



Steering Committee Meeting Minutes - Revised

Date: 12 November 2014

Project: Master Planning Services for Bronson Park
Kalamazoo, Michigan

A kick-off meeting was held at Mayors' Riverfront Park and the following items were noted.

1. Introduction by co-chairs Sean Fletcher and Meka Phillips
 - a. There will be public comments at the end of the meeting.
 - b. The Steering Committee Meeting Minutes from 1 October 2014 were reviewed. D. Neil Bremer stated that "Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission" should be corrected to "Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo". The meeting minutes were approved.
 - c. The Agenda has shifted slightly since the committee packet was sent out.
2. Bronson Park Master Plan Process:
 - a. Phase 4: Quinn Evan Architects, Inc. and OCBA, Inc. are developing master plan concepts and putting together the landscape cultural assessment.
 - b. Phase 5: The first of the focus group meetings will occur on Thursday, November 13, 2014.
 - c. The Steering Committee's role for the November 12th meeting is to learn about the cultural assessment research and work on the draft vision statement and draft design guiding principles and goals.
3. Cultural Landscape Assessment:
 - a. Stephanie Austin presented a brief landscape history of the park, an overview of historic significance and integrity, and an assessment of the integrity of Bronson Park's character-defining aspects and features.
 - b. Questions and clarifications on the presentation included:
 - i. QEA reviewed that the park retains integrity related to the 1940 plan (circulation, layout, water features, etc.) despite the fact that some changes have taken place because these changes were incremental and not major changes.
 - ii. Ilene Tyler referred to period of change plans as describing the landscape during a "bracket" of time.
 - iii. Ilene Tyler clarified that the four National Register criteria of significance do not correspond to the four approaches to treatment in the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction).
 - iv. David Brose asked why the park is not being evaluated for significance under criterion D.
 - v. Stephanie Austin deferred that significance is currently referring to the site's history as a park.
 - vi. Brenda Williams is continuing to pursue information on whether the mound is a state archeological site.

- vii. Stephanie Austin gave additional information on the pre-Columbian history of the site, the mound and potential for other resources nearby.

4. Draft Vision Statement:

- a. A draft vision statement for the park was edited by the attendees of the meeting. A revised version of the vision statement will be updated in the post-Steering Committee packet.
- b. The vision statement is for the park, not the master plan process.
- c. Pam O'Connor stated that she liked the draft statement, but felt that it needed tightening up.
- d. Use of the park was discussed as whether it should be active or passive.
- e. The term "explore" indicates an ongoing process as opposed to "provide" which indicates use and enjoyment.
- f. It was agreed that the steering committee needed to determine the target audience further down the road, items like value proposition, etc.
- g. The vision statement should be used as a benchmark.

5. Draft Design Guiding Principles and Goals

- a. Draft Design Guiding Principles and Goals were edited by the attendees of the meeting. The full list of Draft Design Guiding Principles and Goals is in the meeting PowerPoint slides. Notable comments and issues are listed below.
- b. Historic
 - i. "Preserve the integrity of the park's landscape as a whole and its significant character-defining features."
 - 1. Deb Droppers asked for clarification if we are preserving everything. Doesn't the park already have a high level of integrity? What about changes that have taken place since 1940?
 - 2. Stephanie Austin and Ilene Tyler stated that preserving in this instance is being used to refer to the historically significant character-defining features. Stephanie referred to a list of character-defining features and noted that not all features in the park are historic. Through this process the committee is determining what else can be or will be changed in the park.
 - 3. The phrase "secure and emphasize continuity while acknowledging change in the landscape" was moved aside for further discussion.
- c. Design
 - i. Concerns were raised regarding "appropriate" use.
 - 1. The Committee requested that "appropriate" be further defined through the planning process.
 - 2. The Committee questioned the park's role as a "passive" place. Is the park actually passive? What about major events that are being held? Is the use of "passive use" referring to a use in the past only?
- d. Signage:
 - i. What is appropriate amount of signage? What types of signage should be used? Where should signage be installed?
 - ii. Is interpretive signage necessary?
 - iii. Committee desires clarification of signage location, number, use, and design through master planning process.

