

MINUTES of a Landscape Enhancement Plan Committee meeting held in the Polar Room, Town Square, Town/Regional District Office, Fort Nelson, BC on Wednesday, April 17, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT

Director McCartney -Chair
Councillor Bumstead
Peter Goetz
Emilie Adin
Angela Thomas

STAFF

Pat Bailey -Administrator
Tom Sprado -RFMM
Jim Cheverie -DOP
Liana Capes -Recording Secretary
Barclay Pitkethly -Projects Grants Coordinator

MEDIA/PUBLIC

George Durocher -Project Manager, GPEC Consulting

1. Call to Order
A quorum being present, Chair McCartney called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and proceeded with the business placed before it.
2. Adoption of Agenda
MOVED by Councillor Bumstead **SECONDED** by Peter Goetz that the agenda for the April 17, 2002 Landscape Enhancement Plan Committee meeting be amended to include the following:

- Summary of Proposals for Alaska Highway Boulevard Trees

and thereafter, be adopted for implementation.

CARRIED

MINUTES

3. Landscape Enhancement Plan Committee
November 21, 2001
MOVED by Councillor Bumstead, **SECONDED** by Emilie Adin that the Landscape Enhancement Plan Committee minutes dated November 21, 2001 be received for information.

CARRIED

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NEW BUSINESS

4. Introduction
(Chair McCartney)

Chair McCartney introduced himself to the committee and welcomed all new members. Round table introductions were made.

5. Committee Background
(Administrator Bailey)

Administrator Bailey gave a brief overview of the Landscape Enhancement Committee background with the following points being noted:

- The Committee was originally called the Downtown Beautification Committee.
- In the beginning, the primary focus was to create a more attractive downtown business area by installing new flower beds, benches and lights.
- The focus shifted to the upgrading of neighbourhood parks, which were built in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Most parks were kept in good shape but no plan was in place for future park upgrades or maintenance.
- A "Landscape Enhancement Plan" was developed by Urban Systems and was completed in 2000; the plan examined existing signage, parks, Town facilities etc. and recommended general improvements for these areas and suggested new enhancements as well.
- Enhancement of two neighbourhood parks: Art Fraser Memorial (the oldest park in Fort Nelson) and Gairdner Park would be the primary focus for 2002.

PARKS

6. Art Fraser Park

DOP Cheverie advised that there was a three year plan for the Art Fraser park, and first year would consist of site preparation, including drainage of the parking lot. He further noted that the majority of the \$60,000 in the 2002 budget, would be utilized.

RFMM Tom Sprado stated that GPEC Consulting was working on two design concepts for the park: one which will include a soccer/playing field and two ball diamonds back to back; the other option would be to enlarge both existing ball diamonds to official size. He further noted that both design concepts would be ready for the May 9, 2002 meeting.

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6. (Cont'd)

DOP Cheverie reported that the washrooms for Art Fraser Park (\$25,000) would be designed and constructed by mid July 2002; said washrooms would remain open from May through to October and would be closed during the winter season. The washrooms would be located close to the playground area to power lines and sewer/water main connections. DOP Cheverie further noted that the washrooms may be constructed out of stainless steel or concrete with a protective coating applied to make it easy for cleaning. Flushing and sinks would be operated by sensors and the washrooms would be wheelchair accessible.

GC Pitkethly suggested a contest be held to allow local artists to paint the washrooms at the Art Fraser Memorial Park thus displaying their work and deterring vandalism, spray painting, or graffiti. He further suggested that the Town/Regional District offer a reward or recognition for the best design.

MOVED by Emilie Adin, **SECONDED** by Peter Goetz, *that it be recommended to the Town Council and Regional Board* an art contest be held for local artists to create and design murals for the exterior walls of the Art Fraser Memorial Park washrooms and the four dugouts; that all paint and materials be supplied by the Northern Rockies Regional District, and that the winner of the contest be recognized through a public showing of their artwork at the Town Square.

CARRIED

Administration was *requested* to draft an outline for promoting the contest and the rules and regulations to be associated with it including a timeline.

7. Neighbourhood Parks

It was noted that there was \$15,000 budgeted for Neighborhood Parks for 2002. Projects would include: removal of old culvert at Gairdner Park, and installation of benches & picnic tables.

8. Klondike Park

It was noted that Klondike Park was in need of improvements.

