

Wednesday, May 18th, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Dundas Town Hall

The Dundas Community Council met.

There were Present: Russ Powers, Councillor
Bob James
Bill Kennedy, Environment
Phyllis Kraemer, Business
Jeff Gowland
Stan Nowak, Heritage
Keith Sharp, Sports & Recreation
Bonnie Szaz
Libby Toewes, Art & Culture

Regrets: Carolyn Cornale
Jessica Brennan
Larry Button
David Sweet, MP

Absent:

Also Present:

Craig Campbell, Dundas Star News
Arlene VanderBeek, Councillor's Office
Doug Gordon, Dundas Resident
Carl Collins, Dundas Resident
Dave Carson, Dundas Resident
Terry Calder, Dundas Resident

1. Remarks from the MP, MPP, School Trustees

2. Previous Meeting Report

The report from the March 16th, 2011 meeting was received as distributed and was moved by Keith Sharp seconded by Stan Nowak to accept the minutes, as presented. Carried.

3 Presentations and Discussions -

Sandy Bell of the Hamilton Conservation Authority presented an update on the landscape restoration strategy plans for the Project on and around the former Veldhuis property, along the Desjarden's Canal.

All buildings are demolished and removed, with the exception of a chimney because there is evidence of chimney swifts (a species at risk), so are doing due diligence to see if they are there and whether they will stay there.

The Foundation will be raising funds for the restoration.

Also doing a Phase II site assessment now that the buildings are gone, to determine exactly what is on the site. Glen O'Connor Consultants have done some design work on the approximately 2 acre parcel.

The goal is to restore it to a native landscape – creating planting areas of Oak Savannah, Upland hardwood and upland meadows as well as restore the riparian nature of the shoreline in this area (fixing the erosion and restore vegetation to the banks).

Would like to develop a lookout area (over the water) with some sort of pavilion and a trail system which will bring people down to certain points along the water, which allows the retention of more natural areas along the shore.

The creek area that leads to the canal is planned to be restored. The chimney has been supported by engineered structures, so that it has been retained (at least until the Chimney Swifts issue is resolved).

The Conservation is supportive of ending (closing off) King St. East in a cul-de-sac, which would retain access to the City C.S.O. tank. The road is very close to the edge of the canal and will require significant investment in road and bank repairs in the future and the lack of space between the canal and the road edge makes pedestrian traffic problematic if the status-quo is maintained.

The Conservation Authority would like to remove the feeding of the geese, since it is not natural for the fowl.

Parking will utilize the municipal parking in the area.

A wooden boardwalk would allow people to walk out, over the water.

Floating islands of vegetative mass will improve the water quality.

Keith Sharp: Looks good and hopefully the challenges can be worked out and fundraising efforts will pay off.

Stan: Do you still plan to build a new chimney? Sandy responded that there are two possibilities. They may have to keep it (depending on the findings in the studies). It may become a part of the landscape of the plan.

Are there plans to have a structure rather than fabric. Sandy advised that there are materials out there that work all year long.

Bill Kennedy: How much will the existing site level be raised. Sandy advised that it has not been determined. Preference might be to add 1.5 m of fill, rather than excavate.

Dewitt Movers is much higher. If the property is raised 1.5 m, would it blend in? Sandy responded that the landscape developer would like to add more for berms, etc.

Bonnie Szaz: Cost and plans for fundraising.

Sandy advised that the costings have not been done. They are in the process of getting feedback on the design ideas and, once finalized, they will be costed.

Bob James: Who is responsible for the water.

Sandy advised that the City owns the canal – the conservation Authority has regulatory authority over it.

What is the use of the canal? Russ advised that it accepts the water from the water treatment plant, has not been aerated for years because the water quality is good enough to not require aeration.

Sandy responded that the water is good – though not swimming quality – and the proposed vegetative islands will improve that.

Jeff Gowland: What will be used for the walkways – something other than asphalt?

Sandy agreed that they could go to other products, but there is increased emphasis on accessibility and asphalt is used, even in the National Parks, because of the requirements. The central walkways will be hard surface, however, the inner walkways are soft surface and woodchips.

Libby Toewes:

Will there be historical signage on the property (ie: canal, the brewery, etc.), as well as interpretive signage. She mentioned the beautiful model in the Dundas Museum of the area, in days gone by.