- e. Sustainability:
 - i. The committee put aside the issue of sustainability for further discussion. How does this topic relate to anti-vandalism measures?
 - f. Use
 - i. The committee requested for use policies to be well-defined, process through master planning.
 - g. Social
 - i. There appears to be concerns within the committee over inclusivity of certain groups in the park.
6. Public Comments:
- a. Two letters that were received in the meeting packets and were addressed.
 - i. Letter #1 from David Brose:
 - 1. David Brose stated that the sculptural elements of the fountain are the major component of restoration and has to be a public restoration of historical context of Alfonso Iannelli's art and history of the American Indians in the area.
 - 2. To date, the Conflict Resolution Committee has determined that four larger and three smaller "markers" should be created and erected. The four large ones will be placed near the reservation's NE, SE, NW and SW corners. A smaller graphic representation of the four larger markers will be placed in Bronson Park and two others of the smaller markers will be placed at the Kal-Haven Trail and along White's Road to help document the boundary lines. In addition, the committee is planning about twenty "icons" to be placed on existing city street signs at various locations where major Kalamazoo streets cross or follow the reservation boundary. Installation of markers at the edge of the reservation boundaries and in Bronson Park are part of a larger program that is associated with the tribe to convey information without additional signage. Supplemental information was included with the letter.
 - 3. D. Neil Bremer stated that the Arts Council did not recommend any new art installations until the completion of the master plan process.
 - ii. Letter #2 from Stucki Family Foundation:
 - 1. Pam O'Connor stated that the letter is from the family that has financially supported the campaign planning and fountain restoration efforts.
 - 2. Additional grants would be possible from the family foundation as long as the fountain remains eligible for the National Historic Registry.
7. Focus Groups:
- a. First set of focus group meetings to occur Thursday, November 13, 2014 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 p.m. Three focus groups meetings are planned (Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Committee, Fountain Complex Restoration Committee, and the Park & Recreation Advisory Board).
 - b. The second set of focus group meetings will occur on Monday, November 24, 2014 from 11:00 am to 6:00 p.m. Four focus group meetings are planned (Neighbors, Users, Funders and City staff).
 - c. WMU and other academic institutions have been removed from the focus group lists.
 - d. The invitees are listed in the committee packets. If someone is missing, please contact Sean Fletcher. All focus group are primarily by invitation only.
 - e. The meeting agendas for each focus group meeting will be a brief overview of the cultural landscape assessment and reviewing the opportunities and constraints of the park.

8. Project Schedule:

- a. The next Steering Committee meeting will finalize the vision statement and principles. The committee will also start looking at design concepts.
- b. The Public Input Meeting:
 - i. Pam O'Connor asked if the public input meeting could be held somewhere near the park to possibly look out the window at the park during the discussions?
 - ii. Deb Droppers suggested the Library or the First Presbyterian Church as possibilities as both have windows that face the park.
 - iii. Sean Fletcher and Sandy Bliesener stated that they will review possible locations before the next meeting.
- c. Steve Deisler asked when the committee would start discussing policies, guidelines and uses of the park. He stated that these should go hand in hand with the design concepts. Ideas should be shared before the committee can respond with policies that will drive design.

9. Public Comments:

- a. There was a discussion of future memorial issues and how there is a lot of information on how public art on a national level approaches citizens and the emotional process. There are good best practices out there to be reviewed. There are communities that establish a period of time that must pass before determining if the memorial speaks to future generations or only to the present generation.
- b. Alisa Carrel with a background in public art policy was discussed.
- c. Funding issues were discussed and questioned if the master plan will address funding issues.
- d. Sandy Bliesener stated that the master plan will not address funding directly, but an estimate of potential construction cost will be included as part of the master plan. The intent of the master plan is to provide an incremental guide as funding become available.

The aforementioned constitutes our opinion of matters discussed with decisions reached. If there are any corrections, additions, or deletions, please contact the undersigned within five (5) days of receipt of this memo.

Respectfully,

O'BOYLE, COWELL, BLALOCK, & ASSOCIATES, INC. & QUINN EVANS ARCHITECTS

Attachments: Steering Committee Meeting Powerpoint Presentation

Copies: Steering Committee

Steering Committee Meeting Sign In Sheet - 11.12.2014

Name	Company
Sean Fletcher, co-chair	City of Kalamazoo
Meka Phillips, co-chair	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Ilene Tyler	Quinn Evans Architects
Stephanie Austin	Quinn Evans Architects
Sandy Bliesener	OCBA
D. Neil Bremer	Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission
David Brose	Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission
Deb Droppers	The Event Company
Paul Ecklund	Disability Network
Sharon Ferraro	City of Kalamazoo
Laura Lam	City of Kalamazoo
Beth McCann	Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo
Pam O'Connor	Fountain Complex Restoration Committee
Bob Day	Kalamazoo in Bloom
Norman Jung	Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Committee
Grant Fletcher	Bronson Hospital
Steve Diesler	Downtown Kalamazoo, Inc.
<i>Lynn Stevens</i>	<i>Guest, Historic Preservation Commission</i>
<i>Chris Wright</i>	<i>Guest, Historic Preservation Commission</i>
<i>Michael Dombos</i>	<i>Guest, Committee for the Preservation of the Pioneer Fountain</i>
<i>Alisa Carrel</i>	<i>Guest, Historic Preservation Commission</i>