



Date: July 30, 2003

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: HASTINGS PARK WORKING COMMITTEE**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Board endorse the revised mandate for the Hastings Park Working Committee as outlined in this report.**

## **POLICY**

There is no applicable policy.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 1995 City Council and Park Board established the Hastings Park Working Committee with the purpose of providing direction and advise on the planning process and the plan for the restoration of Hastings Park. With the adoption of the Restoration Plan in 1997 and the implementation of the first phase (1997/98) and the imminent start of the second phase (1998/99), the current mandate of the Working Committee has been essentially fulfilled.

## **DISCUSSION**

There are at this time at least four areas that need to be addressed by the Working Committee and there have been discussions among Board Members, Staff and the Committee regarding its future role. The four items:

- 1) Building Use and Allocation

One remaining component of the restoration plan yet to be concluded is the detailed building use and allocation process. Presently staff anticipate to commence this work in the fall of 1998 and citizen input in this matter is important.

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2) Community Involvement

The future operation and management of the park and the extent to which citizens can be involved in the actual construction and management of the park needs to be explored. The indications from the community to date are that they wish to play a role in this and some exploration of different models needs to be undertaken.

Involvement in the management of the park would affect the programming and maintenance of the park. The programming of events in the park and uses in the buildings are anticipated to be major topics of discussion.

The community participation in the construction of the park, would need to be explored relative to existing contractual procedures, WCB regulations and equipment use. Both staff and commissioners have advised the community that currently Hastings Park is not yet considered a permanent park. However, the expectations are that City Council does intend to turn it over to the Park Board once the Park has been restored.

3) Fund Raising

There is a need to raise additional funding from several levels of Government and the private sector. Some organizations and foundations prefer to give money to community groups rather than government agencies. For this reason it is important that the development of a non-profit society with a charitable status be initiated.

4) Park Design

The detailed design of phase II has begun and a number of people in the community have expressed an interest to have an opportunity to participate in this phase of the design process. It should be noted that this phase is of a far more technical and detailed nature than the earlier concept plan phase. Opportunities will be created for the community and the working committee to review and comment on the work of consultants as they prepare detailed designs and working drawings.

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## **CONCLUSION**

It is proposed that the Working Committee take on a role as a catalyst for public involvement during the implementation of the restoration and provide advice to the Board, staff and consultants on park restoration including the community's role in the future management and operation of the park. The detailed mandate is spelled out in Appendix I of this report.

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## **APPENDIX I**

### **Hastings Park Working Committee**

#### **New Mandate**

The Hastings Park Working Committee will continue to provide community leadership in Hastings Park restoration. The restoration of Hastings Park is now moving to a new stage. The Working Committee will adapt and expand its role as a catalyst for public involvement during the implementation of park restoration, and in the establishment of a framework for cooperative park governance between the community and the Park Board.

In light of this new stage, the Hastings Park Working Committee will engage task groups to work on specific areas as they arise. Currently the following groups should be formed:

Park Governance: Exploring models for cooperative park governance

Building Use: Establishing building use criteria

Fundraising: Forming a charitable organization and fundraising

Park Design: Park design details - Sanctuary, Allee

Other groups may also be established based upon other needs which arise (ie. youth employment, public safety).

The make up of the Working Committee will continue and the new task forces will provide the opportunity for anyone with an interest to join and participate at any time.

In order to move forward, a vital aspect of the Working Committee's next steps will be the involvement of more and new people to represent group and general public interests. The Working Committee will actively seek expanded public involvement through the task groups.

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