Sandy expects about 6 large panels, which will provide room for historical, natural, cultural interpretive information, throughout the park area.

Phyllis Kraemer:

Before anyone goes any further, the design people should visit the museum because that area really determined the culture of the area.

Aeration should be put back (in winter) so the “frozen spears” could return.

Is there a way to think of using artistic benches (combining the work of artists in the area)

Russ Powers:

The pump house is a unique structure. A water feature at that end of canal could use the pump house.

Sandy advised that there is nothing left that could be used again.

There are a number of locations where seasonal floating water features have been donated by service clubs. It would create circulation at the “dead-end” of the canal,

Discussions are taking place with regard to tradeoffs with the RBG to allow the Conservation Authority to have jurisdiction over most of the land along the canal.

The next step will see the comments returned to the consultant to incorporate, after which the design will go to the Conservation Advisory Board of the HCA on June 9th where there will be another public opportunity to make comments.

4. Updates on Items from Previous Report

- Updates on proposed and on-going Dundas projects:
 - 23-25 King St. East (former Good Times Fishing Club) – progressing very well. Running a bit behind due to the weather. Once the third floor is closed in, they can begin interior works
 - 104 King St. West (Post Office). Permits are in-hand and some heritage issues are being sorted out and the important heritage components will be preserved.
 - 2555 Creekside has been resubmitted. It has been re-designed to 6 stories.
 - Sisters of St. Joseph – application was made for the convent to be used by Columbia College for some classrooms and dormitory. Settlement has been reached and the issue has been resolved. An additional OMB appeal has been filed by an individual and the Sisters will attempt to reach agreement.
 - 16 King St. E – Dairy Queen – 6 + 1 (for HVAC) storey stepped back building to include the DQ on the ground floor + potential for 3 additional commercial units, with residential above and underground parking.

- Supt. Clarke and Sgt. Myra James are expected to attend, next month

5. Correspondence - None

6. Information/Discussion Items:

- **Area Rating:** It's a compromise – urban issues/rural issues and rural areas that received urban services.
 - The impact is .9% surcharge for Dundas. If we had not found a workable solution to this would have impacted the next 3 years on Council. Summary attached.
 - Cultural costs will be shared by all
 - Recreation area rating because there are differences in the recreation services available in different areas. On the basis of what you receive, you pay.
 - City has limited funds to purchase lands. School Board is divesting more and more schools (at market value) where the playfields have been utilized by the City for years. Without the ability to purchase those lands, the City will lose green space to development. Area rating allows special purchase expenses to take place.
 - Area rating of sidewalks and streetlights, etc. (Pay for what is there) will be done on a urban/rural mix.
 - Transit service delivery will be sorted out down the road.
- **Urgent Care Centre:** What are you hearing?
 - Bonnie reported that her family member had to go to the Urgent Care Ctr
 - Keith: general populace is still not keen on this – some are very vocal
 - Bob: Can this be put on the agenda for a future meeting, because it's only been open for a month?
 - Jeff: Waited 3 hours – Shuttle from MUMC and back cost \$20.00. Now apparently MAC is refusing 17.5 year olds. His father-in-law was rushed to hospital and they sent him to Henderson.
 - Phyllis: Knows someone who had to wait 7.5 hours from Urgent Care. People are sent to Henderson because they have no beds at the General. Staff at the General are very unhappy about everything.
 - Bob suggested that Council might ask that the number of available beds data be kept.
 - Urgent Care Centre does not have the diagnostic centre equipment set up yet.
- **DCC**
 - Members should check their bios on the web site and let Arlene know if changes are required.
 - Youth and Seniors representatives are anticipated at the next meeting.

7. Community Reports from Members

(a) Arts and Culture – Libby Toewes

- The Carnegie Gallery is well underway – the lighting is much improved and they are still working. They found the remnants of an old archway and a fireplace in the basement.
- Shows coming up: Darwin, the naturalist – new work by Maureen Steuart and Changing Surfaces Art Exhibit of new works by Marilyn Clarke, Textile Artist - June 3rd – 26th.
- Beyond the Valley Studio Tour – May 28/29, 2011
- Annual Secret Gardens Tour Sunday June 26, 2011
- DVSA had a very successful auction and are open again. Hoping for a grand opening in September.
- Children's classes will start up again in the fall.

