

# A Report on the City's Presentation of their 10 year Parks and Arts Strategy

by Guy Duperreault, on behalf of the QCB.

On June 5, 2008 James Crosty and myself represented the QCB at the city's public presentation of its: 10-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN and ARTS STRATEGY

Consultants and employees of the city set up four packaged displays elaborating the city's very long-term vision of where it would like to take the community in three areas:

- community services,
- parks and recreation,
- arts,
- local archive/history/museum.

This presentation was the continuation of questionnaire the city presented to its residents in the fall of 2007.

As well as the detailed notes and closed loop animated displays, the representatives made themselves available to discuss various aspects of many of the issues facing the city for the next generation. All of the representatives were excited by their project, and skillfully disseminated their knowledge.

And I am tempted to say that almost all of the ideas presented were reasonable, and smart, and would lead to a much more livable city. They were also huge and extend far beyond a ten-year plan. I enjoyed sharing time with the optimism of the group, and their dream ideas, but I and several others found our pragmatic selves voicing concern that the city hasn't put into place the tangible financial plan that will be needed to make this work. Not that the issue of money hasn't been pondered. We were told that the city plans to with hesitancy and care lest they scare away development, increase the developer contributions. But the ideas presented would far outstrip them, and so other, and still undefined, strategies are required.

Examples: the city would like to purchase the Fraser River's waterfront from the Quay Public market to Sapperton; they have mapped other areas throughout the city where they would like to reclaim developed land for parks and recreation so as to have a park within walking distance for everyone; and there is the idea of a footpath connecting Queensborough to Quayside.

Less financially onerous are the Arts goals. For example, build bridges, financial and otherwise, between the business and arts communities; build a public 'stepped' theatre space in the Hyack Square (beside the keg).

The community services presentation was mostly a description of what needs to be done, but the means to do it seem only vaguely outlined.

Finally the archival presentation was clearly the dream of someone who valued history, but who also lives in our modern, a-historical community hoping against hope for some financial respect.

Draft reports are available from the CoNW's web page:

[Parks and Recreation DRAFT Comprehensive Plan \(pdf\)](#) and [Community Arts Strategy DRAFT Plan \(pdf\)](#) .