is underway to offer it to various groups as required by legislation. The City has requested an additional 90

days to consider. A citizen's group, which includes former Councillor Art Samson, has been meeting regularly in an attempt to acquire or save the school building or the facade, which could be incorporated into a new structure. There is definite interest in retaining the playfield across the street from the school building.

Jeff Saunders questioned the fact that there is no perceived co-operation between the School Board and City Hall. Councillor Powers has been asked by the Mayor to sit on the Liaison Committee between the School Board and City Hall. He advised that the protocol for dissemination of surplus schools is dictated by the Provincial government, and makes it difficult for School Boards to act independently.

(b) Cascades Neighbourhood

Cascades Neighbourhood is at the base of the Sydenham hill, on the former Steetley property. A public meeting was held with the Police, in response to the neighbourhood's concerns with criminal activities and they are planning to launch a Neighbourhood Watch Program shortly.

(c) Town Hall Archives

Former Town of Dundas early records and municipal ledgers are stored and inaccessible to the public at this time. The City has agreed to work with the Dundas Historical Museum to create an Archives area in the former Town Hall Building. The records will be properly archived and carefully stored for preservation, by volunteers from the Museum, who will likely start the cataloguing and preservation work in the summer. (Councillor Powers showed them the records following the meeting.)

(d) Pleasant Valley/University Gardens School Sites

Russ gave status report from staff on these sites and spoke to the issues covered. Re: parklands, soccer fields, etc.

6. Questions from Members

(a) Arts and Culture – no report

Dundas Valley School of Art's 37th Annual Art Auction will be held on Saturday, April 14th at 8 pm and will feature over 1500 original works of art from established and new artists and estate items: oils, pastels, watercolours, sculpture, pottery, jewellery. Free previews on Thursday and Friday from 9 am – 9 pm, Saturday from 9 to 5 pm. Silent auction bids will be accepted during these hours. Admission is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. 21 Ogilvie Street – For additional information, call 905-628-6357.

(b) Business – no report

Phyllis Kramer from Keeping Room is new President of Dundas Downtown BIA.

(c) Environment – Bill Kennedy

Bill advised of a potential problem in Spencer Creek, at the end of John Street. The concrete wall (original dam), which was left in the creek, has caused creek to be redirected. Large cost to do successful repairs. Growth on sides of creek (Manitoba Maples) should come out. Necessary departmental staff will be notified. Councillor Powers asked that Bill advise of any other sites.

(d) Heritage – Donna Graham

Stan Nowak will try to change the dates of the Historical Society meetings so as to not conflict with the Dundas Community Council Meetings.

April 2nd public information meeting is scheduled at Dundas Town Hall regarding pedestrian & vehicular issues in the Cross and Melville area (speeding, accidents, traffic solutions) 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Trivia Night for Dundas Museum was a sell out. A great time was had by all.

July 1 – Canada Day – Dr. Richardson is hosting a beef barbeque dinner & barn dance – first come first served – as a fundraiser for the Dundas Museum. The Richardsons' will have a presence in the Cactus Parade.

(e) Sports and Recreation – no report**7. Questions from the Public**

Jeff Saunders questioned the tarping of the tennis courts on Victoria Day for fireworks. Councillor Powers noted that it affected more than the tennis courts

Telephone rates were also questioned – any further info.? Councillor Powers advised that Council approved a motion for Bell Canada to make application to CRTC. Anticipated that this approval will go through. There was some discussion on various points of this issue.

Sam Shapiro spoke on tax and on rental units in the area. Councillor Powers advised that he has made several points known to City staff, which will come before Council at a future date.

Bill Kennedy asked about the old bus barn (Dundas Valley Manufacturing storage building on Hatt Street). How about a market at that site? Is this worth pursuing. Councillor Powers provided an update, as he knew it from his Rotary Club. Possible an artisan's area incorporated with a produce market??

8. Upcoming Meetings/Events

The bridges on Thorpe Street and Main Street (near Governor's Road) need to be repaired and an information meeting will take place on April 3rd at the Dundas Municipal Service Centre (former Dundas Town Hall).

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18th, 2007.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Bill Kennedy, seconded by Mary Matthews.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Russ Powers
Councillor**