ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #2

February 3, 2022 | 5:00 – 7:00 pm | Online via Teams

Agenda

1) Welcome & Goal for Today's Meeting

- Determination RE whether these are all-season stations (or just summer)
- Determination RE whether additional engagement is required for local First Nations groups
- First cut at locations and physical expressions (these will form the basis for concepts)

2) Introduction to More Refined Big Ideas

3) Maintenance & Inclusion through the Seasons

4) Further Attempts at First Nations Engagement

5) Physical Expressions & Locations (via Mural)

- Plotting locations
- Placing physical expressions
- Should we let go of anything?

6) Overview of Where We are Going Next

- How does a concept differ from the Big Ideas?
- From here, we will have concepts for review and discussion
- Stories, Art, & Interpretive Signage
- Live Meeting

Attendance

- Marie-Eve Cantin, École Sophie-Morigeau
- Jim Booth, Seniors' Advocate
- Jocelyn Sombrowski, Fernie Academy
- Jikke Gyorki. Tourism Fernie
- Sylvia Ayers, Fernie & District Historical Society
- Lee-Anne Walker, Elk River Alliance
- *Mark Rowlands, City of Fernie*
- *Kim Unger, Consultant with McElhanney*
- *Kirstin Mulholland, Consultant with McElhanney*

FERNIE WELLNESS STATIONS - BIG IDEAS













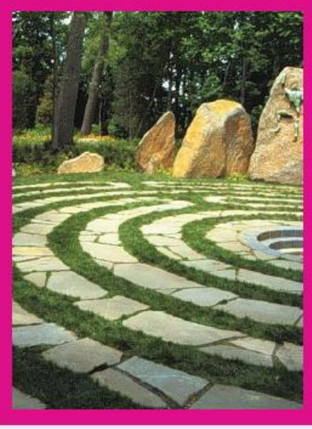














Maintenance & Inclusion through the Seasons

The group discussed the reality of snowfall in the community and the ability for the City to undertake maintenance along the pathway and in the proximity to the wellness stations.

The City spoke to what other “winter communities” are doing with regards to plowing snow. The City noted that there are challenges with regards to cost and life cycle of the trail. The City stated that the sweet spot seems to be grooming of the trail to allow x-country skiers, walkers, and fat bikes to use the trails in the winter.

The AG questioned whether there were any concerns related to grooming a paved trail as they had heard that previously from the City. The City noted that this should not be an issue.

The AG spoke to potential conflicts with different user types – walkers vs skiers, for example. It the trail is intended to be used in the winter; it should be for everybody – i.e., the trail should be noted as “multi-use”.

The AG reiterated that accessibility and maintenance needs to be key – the City should not take on more than they handle consistently, in a predictable manner (ensuring capacity to groom as soon as possible after the snowfall). The AG also acknowledged that there will be times where it is not possible to “control the elements”.

The AG suggested the City connect with the group that maintains Montane and other trails in the area for guidance.

The AG questioned whether there was any funding in the grant for maintenance of the trail – The City confirmed that the grant is purely capital.

