



Town of Newmarket
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Mulock Property Developed Design Concept Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2021-08

Department(s): Development & Infrastructure Services

Author(s): Peter Noehammer

Meeting Date: February 9, 2021

Recommendations

1. That the report entitled Mulock Property Developed Design Concept dated February 9, 2021 be received; and,
2. That comments on the developed design concept plan for the Mulock Park be received and incorporated into the preparation of the concept design to be illustrated at a Public Information Centre, and to prepare the final concept plan thereafter; 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 further development of the concept plan for the Mulock Property. Previous updates to Council were provided at Special Committee of the Whole meetings in September and December of 2020, where the design team conveyed results of feedback from various stakeholders and presented design concepts that went from three themes down to one emerging preferred concept plan. A further developed design concept has now incorporated the input from functional design team members whose contributions have been with respect to: lighting, fire access requirements, water/wastewater and storm water servicing, ice trail and related infrastructure planning, and refinement of architectural and landscape considerations.

Staff have already provided some feedback during project team meetings, and at this point further input and comments on the developed concept plan are being sought from Council. These comments will help to finalize the materials for presentation at a Public Information Centre scheduled for March 2021 where the developed concept plan will be shared with the community. The final concept plan will be provided to Council in April, at which point the Master Planning component for the Mulock Property will be complete.

Background

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. They were themed as: Energized -- Village Green, Expressive -- Culture Hub, and Peaceful – Arboretum.

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.

At the subsequent December 1, 2020 Special Committee of the Whole (Electronic) meeting, staff provided Council with report 2020-89, that provided a description of the emerging design concept. This was presented by the design team led by PLANT Architect Inc. after compiling, assessing and summarizing the feedback received from all of the inputs based on the earlier three themes. This included a Council tour, a public meeting over Facebook Live, an on-line survey through the HeyNewmarket digital platform, and stakeholder comments through a diverse thinkers group. The resulting concept was presented as the Mulock Arboretum plan, and while it emphasized preservation of the natural beauty of the property, it included elements from each of the three previously presented themes. The further refinement of this design concept has been the focus of work over the past several weeks.

Discussion

The presentation to Council at the February 9, 2021 Special Committee of the Whole (Electronic) meeting by PLANT Architect Inc. will illustrate a more rendered version of the Mulock Arboretum plan shown in December 2020. Landscape, architectural and functional elements including the water features, skating trail, gardens, access routes, paths, trails and accessory buildings have now been further refined with input from

design team members with specialties in lighting, ice infrastructure, vehicular routing and functional servicing.

There has also been an opportunity to meet with two advisory committees at the Town, namely: the Accessibility Advisory Committee (January 21st) and the Heritage Committee (February 2nd). Their comments and input have been received and will be taken into account as the plan continues to be refined and finalized.

Feedback from Council on this developed design concept and the amenities proposed within will be welcomed at this time as the plan is nearing finalization.

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 prepared for illustration with the community at the upcoming Public Information Centre in March.

A detailed draft Master Plan for the Mulock Park would then be prepared and presented to Council for final receipt/approval at an April Committee of the Whole meeting, bringing the Master Planning component of the Mulock Park to completion.

Staff will be presenting Council with a further report on plans to initiate the detailed design component so that implementation of the Master Plan can follow.

Conclusion

This report provides an update to Council on the further development of the 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. A single emerging design concept was presented in December 2020, and since that time the plan was further refined with input from functional specialists on the consultant team. This plan is now being presented for feedback before being shared with the community more widely at a Public Information Centre. A detailed draft Master Plan for the Mulock Park is expected to be presented to Council for final receipt/approval in April 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. The Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Heritage Committee have recently received a presentation of the plan and their comments have been provided to the design team.

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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