(b) Business – Phyllis Kraemer

- Susan Preston is officially going to be in the Post Office, and
- Noelle from Ellenoire will be there too
- Bob Pinder has Miles Travel going into the location where the bakery was located
- A bakery will be locating in part of the old Shopper's Drug Mart location.
- No word on who will be moving into where Fitz and Co. was
- Envoke is gone and the building is empty – not because of lack of interest.
- Bling on King opened – accessory store – owned by Neil Peirara
- BIA is expanding to include David Williams Shoes and Domestique Café
- June 16th the market will re-open with a new market manager – Lisa Anderson, a Dundas resident. There's strong public support for the market now: Dundas in Transition and St. Augustine's School have had events promoting local farms and eating local.
- Taylor's Tea Room won the Business of the Year from the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Awards Event.
- Community Council members Leslie Watson and Stan Nowak (along with Dundas resident Barry Forth) tied for Citizen(s) of the Year
- University Plaza bus area has been re-designed.
- Shopper's Drug Mart has increased the walking traffic at that end of the downtown.
- BIA has been talking to the City about art benches downtown
- The lamp posts are being repainted this year
- Poster kiosks are coming to Dundas – freestanding beside the RBC on the southeast corner and the corner of Ogilvie and King Street West. Once in place, City staff will be able to enforce the restriction of posters on other poles. This project began about 4 or 5 years ago.

(c) Environment – Bill Kennedy

- Early April in Dundas – Councillor Power’s Team Up to Clean-up, sponsored by Tim Horton’s – resulted in significant clean-up and was well attended.
- Bill asked about graffiti – Russ advised that public works will be discussing littering, illegal dumping and graffiti.
- A tulip tree was moved from Helen Street to Fisher’s Mill Park

(d) Heritage – Stan Nowak - Report attached

- Historical Society had the AGM and Stan has stepped down, so is Past President
- Victorian Family Festival will be held on May 28
- Giant’s Rib Newsletter is attached. It will be at the Lakeview Banquet Hall on Van Wagner’s Road – dinner and live and silent auction: June 21st, 2011

(e) Sports and Recreation – Keith Sharp

- Summer sports activities are underway, except for weather
- Baseball registrations continue to decline
- The post office is removing the mail boxes in various locations in Dundas
- Brenda Coppins-Smith is one of the final 4 contestants in the Kraft Philadelphia Cream Cheese contest.

7. Other Issues/Questions:

- Bill Kennedy asked about the bridge on Cootes – study/evaluation only will be done in 2011
- Talked to several people about the crossings and sidewalks in Dundas, and they seem to feel that things are good in Dundas
- Walk-ability is something that the City is working towards. All sidewalks in the City have been investigated. Programs are put in place for necessary works that are not part of the Capital Works. 2017-18: Melville from Bond to Princess and cross streets: storm sewers, sidewalks, roads, etc., will be done. If problems arise on sidewalks that have already been rebuilt or are not to be rebuilt for a long time, repairs will be made under the sidewalk program.
- Bonnie Szaz asked about Creekside crossings. Russ reported that pedestrian activated crosswalks should be activated by August of 2011 at both Ogilvie and Creekside and Creekside and Hatt. It will be a stoplight, activated by the pedestrian.
- Jeff asked about privacy fences behind the Matilda St. park. Russ reported that staff are working on it.
- Leslie reported that the 2011 winner of Hockeyville is Conception Bay South, NFLD. Barry Forth, Leslie Watson and Clr. Powers will be attending for the September events.

- Wall of Fame Committee continues to work, along with the fundraising committee to turn \$100,000.00 into \$400,000.00. The Legacy Committee meets regularly. A new sign will be installed on the front of the Market Street Arena.

Russ reported:

- The new buses are operational on Route 52A.
- Russ has been appointed to the Niagara Escarpment Commission

Gallery:

Dave Carson reported that Dundas in Transition is now packing about 100 boxes per month.

8. Upcoming Meetings/Events

Buskerfest – June 4, 5, 6

Rotary Lobster and Rib Fest on June 11th

Wentworth Lodge 100th Anniversary on May 25th

Dundas Sunrise Rotary Victoria Day fireworks on Sunday, May 22nd, 2011
(raindate Monday the 23rd.)

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14th, 2011.

- 9. Adjournment** at 9:20 p.m. moved by Keith Sharp and seconded by Jeff Gowland.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Russ Powers
Councillor**