

Meeting Minutes

No:

Date: October 17, 2013

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Project: 2144-13	Red Hill Valley Interpretive Centre
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In Attendance:

SIGN-IN SHEET		
REPRESENTATIVE	COMPANY	E-MAIL
Guy Paparella	City of Hamilton	guy.paparella@hamilton.ca
Rob Norman	City of Hamilton	robert.norman@hamilton.ca
Andrew Grice	City of Hamilton	andrew.grice@hamilton.ca
Brian Doolittle	Haudenosaunee Development Institute	ganowa@me.com
Chad Collins	Haudenosaunee Development Institute	chad.collins@hamilton.ca
Aaron Detlor	Haudenosaunee Development Institute	aarondetlor@gmail.com
Hazel Hill	Haudenosaunee Development Institute	hazelehill@gmail.com
Sheri Longboat	Joint Stewardship Board Coordinator	slongboat@gmail.com
Scott Robinson	architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson	scott.robinson@attr.ca
Cathy Capes	architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson	cathy.capes@attr.ca

These minutes are considered to be accurate and complete unless architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson inc. is otherwise notified in writing within ten days of receipt of these minutes.

No.	NEW BUSINESS	ACTION
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1.0	<p>VISION STATEMENT</p> <p>aTRR reviewed the three vision statements describing aspirations for the proposed Interpretation Centre. With the following revisions noted below in the second statement, the vision statements were approved as noted below.</p>	RECORD
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ONE – We inherit a responsibility to make decisions on behalf of the coming faces, so that they may enjoy what we have today.

...we are connected to a community, but a community that transcends time.

Rick Hill Sr. , Chair
Haudenosaunee Standing Committee on NAGPRA

Everything that we have now is the result of our ancestors who handed forth to us our language, the preservation of the land, our way of life and the songs and dances. So now we will maintain those and carry those on for future generations.

G. Peter Jemison. Faithkeeper
Cattaraugus Reservation, Seneca Nation

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TWO – By better understanding our past and our present, we prepare for a resilient future.

We are the bridge between the past and the future of the Red Hill Valley. We stand here together, to share with each other our stories of the past told in the landscape. Embodied in the valley is a reciprocal relationship between this earth and generations before us. We look to the past, to reflect on ~~the things~~ our ancestors ~~got right~~ experiences, to breathe new life into our inheritance by adding our own thoughts and experiences in the present.

As we stand here, it is also our duty to engage the future by finding new ways to manifest our connectedness to family, community and the land. At the edge of the bridge, we can find the capacity to recover the path to peace, a good mind and a big love, to the right decisions now so that those who come after us can benefit.

THREE – By building emotional connections to the land and each other, we can be part of something good in the future.

In facilitating a deeper, understanding of our place in the world, the Centre translates experiences into a shared universal visual and physical language that can be felt.

In listening, tasting, smelling, touching, living and telling the landscape and our histories we remove our distance of the things that ensure our well-being. If we are aware of and can engage in experiencing these things more deeply, they will matter to us more than they do now. Can we then find within each one of us the commitment to take responsibility for the one piece of a more resilient future? It is our own behavior that will profoundly affect the well-being of people who inherit the results of our decisions.

2.0 PROCESS

Scott reviewed the process of designing and building a project which include the following phases:

NOTE

- Conceptual design(current phase)
- Schematic design
- Design development
- Construction documentation
- Tender
- Construction Administration
- Warranty

3.0 DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Scott began the discussion on the Design Principles by describing their general purpose:

NOTE

- To develop a set of guidelines that will inform all key design decisions throughout the life of the project.
- To develop a set of guidelines that will describe the philosophical intentions and desired outcomes of the building.
- To develop a set of guidelines that will become the “building charter” to help ensure the pre-establish project vision is achieved.
- Becomes a benchmark and verification test for future stages.

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3.1 REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The following five principles were presented for the consideration of the group as follows. As Sheri pointed out, when reading keep in mind we are creating Principles that guide not only building, but also our connection with the Valley itself.

aTRR / JSB

ONE - Provide a framework that will awaken our past connection to the land and accommodate a shift in thinking towards a new, enlightened awareness of our place in the world.

TWO - Create a place that is an immersive learning environment, truly connected to the site and integrated with the natural patterns it embodies.

