Minute No. 508
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – May 13, 2014

Item No. 9 **Fort Rouge Yards Developer Cash Contributions – Lord Roberts Priority Setting Public Workshop (Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry Ward) File DASZ 33/2010**

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and adopted the following:

1. That the cash contributions submitted by the developer of the lands commonly known as Fort Rouge Yards (DASZ 33/2010) be held in an account in the Planning, Property and Development Department for capital and/or programming purposes, using the community consultation process (Attachment A) as a guide.

2. That the Director of Planning, Property and Development be granted the authority to approve expenditures of the cash contributions, including but not limited to grants to community groups/organizations, each such expenditure subject to concurrence from the Ward Councillor.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 21, 2014, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and the City Centre Community Committee, and submitted the matter to Council.

David Sanders submitted a communication dated May 21, 2014, with respect to Fort Rouge Yards Developer Cash Contributions – Lord Roberts Priority Setting Public Workshop.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 13, 2014, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in the recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – May 13, 2014

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 15, 2014, the City Centre Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS on October 27th, 2010 the applicant, Lexington Investment Corp, submitted a subdivision and rezoning application for an approximately 18+ acre area of the larger area commonly known as Fort Rouge Yards (DASZ 33/2010);

AND WHEREAS on November 23, 2010 Council approved the 'The Yards at Fort Rouge Area Master Plan' "A" and endorsed in principle the 'Operationalizing The Yards at Fort Rouge Area Master Plan';

AND WHEREAS as part of their investment in the community, the Fort Rouge Yards Developer committed to cash contributions that would support the improvement of public space and the provision of community recreation opportunities;

AND WHEREAS on December 6, 2013 a public workshop was undertaken with the Lord Robert's residents to assist in the priority setting regarding the potential use of the funding contributions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the cash contributions submitted by the developer of the lands commonly known as the Fort Rouge Yards (DASZ 33/2010) be held in an account in the Planning, Property and Development Department for capital and/or programming purposes, using the community consultation process as a guide, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Planning, Property and Development be granted the authority to approve expenditures of the cash contributions, including but not limited to grants to community groups/organizations, each such expenditure subject to concurrence from the Ward Councillor.

ATTACHMENT A

LORD ROBERTS PRIORITY SETTING PUBLIC WORKSHOP REPORT DECEMBER 6, 2013

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Executive Summary

The Lord Roberts neighbourhood in Winnipeg is the future site of the *Yards at Fort Rouge* housing development. The developer, Gem Equities, has committed to investing $500,000 over five years in parks, recreation and amenities in the area. Funds will be held by the City of Winnipeg and invested directly in the Lord Roberts community.

On the evening of November 20, 2013, City Councillor Jenny Gerbasi (Fort Rouge – East Fort Garry) and the Lord Roberts Community Centre Board hosted a public forum to gather community input regarding desired area amenities. Held at Fort Rouge Leisure Centre, approximately 40 participants took part in a facilitated discussion to identify potential projects and priorities for the funding.

Participants expressed a strong desire to enrich community life in Lord Roberts. The proposed projects bolster physical amenities and social programming, and highlight the connection between the built and social environment and community vitality, health and well-being. Participants spoke of the role of recreation to promote social connectedness, and identified local events and programming as an opportunity for community development. Many proposed projects focus on children and families, with some participants acknowledging that Lord Roberts has many young families and younger adults.

A number of priorities emerged through discussion:

- McKittrick Park investments (3 mentions)
    - Enhancements proposed included: additional lighting, a spray pad (with appropriate sight lines), landscaping, and general enhancements.
- Lord Roberts Community Centre investments (3 mentions)
    - Investments proposed included: staffing to undertake program and fund development
- Lord Roberts School play structure refurbishment (2 mentions)
    - Replace existing wooden play structure (slated for 2016 removal)

Next steps

- Share summary of findings with participants
- Provide report of findings to City of Winnipeg
- City of Winnipeg to review proposed projects and feasibility costing

LORD ROBERTS PRIORITY SETTING PUBLIC WORKSHOP

BACKGROUND

The Lord Roberts area is the future site of the *Yards at Fort Rouge* housing development. The developer, Gem Equities, has committed to investing $500,000 over five years in parks, recreation and amenities in the area. Funds will be held by the City of Winnipeg and invested directly in the Lord Roberts community.

On the evening of November 20, 2013, City Councillor Jenny Gerbasi and the Lord Roberts Community Centre Board hosted a public forum to gather community input regarding desired area amenities. Held at Fort Rouge Leisure Centre, approximately 40 participants took part in a facilitated discussion to identify potential projects and priorities (Appendix 1).

Background information was shared with participants to support discussion, including:

- a list of possible projects developed by the City of Winnipeg;
- Lord Roberts community data (census and available amenities); and
- a community map.

A City of Winnipeg Community Development worker was present to provide information on public recreational infrastructure and municipal process.

Information gathered will be provided to the City of Winnipeg, which will undertake feasibility and cost assessments.

