

Outwest Park Update

February 11, 2003

A meeting was held in early January with the City of Calgary Parks department, Corporate Properties and CP Rail at the Aldermanic office. Joe Ceci was present as well as Browning Design.

The good news is that the Parks department has agreed to include the City owned land in their growth inventory for the 2004 budget. This would still have to be approved by City Council, but having it included in the growth inventory makes it much more likely to be approved. Once this is approved then the Parks department can take over long-term maintenance. CP Rail is in the process of drafting an agreement with the City of Calgary for the use of the Regional Pathway easement across their land. In exchange for this easement CP Rail requests that it's lands be maintained by the Parks Department.

We are still working on the concept plan with all parties involved. I will have a copy of the concept plan available for the next meeting so that Community Members can review and comment. In short the concept plan includes the following:

1. The removal of the log sculpture wall. This will remove the visual screening of the site and make it a more open and safer place to travel through. (we have tried to find a new home for the wall by approaching The Calgary Stampede, Heritage Park and Fort Calgary. All parties have declined. We will be contacting the Artist to advise him of this in the near future.)
2. The relocation of the regional pathway from CP land to the City of Calgary land adjacent 9th Ave. This would also help to alleviate the dangerous corner (known as Devils corner) under the CP Rail Bridge.
3. A colonnade of trees will be added along either side of the Regional Pathway.
4. Shrubs and perhaps flowers will be added along 9th Ave. adjacent to the pathway.
5. We will be speaking with local artists regarding the addition of an artistic element to the pathway.
6. CP Rail wants their land to be an aesthetically pleasing green space, but they would prefer that the vegetation and trees on their site be minimal. We are still working with them to come up with a concept plan, which would be acceptable to all parties.
7. CP Rail has agreed in principal to allow us to upgrade the chain link fence along the rail line to a wrought iron fence. We would like this to be an artistically interesting fence and we will be working with local artists and the community to come up with a final design. Of course CP Rail will have to be in agreement with the final design.
8. A number of the existing mature and healthy trees will be retained.
9. The possibility of a sculpture somewhere on the City property is being investigated.

We will be reviewing the concept plan at the March 10th General meeting, so if you have any questions or concerns or would like some input please come to the meeting.

I also hope to have a visual arts coordinator from the City of Calgary out to the March General Meeting to review the artistic elements of the site.

The fund raising has been going well. So far we have \$17,000 committed by the following parties:

CP Rail \$10,000

Inglewood Community Association \$ 3,000

Ramsay Community Association \$ 3,000

Inglewood BRZ \$ 1,000

We have applied to both the Parks Foundation Calgary and the Neighborhood grants Program for additional funding. We should hear from them in early March.

I would like to thank all those who have been working on making this project a reality. I especially would like to thank Joe Ceci for his help in getting all parties to the table.

His support for this project has been crucial and we would not have come this far without it. I would also like to thank my partner from Ramsay, Brenda Japp for all her hard work so far and also Michelle Lefebre and Gary Browning from Browning Design for their generous contribution in helping to develop a concept plan.

Ray Spiteri