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Mulock Property Emerging Design Concept Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2020-89

Department(s): Development & Infrastructure Services Commission

Author(s): Peter Noehammer

Meeting Date: December 1, 2020

Recommendations

1. That the report entitled Mulock Property Emerging Design Concept dated December 1, 2020 be received; and,
2. That comments on the emerging design concept and Mulock Park amenities be received and used as input to a further developed concept plan to again be presented to Council and,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of a concept plan for the Mulock Property. At the September 29, 2020 Special Committee of the Whole (Electronic) meeting, staff provided Council with report 2020-68 and the design team led by PLANT Architect Inc. gave a presentation related to three “themed” design concepts. Since that time comments were received through a number of consultation events. Preferred amenities from among the design concepts have been summarized and are being presented collectively through a single emerging design concept plan. Staff have already provided some feedback and at this point further input and comment on the concept plan is being sought from Council before additional refinement and development takes place in the coming weeks. The developed concept plan will again be presented to staff and Council in early 2021 for comment leading to a detailed draft

Master Plan for the Mulock Park that will be shared with the community at a Public Information Centre currently scheduled for March 2021.

Background

Three Master Plan Concepts for the Mulock Park were unveiled at the September 29, 2020 Special Committee of the Whole electronic meeting. They were themed as:

- Energized: Village Green
- Expressive: Culture Hub
- Peaceful: Arboretum

To varying degrees based on their theme, each design concept incorporated amenities that reflected the guiding principles established earlier in the design process, being:

- Make it a Destination
- Create Inclusive and Accessible Spaces
- Root it in Diverse Histories and Look Forward
- Keep it Natural
- Connect it to the Town

The three design concepts included elements such as: trails and pathways providing access to and within the park, including a skating trail, parking and vehicular pick-up/drop-off loop, large and moderately-sized open space areas, preservation of significant natural heritage features, restoration of historic gardens and creation of new community gardens and horticultural areas including a conservatory, water features, fire pit, iconic art and interpretive art installations and integration of the existing Jim Bond Park in a passive way connecting to existing trails and open spaces.

Discussion

After unveiling the three design concepts for the Mulock Park, significant consultation was undertaken, including:

- A Council tour of the site with subsequent media tour to highlight the location of potential amenities (September 30)
- A public meeting over Facebook Live which attracted approximately 150 people who provided feedback and asked questions after a presentation of the concepts (September 30)
- An on-line survey through the Town's HeyNewmarket digital platform where visitors could view the design concepts and leave additional comments. This resulted in about 250 responses (September 29 through October 12)

- A meeting with the Diverse Thinkers group providing a range of perspectives from representatives of different stakeholder groups (October 6)

After compiling, assessing and summarizing the feedback received from all of the above inputs, the consultant design team determined which of the amenities from among the design concepts resonated most with people. The configuration of these amenities on site has led to what is being currently presented as an emerging design concept for Mulock Park. The synthesis of this work and the resulting design concept is the subject of the presentation by PLANT Architect Inc./PROCESS as part of the December 1, 2020 meeting agenda.

Feedback from Council on the emerging design concept and the amenities proposed within will be important as this concept is further refined and developed during the next few weeks.

Next Steps

The design team has already received some feedback from staff through a staff task force and working groups on the Mulock Property. After receiving comments from Council, the next step will be for the concept plan to be developed through additional functional design testing and sizing/re-configuration as required. This is scheduled to take place over the December/early-January period, with the intention to again present the developed plan to Council in January.

A detailed draft Master Plan for the Mulock Park would then be prepared and shared with Council before a Public Information Centre is scheduled with the community to showcase the Master Plan anticipated for March 2021.

Conclusion

This report provides an update on the development of an emerging design concept for the Mulock Property. Since three “themed” design concepts were unveiled in late-September 2020, significant consultation was conducted and much appreciated commentary and feedback from the public and Council was received. The response was reviewed carefully by the design team and a set of preferred amenities from among the design concepts were identified. These have been configured as a single emerging design concept plan and is being presented now for feedback. Additional refinement and development of the emerging design concept will follow and will again be presented to staff and Council in early 2021. A detailed draft Master Plan for the Mulock Park is expected to be shared with the community at a Public Information Centre scheduled for March 2021.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

The development of a Mulock Property Master Plan is an important Council Strategic Priority for the 2018-2022 term of Council.

Consultation

The development of this report and the emerging design concept plan was the result of significant consultation with members of the public through virtual means, Council, stakeholders, the consultant design team and staff.

Human Resource Considerations

None at this time.

Budget Impact

Funding for this project has been approved in the 2020 Capital Budget.

Attachments

None.

Approval

Peter Noehammer, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Contact

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