

Anders & Dorrit's Community Park

Questionnaire Summary Report: *all responses*

Question 1:

Are there any other amenities you would like to see incorporated into the plan that would enhance the park and fit within the vision Anders and Dorrit had for the property?

| # | Response |
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| 1. | Would like to see a tennis court on the property. It could be flooded in the winter months to provide an outdoor skating rink. |
| 2. | I really wish Anders and Dorrit had suggested that this site become the home of an agricultural exhibition site of some kind. Beban park is totally unsuitable for this type of venue with baseball and motocross bike parks surrounding it (the kinds of activities that terrify dogs, horses and other animals). I look at what Victoria has done with it's Saanichton fair grounds and what Cowichan and Courtenay have done with their exhibition parks and think that with the size of Nanaimo, we should be embarrassed with the old and dilapidated grounds we have. I know this is a stretch but would this not have been the perfect site for an agricultural grounds where farm animals (like the ones raised by Anders and Dorrit could have been shown, etc? Children today have little exposure to farm animals like cows, sheep, chickens, horses, etc. The Shady Mile Market years ago provide a petting farm that was enjoyed by thousands of children each year and when it closed, it was a huge loss to families as it was the one and only place in Nanaimo of its kind. I believe Ander and Dorrit's wishes are first and foremost and in hind sight I wish I had known that they were planning to leave their property to the RDN for park purposes since it would have been interesting to know if a place that was able to support 4H clubs, bee keeping clubs, birding clubs and other similar types of animal and nature-type clubs might have been a good fit with their vision. We have a good number of parks in Nanaimo already. We do not, on the other hand, have a suitable agricultural site/fair ground, which I believe is a real shame. The BC Summer Games come to Nanaimo next year and what do we have to show BC when people come to watch the horse jumping and dressage competitions? Embarrassing. :^(|
| 3. | I would like to see the addition of a small barn to be used for a seasonal petting zoo.. ie the 4H barn at Beban park to be operated from this property. 4Hers staff and run their barn. |
| 4. | Community Garden space, community kitchen for teaching food preservation. As the land is in the agricultural land reserve, has traditionally been used for farming prior to the Anders and Dorrit, and was used by them for that purpose too, it would be fitting that the land facilitate and support the renewed interest in local food production. |
| 5. | Curious to know if it will be a no-animal area for pets, like walking dogs to the park to walk around with kids, etc.It seems they would have wanted it to be animal friendly (not offleash but not pet prohibited) |
| 6. | no |
| 7. | The plan looks to be well thought out. It's hard to think of anything just now that would |

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| | improve the plan. |
| 8. | no keep it simple and natural |
| 9. | I think the concept is a good one and the property should be kept as natural as possible. I knew both Anders and Dorrit for many years and I feel they would want the property left as natural as possible. |
| 10. | Employ Concept 1. Ensure toilet facilities. Use the funds for house renovation to construct a paved walking shoulder along jingle pot Rd between the park and the City boundary at Bajich's property. |
| 11. | small playground area for young kids picnic tables should be in view of large open field (safety for kids) agreement with City to fix field for both communities |
| 12. | -Yes, some cheap goal posts for soccer (moveable) -Highway signs to slow traffic |
| 13. | No |
| 14. | Perhaps more fruit trees, oaks & walnuts & hazelnuts. Maybe donated trees from cuttings (heritage trees) and a community garden. |
| 15. | walking bridge over Millstone River Field suitable for soccer (scrub) |
| 16. | Minimize that which would detract from maintaining natural habitat along the Millstone River. |

Question 2

What facilities do you know of in your community that provide indoor gathering/meeting space? (e.g. Pleasant Valley Community Centre, Mountain View Elementary School, Unity Church of Nanaimo, Cavallotti Hall)

| # | Response |
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| 1. | East Wellington Fire Hall. |
| 2. | I don't now if the East Welling Fire Hall offers space or not but ? |
| 3. | Mtn View school, cavallotti Lodge. These are all fairly expensive to rent for a small meeting group or function |
| 4. | Pleasant Valley Community Centre, Beban Park Red Barn, Beban Park Show Office, Mt. Benson old school. |
| 5. | none other than those listed |
| 6. | St Michael's Church in Wellington is one other venue for meetings. |
| 7. | Mountain View School and Cavalotti |
| 8. | The examples just about covers it. |
| 9. | Oliver Woods |
| 10. | Are meetings allowed at the Benson Meadow's Fire hall? |

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| 11. | Mountain View school |
| 12. | all of the above |
| 13. | old fire hall |
| 14. | Pleasant Valley Community Center Mountain View |
| 15. | old east wellington fire hall + Cedar Hall |

Are these existing community facilities sufficient for your needs? Please explain.


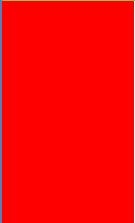
| # | Response |
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| 1. | Probably. |
| 2. | NO-- too expensive to rent |
| 3. | These types of spaces are not as well connected to the land and would not be sufficient for the purposes I described above. |
| 4. | Yes, I work with allowing free or very low rent to the Beban barns and it is rarely booked once a week. Usually once per month by a couple groups. We offer a years worth of use for a \$50 club supportive membership or \$20 for individual member and with it comes free meeting space all year round. I do not think there is a need requirement in this community unfortunately and I think the upkeep isn't worth it. |
| 5. | yes |
| 6. | We don't often use community facilities, but if activities of interest were offered in the Anders-Dorrit home, the convenience of its location could persuade those of us living nearby to take part. |
| 7. | yes |
| 8. | They are, but this place would be better because it is out in the 'country' setting. |
| 9. | This is sufficient for my needs. |
| 10. | Yes, we seldom meet |
| 11. | O.K.! |
| 12. | n/a |
| 13. | Yes, there is sufficient private space additionally at modest neutral rates or no cost at times. |

Question 3

Which is your preferred concept for the park?