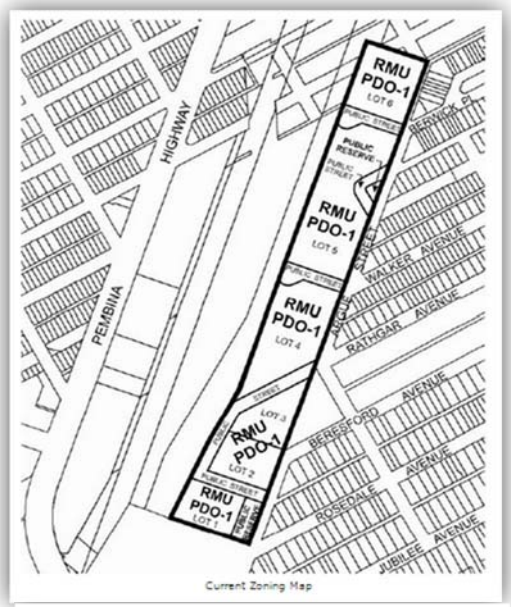

FIGURE 1 - HTTP://FORTROUGEYARDS.COM/FAQ/

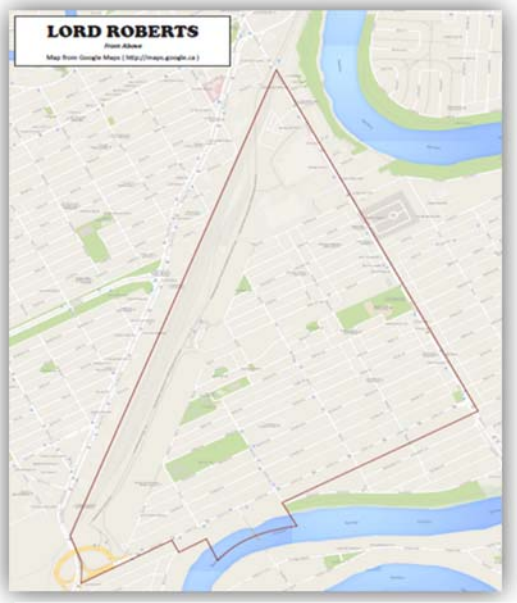

FIGURE 2 - COMMUNITY MAP OF LORD ROBERTS

FINDINGS

Participants expressed a desire to strengthen Lord Robert's physical and social (ie, programming) assets. In discussion, residents said that increased opportunities for recreation activities or improvements to existing amenities can encourage residents' participation and use, and contribute to community vitality, neighbourhood safety and feelings of "social connection."

In small groups, participants brainstormed possible projects. Following this, each group selected three priority projects to present to the large group (Appendix 1, 2). Similar initiatives were subsequently grouped together, with broad participant input.

Three priority areas emerged. Participants identified specific projects for these investments; these are included as examples:

- McKittrick Park investments (3 groups)
  - Proposed enhancements from various discussion groups included: additional lighting, a spray pad (with appropriate sight lines), landscaping, and general enhancements.
- Lord Roberts Community Centre investments (3 groups)
  - Proposed investments from the discussion groups included: Staffing to undertake program and fund development
- Lord Roberts School play structure refurbishment (2 groups)
  - Replace existing wooden play structure (slated for 2016 removal)

Many proposed projects focus on children and families, with some participants acknowledging that Lord Roberts has many young families and younger adults. A number of physical structures and amenities were proposed, including a toboggan hill, amphitheater, splash pad and skate park. Residents said that local amenities promote physical activity and general recreation by improving accessibility and helping to mitigate financial or mobility barriers some residents may face travelling to public amenities across the city. Participants highlighted that improved physical or social amenities can contribute or bolster neighbourhood identity, while creating possible opportunities for revenue generation (such as the amphitheater). A handful of participants also identified that multigenerational amenities are central to community vitality.

Single priorities also emerged, including installing running water at the South Osborne Bike Hub, and re-launching Jubilee Days, a street festival formerly held in the area.

In lieu of proposing specific projects, one group of participants suggested themes to guide discussion and decision-making; building capacity, opportunities for social connection and physical structures and amenities (eg, McKittrick Park, splash pad, Lord Roberts play structure or orchard, and a microloan program that could generate community-based economic development). In this instance, participants did not assign a priority rating to their feedback.

The Lord Roberts School Parent Council requested by letter (November 20, 2013) that funds be allocated to recreational improvements to the wooden play structure at Lord Roberts School; representatives also took part in the workshop. It was identified that age appropriate play structures impact children's injury rates.

Following the discussion of priorities, residents sought information regarding the City of Winnipeg decision-making process for the proposed projects. Councillor Jenny Gerbasi described a municipal process including a review of project feasibility and costing, and committed to sharing a workshop summary.

Faced with limited funding and residents' desire to support many of the projects discussed, matching or leveraging the GEM Equities funds was flagged by Councillor Gerbasi as an opportunity for residents to support multiple initiatives.

Methodology

Following a brief description of the funds origin and purpose by Councillor Gerbasi, Nathan Klassen (Lord Roberts Community Centre Board) welcomed approximately 40 residents who then participated in a facilitated two hour discussion identifying and prioritizing desired recreation amenities for Lord Roberts.