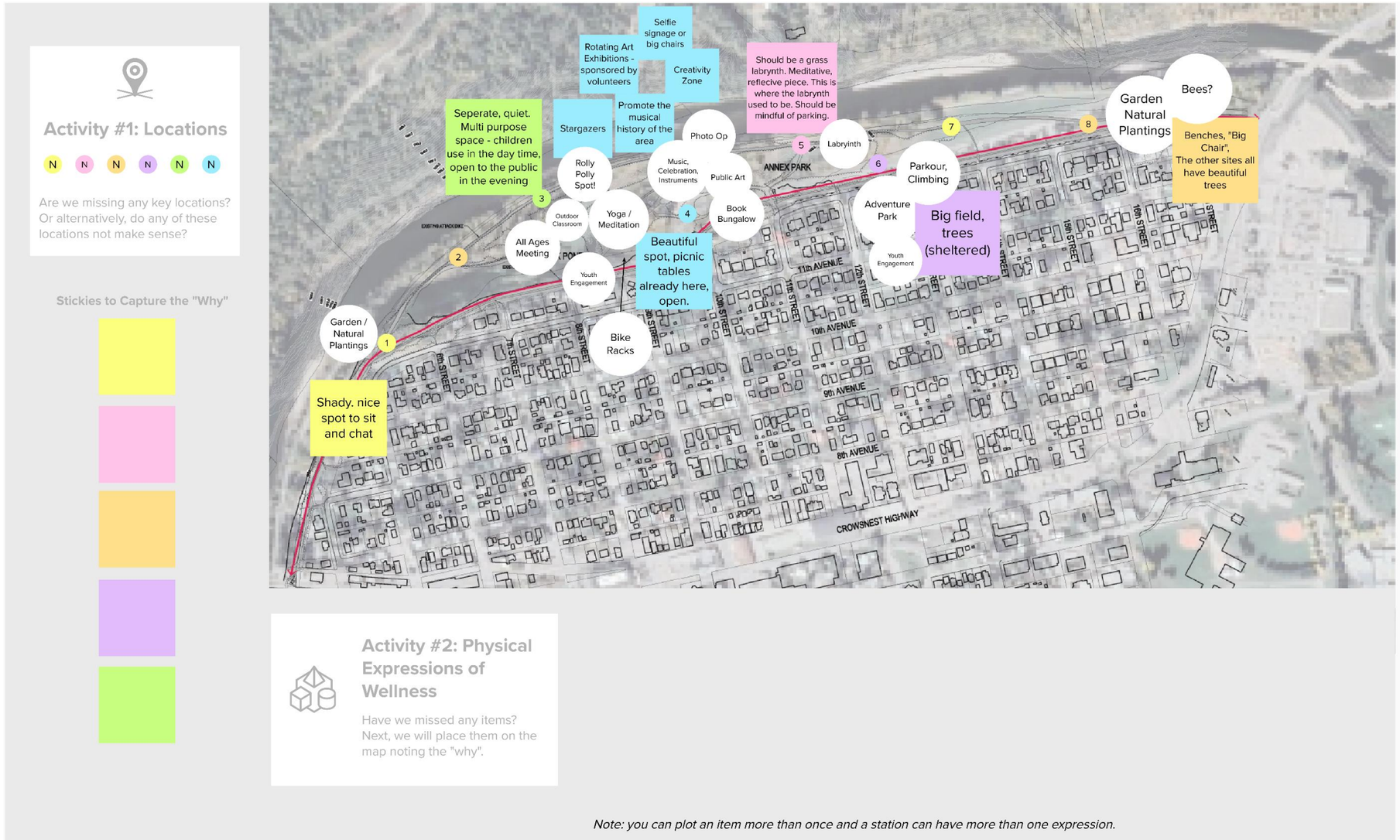
The AG discussed innovative technologies for heating components along the pathway – solar for example. They agreed that this is likely expensive but perhaps there are some opportunities for spots along the trail. One of the members of the AG will forward some information on this as they’ve used it on their own property.

Further Attempts at First Nations Engagement

The group spoke about connecting with the local First Nations community with regards to these stations. The City will reach out again in hopes of bringing them in to the process. It was noted that the museum and Tourism Fernie have approved story lines that might be a first step with regards to some ideas for interpretive stations (language and culture, place names, plant names, animal names, etc). Confirmation of approved story lines to be included in future meeting.

Physical Expressions & Locations

The group completed an exercise of plotting locations and physical expressions on a map. A screenshot of this exercise is presented below. Please note that the items in the “Parking Lot” were placed for discussion at a future meeting – they were not physically placed at a particular space but not necessarily removed from the stations.



Note: you can plot an item more than once and a station can have more than one expression.

Additional Notes & Opportunities Discussed

- QR codes at the wellness stations were discussed - this might be a good idea though it may not be accessible to all (some may not have phones, some may not use QR codes, visitors might not have cell coverage plans, etc). A committee member mentioned that if these are to be included, they should be used sparingly, and adequate information should be provided on the physical sign.
- With regards to wayfinding or interpretative signage – there was a concern that these can be hard to maintain (the AG pointed to signage on other trails that are in disrepair). Emphasis was made regarding new signs being constructed with quality and life cycle in mind.
- Fitness equipment along the trail was discussed again – there was some concern from some members of the AG about these items potentially not being used frequently or appropriately (they pointed to the example of the aquatic centre). In response to this concern, clarifying details were added with regards to the nature of this equipment and how it could be simple in nature and blended into the stations (a pull up bar, a stretch station, for example as opposed to a bulky piece of equipment). This component was not specifically plotted on the map, but it has been added to the “Parking Lot” to be revisited as concepts are developed.
- The AG noted we should speak with the Youth Task Force for additional ideas for youth engagement (to ensure all categories of youth are captured).
- The AG noted that there could be an opportunity to explore some innovative lighting ideas.
- The AG flagged an opportunity to disguise the rip rap with public art – this would be out of scope for this assignment.
- The opportunity for community sponsorships was discussed – the AG felt that there would be some appetite for this, but cost may be an issue.
- The AG discussed the upcoming February 17 meeting which was originally intended to be ‘open’ to the broader public to view. The group felt that more tangible progress should occur before the meeting is opened up. The City will discuss internally, and the ‘open’ meeting will be postponed until the AG has refined concepts to share. The February 17 meeting will continue, as scheduled, with the AG.
- While wayfinding and signage will be addressed at a future meeting, the committee has discussed some ideas around interpretive signage: First Nations stories, flora & fauna, mountain views, and the night sky, weather and climate.

Follow Up Items

- The City confirmed it will try and engage with local First Nations again.