THREE – Tell, through modest building, a story about the history of the valley, the cultural relationship with the land and our future responsibilities to the coming faces.

FOUR - Spaces (interior and exterior) will be multi-sensory, designed to enable and engage people both physically and emotionally.

FIVE - The project will be dynamic and adaptable with a responsible use of available resources and materials

During our discussion, two new terms were used in reference to Design Principle #2. *Biophilia* is the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms. Innate means hereditary and hence part of ultimate human nature." (E.O. Wilson)

Permaculture: is an integrated system of design, that encompasses not only agriculture, horticulture, architecture and ecology, but also economic systems, land access strategies and legal systems for businesses and communities.

The Principles will be updated by aTRR and forwarded to Sheri for comment before distribution. (Refer to Appendix for Principles as commented on by Sheri.)

4.0 PROGRAM

Total building area suggested by architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson is 3,800 square feet including:

NOTE

- Education space
- Exhibition space
- Recreation and Gathering space
- Interactive and digital space

Scott noted that the building may be thought of as modular. More components can be added as funds become available, or following generations are moved to create new spaces.

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Brian commented that most of the program will take place outside of the building and throughout the Valley. Rob agreed that outdoor components, such as gardens and trails as well as parking requirements, should be noted in the program. architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson to add and distribute for comment.

The Program was generally accepted by all. *(Refer to Appendix)*

RECORD

5.0

PARTI

Definition: A simple diagram that summarizes both the vision and principles of the project, an abstract drawing that conveys the primary organizing thought or the “main idea of the project”.

RECORD

Scott presented the Parti as a journey between urban and natural environments experienced over time.

CONCEPT DESIGN

Definition: A detailed exploration of the Parti.

Scott led the group through drawings describing the built components. Using a series of drawing layers including:

- the bridge, path and spine,
- a series of linked program modules along the spine,
- suggested connects across and through the site and into the Valley and
- enclosing garden and landscape elements

he built an image of the ideas driving the Concept. It illustrates an organic approach to site design using nature as a model. Scott noted that the concept has been developed without a site. Available natural systems for light and ventilation as well as landscape at the selected site will inform the Design Concept.

Rob liked the idea of locating gathering places in the curves of the “spine”. In addition, the modules along the spine can connect inward to other modules as well as open outward to connect to outdoor space. The qualities of the spine could change with movement. A glass roof in some areas, wood in others. The sounds of passing through could also change – gravel, boardwalk, perhaps a worn path.

Brian would like to see ideas of how learning can take place in the Valley as well as the building and questions whether the building is for serving rather than for learning. How about logs along the paths to accommodate cooking and eating.

Andrew noted that the concept maintain the idea of flexible space that can be tweaked for specific purposes.

London

200 Queens Ave., Suite 700, ON N6A 1J3
T. 519.672.1440 F. 519.672.6969

Toronto

26 Soho St., Suite 202, ON M5T 1Z7
T. 416.595.2876 F. 416.595.5178

atrr.ca

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6.0 SITE

Guy suggests that we select a site in order to refine the Concept. To move forward on site selection Andrew and Sheri will put together, with the help of architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson, a list of criteria to measure a number of suggested locations. A matrix will be made to assess the feasibility of these sites including:

JSB

- Red Hill Bowl
- Mud Street
- A former school at the bottom of the escarpment
- The existing conservation area
- The Blacksmith Shop

These sites will be analyzed next week. The JSB to forward the preferred site to aTRR as soon as possible so the concept design can be completed.

7.0 SITE VISIT

A visit to the site will be organized by the JSB. Suggested dates are to be forwarded to the group.

JSB

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APPENDIX

RED HILL VALLEY INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

ONE - Provide a framework that will awaken our connection to the land and accommodate a shift in thinking towards an enlightened awareness of our place in the world.

TWO - Create a place that is an immersive learning environment, truly connected to the site and integrated with the natural patterns it embodies.

THREE – Tell, through modest building, a story about the history of the valley, the cultural relationship with the land and our future responsibilities to the coming faces.

FOUR - Design interior and exterior multi-sensory spaces to engage and enable an emotional, physical, mental and spiritual connection to the Red Hill Valley ecosystem.

FIVE - The project will be dynamic and adaptable with a responsible use of available resources and materials.

