
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 26, 2002
File No.: 0910-01

To: Ron Born, City Manager

From: Joe Creron, Parks Manager

Subject: Waterfront Walkway linking Kinsmen and Strathcona Parks

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Waterfront Walkway Concept Plan (Enclosure I) for the waterfront area between Kinsman Park and Royal Avenue presented by the Parks Manager be approved by City Council;

AND THAT upon acquisition of each waterfront property the lot be severed into two properties, a waterfront lot and a non waterfront lot, and the waterfront parcel be retained in City ownership for future waterfront walkway development and the remaining non waterfront parcel of land be resold;

AND THAT development of the walkway is anticipated to start in 2007 within the Parks and Leisure Services 10 Year Capital Plan;

AND FURTHER THAT all waterfront property owners be advised in writing of the plan and proposed implementation date.

BACKGROUND:

Urban Systems was commissioned to prepare plans for a waterfront walkway envisioned between Royal Avenue and Kinsmen Park. The plan proposes:

- A 1.2 km waterfront walkway between Kinsman Park and Royal Avenue.
- The waterfront walkway, except for the portion through Maude Roxby, is planned to be a minimum of 5.5 m wide.
- A portion of the walkway would be constructed with concrete pavers for pedestrians only and then an asphalt walkway designed for cyclists and inline skaters separated by seating and a planting buffer similar to the waterfront walkway north of the Yacht Club. Lighting will also be provided adjacent to the walkway.
- The walkway through Maude Roxby is envisioned to be a 4-m wide elevated boardwalk. Safety has become a concern in this area especially when it gets dark. In order to improve safety the boardwalk will be lit through low level lighting likely set into the boardwalk posts.
- Parking is proposed at a newly developed parking lot on Kinsmen Park providing approximately 70-80 parking stalls.

Staff have advised Provincial and Federal Ministries of the proposed plan and we have engaged an Environmental Consultant to determine among other things environmental impact, mitigative measures to minimize environmental impacts and confirm that a 10 metre wide area retained in City ownership is sufficient to accommodate the walkway.

The Parks Division held information sessions on June 19th and 20th, 2002 to gain feedback from the general public. At the meeting held on June 19th at Kinsmen Park, 38 citizens attended the open house and 4 citizens attended the June 20th meeting held at the Library.

Thirty-six respondents supported the proposed plan or 85%. Although the majority of citizens attending the open houses supported the plan they asked that our implementation plan address environmental impacts, public safety, need for security patrols, lighting to improve safety, minimize impact of glare from lights, impact on adjacent waterfront properties, dogs on leash and dog droppings in Kinsmen Park. Total cost of the plan including land acquisition is estimated at \$3 million dollars, which includes parkland acquisition and walkway construction. The cost of land acquisition is accounted for within the Parkland Acquisition Plan and the construction costs are accounted for in the 10-Year Plan.

Although this plan is not scheduled for implementation for at least 5 years, two areas require attention in the short term. The erosion between Kinsmen Park and Royal Avenue and the boardwalk through Maude Roxby. We believe there are sufficient funds in budget to deal with the erosion problem and we will budget for improvements to the Maude Roxby boardwalk through the normal City budgetary process.

In conclusion, development of this waterfront walkway will help us meet the current and future needs of our citizens for more trails and access to the waterfront.

Joe Creron
Parks Manager

cc David Graham, Director of Parks and Leisure Services
Ron Mattiussi, Director of Planning and Development Services
Cliff Kraft, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
John Vos, Director of Works and Utilities

Enclosure