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9. Gairdner Cres Park

Administrator Bailey advised that up until 2001, use of the Gairdner Crescent Park had deteriorated as the equipment at the park was old and not CSA approved. In 2001, following consultation with citizens who live in the Gairdner Crescent area new "CSA approved" equipment was installed, including two basketball hoops (at different heights to maximize usage for all age groups).

Administrator Bailey noted that with these enhancements, Gairdner Crescent Park is quite popular within the neighbourhood and is frequently used. She further indicated that the installation of new benches, picnic tables and landscaping were all that remained for upgrades at the park.

Emilie Adin suggested placing the benches and picnic tables in shaded areas of the park, whereby RFMM Sprado suggested that tables and benches be placed close to the children's playing area.

Chair McCartney proposed that the Committee meet again with the citizen members from Gairdner Crescent to coordinate the best location for benches and tables.

10. Cottonwood Park

It was noted that Cottonwood Park requires designation signage to properly distinguish it as a neighbourhood park, to increase usage.

Committee members reviewed Town residential green spaces as identified in the Landscape Enhancement Plan as the "Emerald Necklace," which provides the skeleton elements for the possibility of a connected greenway through residential areas of Fort Nelson. It was noted that the greenspace areas have been greatly improved over the past two years.

11. 43rd Street Park

It was noted that although the large 43rd Street Park was quite bare, it had new equipment; however, there is a need for new benches and picnic tables. RFMM Sprado noted that the old slide and sandbox still remained and would be removed this summer.

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POCKET PARKS

12. Millennium Park DOP Cheverie advised that work to the Millennium Park was almost complete and sponsor recognition signage was all that remained to be installed. He noted there has been concerns with the park being vandalized during the winter season due to the snowmobile and ATV traffic, and suggested that some form of winter protection would need to be addressed.
13. Downtown Core Pocket Park It was noted that the site across from the Esso Station (old Arja Site) would be the location of the new Downtown Core Pocket Park, consisting of the same wood/stone bench and large flower planters as located next to Northland Insurance Agency. It was suggested that a large group of "Christmas" trees be planted in the area due to the size of the lot.

ALASKA HIGHWAY & OTHER BOULEVARDS

14. Boulevard Trees & Shrubs GC Pitkethly advised that a "request for proposals" for the replacement of the dying trees along the Alaska Highway Boulevard had been advertised, noting that the trees are at the end of their life cycle. He further advised that three proposals had been requested and sent out and two were received back. One company withdrew from the competition, leaving only one valid proposal from SunNorth Ventures of Fort Nelson (a report is attached to and forms a part of these minutes).

It was noted the flowering crabapple trees that were planted in the downtown core in 2001 are continuously being vandalized. It was suggested that tree guards be placed on any newly planted trees to protect the tree from vandalism until the tree was firmly established.

MOVED by Peter Goetz, **SECONDED** by Emilie Adin *that it be recommended to the Town Council* that SunNorth Ventures's proposal for the "Alaska Highway Boulevard Trees Replacement Project" be accepted in the amount of \$660.75 (taxes included) per tree in 2002 (seven trees with a 2% increase per year in cost of said trees over the next three years, for a project total of 21 trees).

CARRIED

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15. Brick Sidewalks DOP Cheverie noted the continuation of the multi-year brick sidewalk replacement program would proceed in 2002 with replacement of the existing sidewalks in front of the Red Rose Convenience Store and proceeding up towards Airport Drive. He advised that the Town covers a portion of the sidewalk improvement cost and the local store owners make arrangements with the contractor to pay a portion of the cost for the sidewalk.
16. Liard Street DOP Cheverie advised that the sidewalk nearest Liard Street along Landmark Plaza (from the Northern Deli to BoonDocks) was damaged as a result of cars parking over the sidewalk. He indicated that in 2001, the Committee had suggested construction of 80 bollards to attempt to solve the problem; however the chain link material to connect the bollards was a liability issue. George Durocher, GPEC Consulting, noted that galvanized steel braid may be used instead of chain link and advised that he would look into the potential liability issues and report back.
17. Next Meeting *It was agreed that the next Landscape Enhancement Plan Committee meeting he held Thursday, May 9, 2002, at 7:00 p.m.
18. Adjournment **MOVED** by Councillor Bumstead, **SECONDED** by Peter Goetz that the Landscape Enhancement Plan Committee meeting of April 17, 2002 be declared adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

CARRIED

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CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the minutes of a Landscape Enhancement Plan Committee meeting held Wednesday, April 17, 2002.

Director Rod McCartney, Chair

Debbie Walker, Town Clerk

Liana Capes, Recording Secretary