

The Friends Of Gage Park

Public Works Committee July 12, 2018

The Gardens at Gage Park are the largest and only Dunington/Grubb gardens of this type in the world.

Dunington/Grubb designs in Ontario are either National Historic sites or under strict protection.

Other cities understand their importance and economic value.

I will look at the Master Plan in the material provided
In particular the areas highlighted.

“The final versions of the four concepts were presented to the public in June 2006. The current master plan has taken into consideration both public and City staff comments, and combined elements from all four original concept plans. At the forefront of the master plan design is the historic integrity of the original 1922 Dunington-Grubb master plan. Howard Grubb, often called the father of landscape architecture in Canada, prepared a Master Plan for the park 88 years ago that contained a formal garden adjacent to Main Street and large vistas of open space encircled by carefully planted trees of many varieties.

In October 2008, Council approved the inclusion of the property on the City’s Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and assigned the preparation of a cultural heritage assessment and a designating by-law to the Planning staff’s work program (Report PED08211).”

“The study did recommend that future areas of the park planned for redevelopment will require a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment prior to future disturbance.”

A public involvement program was prepared early in the master plan process. In addition, a City staff project steering committee was struck that included cross department representation from Public Works and Community Services. The program included a series of focused meetings with stakeholder groups, the Ward Councilor, the general public, the creation of a project web page to provide regular updates and media coverage through the Hamilton Spectator. Over 130 residents were consulted during the project.”

The first highlighted area and I quote.

“At the forefront of the master plan design is the historic integrity of the original 1922 Dunington-Grubb master plan.”... “That contained a formal garden adjacent to Main Street.”

Could this be any clearer as to the importance of the Formal Gardens?

The second highlight

“In October 2008, Council approved the inclusion of the property on the City’s Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and assigned the preparation of a cultural heritage assessment and a designating by-law to the Planning staff’s work program (Report PED08211).”

Being listed as a Property of Cultural Heritage Value with a Heritage Assessment and Designating by-Law,

Why would this proposal not first be brought to Heritage Planning and go through the Heritage process?

It seems the process has been circumvented

Especially since for more than a year Heritage Planning has been working on a designation for Gage Park as a Cultural Heritage Landscape to be completed this year (2018).

Our request is that this proposal, first go to Heritage Planning.

The Friends of Gage Park was formed in 1992 and have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in hard assets for Gage Park and have volunteered thousands of hours in the Park.

One of our main directives has been to preserve the Dunington/Gubb Gardens and design (which includes the proposed sight) for which we received an award in 2013.

The three main gardens in the Park work together.

They are

- The Great Meadow and Open Garden
- The Formal Perennial Gardens
- The Annual Gardens

There is little value to the Dunington/Grubb design without all three

Garden components being in place.

It would be like cutting out a piece of a picture at the art gallery.

For twenty years I have studied the meaning of heritage landscapes.

The tour I give takes about a half an hour so I can only mention the meaning of the Annual garden that is proposed to be taken out.

It is however the culmination and key to the whole garden system.

After entering the Annual Garden and explaining its connection to the Perennial Gardens the last stop on the tour is the square at the centre.

At this point I ask what does the square represent?

By the time the tour arrives here almost all answer that it represents the individual.

At the centre of the square was originally a small fountain which the Friends of the Park have pledged to finance and replace this year.

The Fountain is a pump and represents the heart.

The people always get this answer.

The heart is said to be the seat of the soul

Removing this garden is the same as tearing out the heart and soul of Howard's

Grubb's Great Work of Art in Gage Park.

Please do not ruin this important piece of history.