



Land Use-Urban Redevelopment Committee – Board of Representatives

Nina Sherwood, Co- Chair

Carmine Tomas, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Land Use-Urban Redevelopment Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chair Sherwood, Co-Chair Tomas, and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Camporeale, de la Cruz, Grunberger, Kuczynski, and Summerville. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Campbell, Matheny, and Mays. Also present were Lou Casolo, City Engineer; and Nette Compton, CEO Mill River Collaborative.

Co-Chair Sherwood called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. LU31.033	REVIEW; Update on Upcoming Projects Planned by the Mill River Collaborative. 10/05/23– Submitted by Rep. Adams 10/18/23 – Recommitted to Steering by Committee 10-0-0	Report Made

Rep. Adams explained that he put this on the agenda in order to be able to let the public know what the project is going to look like and how long it will take.

Committee Members discussed Item No. 1 with Ms. Compton and Mr. Casolo. Items discussed included the following:

The Mill River Corridor project, which is a pathway project, spans from Tresser Boulevard to Richmond Hill Avenue. The project was bid and awarded to the low bidder, Kelowna Construction, in June 2023. Their bid price was \$4,068,780. The project has an estimated completion date of August 2024. The funding was provided by DEEP. Mr. Casolo shared that [attached presentation materials](#).

The Trailway project that spans from Scalzi Park passed Cloonan Middle School was completed in Spring 2022. Phase two of the project is the Pathway Trailway project. It is an extension of the trailway system that spans from Scalzi Park to Point South. Railings and lighting in addition to the masonry work will be added to the trailways.

The retaining walls of the trailway are being built with repurposed brownstone from the recent I95 improvement project. The light pole bases are some more of the stockpile materials being used on this project. Phase one of the project that spans along Greenwich Ave will be completed once the funding is in place.

Phase one and two of the project were publicly bid together twice in 2002. There were five bidders with bids ranging from \$5.5 million to \$8 million. The rebid yielded two bidders that

came in at \$6.1 million. During this time the DEEP grant expired. In an effort not to lose the \$4 million grant, phases one and two were separated, and phase two was able to be bid and awarded to Kelowna.

Committee members expressed concerns that parking may become more of an issue and questioned if it was possible to add a few pull-in parking spaces and whether the low bid amount accepted would have any effect on the standards to which the work must be performed.

Ms. Compton reviewed the [attached presentation](#) and provided details on some of the upcoming projects for the Mill River:

- Playground design teams were consulted to help guide the rebuilding of the park to achieve more inclusive play for children with physical disabilities, mobility issues and the neurodivergent population.
- Some community members and neighborhood children helped select the theme of a water play area for the park.
- There will also be junior and big kid play areas included.
- Nest swings will be included for children with low muscle tone.
- A caregiver space and bathrooms will be added to the park.
- A snack box will be added near the Whittingham Discovery Center
- Within one year of the Whittingham Discovery Center opening, the Center will receive a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification.
- Using a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Collaborative will continue installing sculptures around the park.
- The new playground is scheduled to break ground in a month or two and estimated to be open by the end of 2024.
- The final construction project will be the Community Commons in Columbus Park, a green space to attract and invite people and community members into the space. Funding was applied for through the Community Investment Fund at the beginning of December 2023 for \$6.7 million. The project is on hold until further funding is received.

Rep. de la Cruz questioned if the grant for the trailways will include a connection from the current roundabout that is under construction on Greenwich Ave into the Mill River. Ms. Compton stated that she will follow up with Rep. de la Cruz regarding this.

Chair Sherwood adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Sherwood, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).