In small group discussion of five to eight participants, groups brainstormed desired projects. Each table then identified three priorities, which were presented to the large group. The large group discussed possible groupings for the projects presented, allowing connections to be identified.

All input collected during small group discussions was recorded on flip charts, while notes were taken during the large group discussion. Participants were invited to indicate with a dot where they lived on a large scale (3' x 4') community map. Over 28 participants took the opportunity, showing that residents from across the neighbourhood took part in the workshop.

APPENDIX 1 – SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Five groups of five to eight participants brainstormed possible projects. Each table suggested three projects (with priority rating assigned):

Rating	Proposed project
Table 1	
1	Toboggan hill
2	Running water at the bike hub
3	Replace the wooden play structure at the Lord Roberts school
Table 2	
1	Refurbish McKittrick Park for summer and winter activities
2	Increase capacity for programs at LRCC
3	[Increasing community connections through events] Jubilee Days
Table 3	
1	Funds for full time CC General Manager to develop funds/programs
2	McKittrick Park improvements (including splash pad with adequate sight lines, landscaping, lighting, structure)
3	Stage/amphitheater
Table 4	
1	New play structure at Lord Roberts school (enclosed area) and community garden
2	Community Centre – program development
3	McKittrick Park – splash pads, general improvements
Table 5	
•	Building capacity
•	Oportunities for social connection (eg Neighbourhood Block Parties)
•	Physical structures and amenities (McKittrick park, splash pad or Lord Roberts School structure or orchard)
•	$ Recycling microloans, revolving loans

Appendix 2 – Themed participant feedback

Five groups of five to eight participants brainstormed possible projects. Following the public workshop, the project lists from all groups were collated, and organized thematically.

One of the five groups indicated their priority ranking of projects by the addition of an asterisk (***), as seen below.

McKittrick Park investment

- McKittrick Park- Splash pad, new building with washrooms and shelter
- Think in categories: amenities/structures, parks, social services – programming
- Develop McKittrick Park
- Splash pad at McKittrick Park (****)
- Asphalt (not gravel) paths in mckittrick park
- Paving paths near/in McKittrick Park
- Enhance play structures at McKittrick Park
    - 8 yr old to 15 yr old
    - Splash pad
    - Hill area (toboggans in the winter)
- Fire pit at MP
- 4 season track at MP with nice lighting
- Upgrades to MP
- Events (stage) in park (2)
- Amphitheatre
- Heated skate/ski shack at MP
- Skating at MP
- Splash pad at MP
- Day programs for kids at mp

Lord Roberts Community Centre – community capacity investment

- Fund a position for someone who would look for long-term funding for programs
- Strengthen Capacity through LRCC
- Improvements to Lord Roberts community center to make it more welcoming
- Mini soccer field at LRCC
- Splash pad and toboggan slide (on community centre property)
- Increase lighting at McKittrick Park
- Money for capacity building at LRCC (full time)
- Regrade baseball infield
- Zamboni/ice scraper
- Skateboard park at Community Centre
- Increased capacity at Community Centre
- Community Centre Aesthetics – more welcoming

- Increased capacity at community centres (hub for public, staffing)(****)
- Integrate new triangle (Argue Street) (Backyard to LRCC)
- Skateboard facilities at LRCC
- Improvements/upgrade to building
- Increase Community Centre Capacity

Lord Roberts School ground

- Replace wooden play structure at LR school (**)
- Shade at LR school (*)
- Replace wooden play structure at school (Lord Roberts)
- Replace wooden structure
- New play structure for nursery to grade 1
    - Replace wooden one
    - Sustainable
    - Ie the one at Assiniboine park

Greening South Osborne

- More trees in the neighborhood re: fruit trees (fruit sharing)
- Structure for Lord Roberts school court yard and sustainable gardens
- Expand community garden
- Shaded picnic areas at all parks, shelter, open air.
- Bike racks at all parks
- Community leaf collection site
- Connect bike transit at Osborne Junction and Jubilee
- Support gardening club (at school court yard)
- Trees (where there are few) LRCC grounds where others have died (*)
- Community garden at LR School
- Trees and edible fruit plants
- Green space near Berwick
    - Dog park (off leash)
    - Land for sale

Community infrastructure – General

- Pathway improvement at Cockburn and Jubilee
- Cross country ski trail to learn skiing
- Increased picnic facilities
- Park b/w Heatherington and Carla has been obliterated by large building – needs to be fixed – livable and useful
- Skate Park
- Toboggan hill (location TBD)
- Toboggan slide

- Tennis courts
- Outdoor stage/amphitheater
- Improve backyard at Fort Rouge Leisure Centre

Strengthening community vitality

- Jubilee days (3)*
- Multigenerational - Venues available for adults as well as children – ex. Improve lawn bowling pitch
- Strengthen community connections
- Winter facilitation activities

Safety investments

- Speed bumps on Beresford
- Pedestrian crossing on Osborne (near 7 ¼)

Micro financing

- Seed money for small enterprises – micro loans – neighborhood based

South Osborne Bike Hub (SOBH)

- Running water at south Osborne bike hub (*********)