
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 29, 2004
File No.: 6140-20

To: Ron Born, City Manager

From: Joe Creron, Parks Manager

Subject: Knowles Park Open House

Recommendation:

That the Parks Division hold a Public Open House in June of this year to present the final plan to the community and gain feedback back on the concept plan (Enclosure B) and report back to City Council with its findings.

Background:

Over the past few years the Parks Division has worked with the community on implementing a concept plan for park development. The Parks Division initially proposed a cul-de-sac (Enclosure C) where the lane intersects with the park thereby eliminating the lane bisecting the park. The Parks Division also considered a hammerhead turn-around (Enclosure A) given the amount of space required for the cul-de-sac but this option was unacceptable to Transportation as hammerheads are only temporary measures. The Transportation Division is opposed to terminating the lane as proposed by Parks and advised that Transportation had no problems with the current scenario or to re-route the lane to the south connecting to Lawrence Avenue (Enclosure B) as there is no evidence of cut-through traffic, and total traffic flow along the lane is light; a little over 200 vehicles per day. The additional distance travelled by residents and others who make regular trips to destinations to the east of Ethel Street could, over the course of a year, amount to hundreds of kilometers. This would work against the City's environmental and TDM goals, increasing fuel usage and air pollution in the Downtown area, and would also affect service vehicles, especially garbage collection. Traffic along the lane, particularly at the western end, would increase, to the detriment of residents at that end of the block.

Transportation's most significant concern is the potential impact of increased left turns from the lane into Richter Street, which is a busy street, with many left turns into Bernard Avenue and the Safeway parking lot opposite. This could cause congestion and impact on safety.

The Parks Division wishes to proceed with the lane rerouted south to Lawrence Avenue sometime in the future as outlined by Enclosure B. In the meantime Transportation will install a speed bump in the lane near the park to encourage traffic to drive slowly. Parks considered submitting a laneway budget in the order of \$120,000 in the past but due to the lengthy list of priority 1 and priority 2 items it was delayed.

The Parks Division's plan is to advise the community of our plan, gain Council approval and then proceed to construction in the future.

The Parks Division advised the Parks and Facilities Committee of the proposed Open House at its meeting held March 31st, 2004 at which time the Committee recommended that the Parks

Division not go directly to the public but have the plan reviewed by City Council prior to unveiling the final plan to the Community.

Joe Creron
Parks Manager

Enclosures

Cc David Graham, Director of Parks and Leisure Services
 John Vos, Director of Works and Utilities
 Harry Thompson, Traffic and Transportation Engineer