Concept 1: to remove the house and develop an informal plaza and a covered gathering space/picnic area.

Concept 2: to keep the house for use as an indoor community gathering/meeting space at a potential cost of \$75,000-\$100,000.

| Response | Chart | Percentage | Count |
|--|--|------------|-----------|
| Concept 1: to remove the house and develop an informal plaza and a covered gathering space/picnic area. |  | 61.1% | 11 |
| Concept 2: to keep the house for use as an indoor community gathering/meeting space at a potential cost of \$75,000-\$100,000. |  | 38.9% | 7 |
| Total Responses | | | 18 |

Comments

| # | Response |
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| 1. | The cost quoted I believe makes keeping the house impractical given the identified use of the land. |
| 2. | Keep the house and convert to a meeting place. Local organizations such as 4H, guides Boy Scouts etc other non profit groups that need a cheap meeting place. it could also be rented for other small activities/events. Take a look at the Coombs fair grounds and their little hall |
| 3. | This portion of the community has long lacked a focal point that helps tie it together and create connections. The house and space would facilitate that purpose and the creation of a stronger more connected community. |
| 4. | I think the only way you will make money renting the house space is if you allow weddings which can be destructive to the grounds - see Milner Gardens house/grounds use. |
| 5. | In our view, the existence of the house extends the usefulness of this property as a community park and gathering place. |
| 6. | We are really on the fence with this and would be happy either way. If a group wanted to take it |

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| | on(as I had heard is a possibility) that would be ideal. However it depends upon cost |
| 7. | It would be an ideal place available for groups and possibly small weddings etc. The cost of upkeep could be taken care of by charging a fee for rentals. |
| 8. | Plaza would probably make more sense, but the house would be nice for meetings. |
| 9. | but keep all the plants e.g. grapes |
| 10. | It would be nice to have just a park. |
| 11. | meetings rental for small gatherings |
| 12. | This is a marvelous gift from Anders and Dorrit! Let's not turn a silk purse into a sow's ear by complicating things vis-a-vis the house. Concept 1 appears to be a sounds one in my opinion - well done! |

Question 4

If you support Concept 2 - keeping the house, please let us know what kind of activities you imagine would work in the space? (e.g. special events, meetings, art gallery/display, etc.)

| # | Response |
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| 1. | If the land were turned into a small agricultural park then I think the cost of the house could be justified because it could be used by clubs using the site such e.g. 4H clubs etc. |
| 2. | All of the above plus small venue weddings? |
| 3. | Garden club meetings, small workshops, 4-H clubs, food preservation classes like canning, |
| 4. | All of the above, plus art, yoga or craft classes, young mothers groups, youth groups such as cubs, girl guides, seniors activities; a possible gathering place for Friends of the Millstone River, for example. I don't know what the requirements would be, but if it were possible, this house might also be considered a venue for pre-natal clinics, flu vaccine clinics, and such-like, offering the convenience of a nearby place for local people to attend. |
| 6. | Nature programmes, school trips for children to learn more about their natural world. As above space for small weddings or other family celebrations similar to the Kin Hut in Departure Bay. Community meetings or social gatherings. |
| 7. | Garden meetings, wild life talks, a place to rent to hold certain classes... |
| 8. | farmers market - growing veg's for children |
| 9. | I would love to see space where community fitness classes could be held. this could attract seniors, youngsters and the like to have an indoor space to be active. |
| 10. | The house is not well suited for a park such as this plus it is located on a floodplain and has flooded from time to time. |

Question 5

Do you know of a group and/or individuals who might be interested in managing the park house facility if the decision was made to keep it?

| # | Response |
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| 1. | No |
| 2. | I think the chances of finding a club or collection of clubs would be more likely if the use of the land aligned with the types of events supported by local clubs who struggle for suitable meeting space e.g. 4H Clubs, Mid Island CADORA. |
| 3. | I am not aware of how the east wellington community association operates but zi think they might be approached. Years ago we had a community hall attached to the old fire hall |
| 4. | There is an emerging Transition Town movement worldwide that is focusing on the creation of community resilience through greater connectedness and local economic development. While such as group has yet to fully emerge in Nanaimo, it has done so in many communities in BC. I think a group of people would come together within that vision and see the opportunity that this property offers. |
| 5. | No - We have a very difficult time getting our very large non-profit group involved at Beban Park and many of these members are from the Jingle Pot area. |
| 6. | no |
| 7. | At the moment, we don't know of anyone. |
| 8. | No |
| 9. | Not at the moment. |
| 10. | Dirk Bekker (Compassion Farms) |
| 11. | As a certified fitness instructor I would love to offer low cost fitness classes in the community |
| 12. | Not in particular. In any event the RDN should not be doing it. There is already too much stuff and overhead therein. Additional tax burden not welcome. |