

Century Park Refurbishment

“What we heard” at the Community Information
Session February 21, 2017



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St. John's

Purpose of session

The session was organized by the City of St. John's to share the concept plans for the \$100,000 refurbishing of Century Park located on Hayward Avenue. The session was informal. The purpose was to share design concepts and solicit feedback on minor tweaks and adjustments.

Who participated in the session?

- Ward Councillor, Jonathan Galgay hosted the event;
- Georgestown Neighbourhood Association, Elizabeth Oliver
- City of St. John's Parks Manager, Brian Head
- About 20 people, primarily from the immediate neighbourhood, attended. Following the presentation there was a Question and Answer session and following that, participants were able to speak to the staff and Council about the project and post any additional ideas/comments they had on “sticky” notes directly on the concept boards.
- Councillors Sheilagh O’Leary, Ward 4 and Danny Breen, Ward 1 were also in attendance.

Georgetown Neighbourhood Association

The Georgetown Neighbourhood Association noted that the project has been in the works for a number of years and there have been various concepts in that time. The current concept was built with input from the community. The group officially did a hand off to the City to carry out the project and to consider the comments received at the session in the final design.

City staff noted the concept plan includes:

- Enhanced greenspace, more trees, refurbished basketball court, more seating/benches
- Reduced parking at the top to accommodate more green space and to create a buffer between the parking lot and the back of the homes on the adjacent street
- Removal of the chain link fence on one side of the basketball court to allow for open flat space for events/entertainment
- Commitment to ongoing maintenance to ensure upkeep
- Removal of access to rear yards on Belvedere to accommodate additional green space
- Through discussions with residents it was noted that the space would not have a playground and therefore not include playground equipment.
- The revitalization of the park was noted in the City's Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan released in late 2014.

The Concept



Feedback from the Session (Q and A)

Following the presentation there was an open discussion from the floor. The bullets below capture the comments made by theme/topic. Note: In some cases the item may have been noted by a small number of people in attendance and may not be reflective of the group as a whole.

- Lighting – need to have consideration for additional lighting in the space in the upper level and near the courts
- Basketball court is well used and as such needs more than a “fix” – could use resurfacing of asphalt, new nets, backboards, etc... It was noted that this one of very few outdoor courts within the City.
- While folks welcomed the idea of planters for growing their own food; there was some concern about lack of water and availability of water source for those community planters.
- Parking – some concern with loss of parking on the upper level
- Trees – need to ensure trees consider safety and shade
- Areas for small children – give some consideration of “slides” built into the hill. (Note: City staff noted that all children’s equipment must be CSA approved.)

Feedback (“stickies” on the concept boards)

- Bike racks
- Walk-in access from Hayward Avenue
- Allow parallel parking on access road to upper parking lot and make it wider if needed by removing some green space
- Do not take away any parking (upper lot)
- Consider acquiring space adjacent to park for additional parking or green space
- Lighting
- Pave the gravel pit (one space) adjacent to the lower parking lot for official parking
- There is too much parking congestion - 30 residential and business units and 20 parking spots on back – cannot afford any parking loss
- Consider more 15 minute parking on the even side of Hayward
- Remove 15 minute parking on Maxe Street by the Bakery and allow for parking anytime
- Provide walking access from the park to McDougal St. and Barnes Rd.



Next Steps

- The City committed to reviewing the ideas and suggestions presented at the session in the final plan development and confirmed that the redesign of the upper parking lot will be referred to the City's Transportation Engineering Division before final decisions are made.
- Councillor Galgay noted that the plan will move forward this year.
- The City will share any revisions or changes from the concept plan with residents through the neighbourhood association and the City's website once the plan is finalized .

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