

Whereas, Riverdale Community, due to its location adjacent to Dawson Park, has a stewardship responsibility for this part of the river valley for all Edmontonians,

And whereas, the Dawson Park / Kinnaird Ravine master plan, begun in 2016 and now in its final phase, does not clearly meet the best interests of the Riverdale community and all Edmontonians due to a number of concerns, including:

- * questionable alignment of the master plan with its own “nature and ecology guiding principle” that “The natural character of Dawson Park and Kinnaird Ravine should be maintained,” as this seems to conflict with the plans for so much new infrastructure, including a new pavilion, a playground, a beach, a suspension bridge, a new trail, a new “formal gathering” area and other gathering spaces, a new staircase, expanded parking, and more

- * oversight in neglecting to mention Bylaw 7188 (the river valley bylaw) in the list of guiding policies; the first goal of this bylaw is “To ensure preservation of the natural character and environment of the North Saskatchewan River Valley and its Ravine System” (section 2.2)

- * need for better explanation of the solution proposed by the Homeless on Public Lands Committee addressing the homeless population in the park

- * unclear alignment with the city’s Transportation Mode Shift plan, which notes as its goal: “Public transportation and active transportation modes are the preferred choice for more people making it possible for the transportation system to move more people more efficiently in fewer vehicles,” as the master plan includes two phases of expanded parking at the main entrance, and no mention of increased bus service to the bus stop at this entrance, nor of opportunities like bike-sharing

- * vague cost of the plan: construction costs have been stated to be \$27 million, or \$27 million plus or minus 50%; there is no mention of maintenance costs – a major concern when existing infrastructure (ie. paved paths and park map) has not been maintained

- * perhaps most significantly, the strong sense that consultation has been rushed; that the plan includes too many elements without rationale explained for many of them; that the process did not provide stakeholders the opportunity to understand the various levels of priority for the park (ie. that ecological integrity of the park is the first priority, and that recreation must be appropriate and fit under this larger priority), nor specific ecological needs (such as the need for root systems to maintain bank stability); and that the process did not allow stakeholders the opportunity to openly discuss specific issues (such as the proposed closure of north 89 Street); nor explanation of how implementation will be executed

Be it resolved that an ad-hoc committee be struck by the Riverdale Community

League, to be called the Dawson Park / Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan Committee, **for the purpose of working with the city to create a master plan that satisfies the above concerns and ultimately serves Riverdale and the city better**, through the following mandates:

- * communicate to the city our concerns with the process and substance of the Dawson Park / Kinnaird Ravine master plan
- * request a pause on this plan and further consideration of alternatives that could better serve Riverdale and the city
- * seek input from and communicate input to Riverdalians through the Engaging Riverdalians website and *The Riverdalian*
- * reach out to other stakeholders in a process of full and transparent dialogue and consultation

This committee will be composed of Kristine Kowalchuk (Chair), Dawn Poskocil, Sally Corbin, Rocky Feroe, Eric Gormley, Doug Skinner, and Faith Davis (as researcher) – many of whom have been actively involved in the consultation process of this project since its inception. The committee may add members as it proceeds.

Attached: Appendix 1: Concerns with the Dawson Park / Kinnaird Ravine Master Plan Received from Riverdale Community Members who Attended the January 4 Community Meeting, or who Sent Comments in Lieu of Attending