

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

N/A

2.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to update Council on information from the Halton District School Board (“HDSB”) affecting the disposition of the General Brock Surplus School Site.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

In December 2005, staff presented report PR-61/05 that identified parkland options for the Brock surplus school site. Council passed recommendation CC-223-05-1, attached as Appendix A, directing that a public meeting be held to present specific parkland options as identified by staff and the General Brock Park Committee. The parkland options were developed in the context that the entire General Brock School site was being offered for sale. The public meeting was planned for and held on January 26, 2006.

Relationship to Strategic Plan

Long Term Goal - Leading # 1

- Enhanced citizen participation and involvement in municipal decision-making.
Three-Year Goal
- Burlington residents will be more engaged in municipal decision-making.
Strategy
- Facilitate greater resident participation in municipal affairs and elections.

Long Term Goal – Vibrant # 2

- Burlington will provide a variety of services, facilities and infrastructure necessary to promote a safe, healthy and active community.
Three-Year Goals
- The city will ensure services, facilities and parks will be responsive to community needs.
- The city will engage residents in active life-styles.
Strategy
- Continue to take a pro-active role in the disposition of surplus elementary and secondary school sites to ensure community needs are met.

4.0 DISCUSSION:

Halton District School Board

The public open house to consider parkland options for the General Brock site was scheduled for January 26, 2006. Approximately 1 week prior to this meeting, staff were informed by staff at the HDSB that they would be considering a Capital Plan that identified the HSB’s requirement to maintain the General Brock school building for administrative purposes. The Capital Plan was approved by the HDSB at their meeting of January 25, 2006.

Staff contacted the HDSB staff to inquire about the implications of the Capital Plan on the General Brock process. HDSB staff informed that, under the Capital Plan, the General Brock building would be maintained, along with appropriate surrounding lands to support the uses in the building for HDSB purposes. To determine the HDSB's requirements, a facility assessment and site review must be completed. There may also be a requirement to undertake planning applications under the Planning Act to implement the HDSB's plans. Any additional land that may be surplus to the HDSB's requirements will not be determined until the review is complete. Therefore it is unknown at this time whether or not the HDSB will be declaring any lands as surplus.

This new information, identified so close to the public open house, changed the focus of the meeting. The parkland options that had previously been developed for the site were no longer valid, as the context of the assessment of the options had changed. New options cannot be developed until it is known what lands will be considered surplus.

The HDSB's decision to maintain the school building was shared with attendees at the meeting and a process for next steps was reviewed which included:

- Update Council on this new information
- Staff continue to work with the HDSB and the Halton Catholic District School Board ("HCDSB") to determine their needs at this site
- Decision by HDSB on property requirements
- Report HDSB requirements to Council and seek further direction on the disposition of any lands that may be identified surplus to the HDSB

Halton Catholic District School Board

Through the review of possible future uses for the General Brock site, the HCDSB identified an interest in the site for a possible relocated Assumption Secondary School and a new elementary school to replace St. Paul and St. Raphael Schools. The HCDSB is not in a position to make a commitment about the site until provincial funding announcements for capital construction are known. Staff will continue to work with the HCDSB to realize any opportunities at the General Brock site.

5.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

N/A

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

N/A

7.0 COMMUNICATION MATTERS:

The General Brock Park Committee have been notified about this report and have been provided a copy.

8.0 CONCLUSION:

In keeping with the recently approved Capital Plan, the HDSB have identified that they are maintaining the General Brock school building for administrative purposes and will be undertaking a review to determine what lands are required for the function of the building and what lands may be surplus to their needs. Until this information is known, staff are recommending that the process to review the General Brock surplus school site be put on hold.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte O’Hara-Griffin
Park Planner

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Appendices:

Appendix A – Recommendation CC-223-05-1

Staff / Others Consulted:	Name	Telephone
	Ron Steinginga, Legal	7581
	Mike Greenlee, Planning	7860

Notifications:	Name	Mailing or E-mail Address
	General Brock Park Committee	amyschnurr@sympatico.ca

Special Instructions:

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APPENDIX A – CC-223-05-1

THAT Council resolves to address the parkland and open space options on the General Brock High School site following the process as outlined in Parks and Recreation Report PR-61/05, dated November 21, 2005 that includes Council endorsing the holding of two Public Open Houses with consideration of specific parkland options; and

THAT the Public Open House meeting be joint meetings with the City of Burlington and the General Brock Park Committee; and

THAT the parkland options as put forward by staff, being Options 4B, 6 and 11, as attached as Appendices F, H and G respectively, in Parks and Recreation Department Report PR-61/05, dated November 21, 2005 and the parkland options put forward by the General Brock Park Committee, being Options 9, 13, 14 and 15 and attached as Appendices I, J, K and L respectively in Parks and Recreation Department Report PR-61/05, as well as Option 2, illustrated on the maps attached to the memorandum dated December 6, 2005 from Charlotte O'Hara-Griffin, Open Space and Park Development Planner, be presented at the public open house; and

THAT the Director of Parks and Recreation report back to Council in early 2006, on the outcomes of the Public Open Houses, any updated information on institutional options, a recommendation on a preferred option for parkland and next steps relative to process and timing; and

THAT the Director of Parks and Recreation be directed to report back to Council on:

- The Capital Budget implications of the range of options being presented
- A preliminary assessment of the viability and implications of a fundraising campaign for the acquisition of the additional land; and
- An assessment of the other funding proposals put forward.

In addition, the following items have been given due consideration, were directed by Council to be received and filed:

- Report dated December 5, 2005 from the General Brock park Committee regarding the Process for the Disposition of the General Brock High School site.
- Memorandum dated December 6, 2005 from Charlotte O'Hara-Griffin, Open Space and Park Development Planner, presenting a number of options for the disposition of the General Brock High School site.