

FWP Amphitheater Forum – August 17, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Fort Williams Park Committee Members Present: Chair, Mar Russell (MR), Charles “Chuck” Wilson (CW), Suzanne McGinn (SM), Chris Straw (CS), Don Clark (DC) and Steve Lyons (SL)

Staff: Robert Malley, Director of Public Works (RM) and Mike McGovern, Town Manager (MM)

Consultant: John Mitchell – Mitchell & Associates, Inc.

Call to Order: Mark Russell called the forum to order @ 7:02 PM.

Attendance: About 30 (TC Members Kathy Ray & Jamie Garvin)

Location: Council Chambers – Town Hall

Committee Introductions

Intro by Mark Russell about the Project

Speakers in Order – Name, Address & Point of Reference

- Mandy Garmey, 1 Garden Lane – Expressed concerns about increased noise emanating from the Park and its impact on abutters. More people seem to be visiting the Park. Concerned about drawing more people into the Park, whether its food vending or other amenities. Would like Committee to proceed cautiously.
- Roger Rioux, 5 Bridal Path Way – Supportive of Park improvements. Has noticed more traffic entering the Park. Supportive of concept and keeping ballfield, but reorienting it to face northeast from home plate.
- Bill Nickerson, 3 Thompson Road - Feels it is expensive for the limited activities held there (HS Graduation) and a need has not been identified.
- Bill Brownell, 9 Cedar Ledge Road – Concerned about cost and size of project. Concerned about depletion of capital fund. “Go slowly”.
- Victoria Volent, 58 Cottage Farms Road – Asked about revenue generation for the project. Conflicting statements about revenue generation. Concerned about over-use of the Park. Additional concerns about parking, lighting, traffic that may be associated with any events.
- Pricilla Armstrong, 18 Avon Road – Wait and see the impact of Children’s Garden. Wants to keep Park admission free.
- Lise Pratt, 32 Wood Road – Appreciates design, but very expensive. Wants to know what extra items may cost, such as ledge utility extensions, etc. Doesn’t want to see vista blocked from Children’s Garden to Parade Field. Concerned about the cost, the number of events, etc. Not a priority and other improvements (pedestrian improvements and restrooms) should be considered first.

Mark Russell asked Chris Straw to talk about the concept. He discussed the cost over the life cycle (100 years) of the project being reasonable. Stated it could be a venue for town-related events and its citizens, not just for non-residents.

Location of venue more central in Park that will help with noise concerns of abutters. Committee did look at options for raising revenue for the project. Did information gathering to help with the project's understanding.

- Bill Nickerson spoke about priorities identified in the Master Plan that have not been undertaken and that they should be considered.
- Mark Russell said other projects are under consideration and important, but this was a priority for a majority of the Committee. He also stated that Committee has considered other projects.
- Terry Ann Scriven, 18 Old Ocean House Road – Need to think “outside the box” and that the project could be used for a variety of uses. Revenue generation can come later.
- Anne E. Swift-Kayatta, 14 Stone Bridge Road - “What is the un-met need in the community?” It is expensive and there other needs in the Park, i.e. winter moth abatement.
- Melanie Tennyson, 6 Carriage Hill Road – Likes concept and thinks it would be a great project.
- Don Clark – This is a cultural investment in the community. The community lacks an outdoor performance space for cultural events.
- “Chuck” Wilson – Likes plan, but we need to justify the need. It depletes the capital fund. Concerned about the impact on the Park. Lots of unanswered questions.
- Mark Russell – Project is an un-met need in the community.
- Victoria Volent – What kind of events are envisioned? It might be overkill for small events. Wants more details associated with events.
- Chris Straw went over highlights of Fort Williams Park Group Use Policy. Town Council sets policy about what events are approved.
- Don Clark – Project does have income generation potential. Not large but smaller events.
- Terry Ann Scriven – Is the Park going to see an increase in the number of visitors?

- Roger Rioux – Food vendors are drawing people in.
- Steve Bates, 4 Rand Road – Is a citizen survey planned?
- Mark Russell – Explained food vendor program. Also said fees are assessed on trolleys and buses. Park is a popular destination.
- Lise Pratt – Park visitation is up nationally. Thinks Committee has a responsibility to provide insight into the number of events, types of events, etc.
- Pricilla Armstrong – Emphasized concern about winter moths.
- Jamie Garvin – Thanked everyone for coming
- Don Clark asked Mike McGovern to talk about social media outreach.
- Mike McGovern talked about Facebook ad. Useful vehicle for getting the word out.
- Steve Lyons – Works as a “Volunteer” at the Portland Head Light and asks people where they come from. “Visitors come to see the Portland Head Light.
- Mark Russell – Thanked everyone in the audience for coming.

Forum concluded @ 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert C. Malley
Director of Public Works