

**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA SUPPLEMENT**

Item Number: 6.3

Agenda Topic: Discussion of Common Plan

For The Agenda of: May 7th, 2008

Date Submitted: May 2, 2008

Submitted to: Jeff Kobrock, City Manager

Submitted by: Jason Simcock, Planning & Development Director

Background Information:

Since January of this year, residents and city officials have been working together towards finalizing a site plan for the Common. The public provided some great feedback on a number of issues at the public workshops, including whether the playground should stay or go, concerns about public safety, and maintenance issues, just to name a few. The final Plan for the Common reflects comments that have been made through this very interactive public process. The attached Plan also includes design recommendations regarding landscaping, lighting, the playground, gazebo, paths, fencing, and many other amenities in the Common. The Plan also includes discussion on how to include the OC Woodman site.

The Common Plan groups (action) priorities into three phases, to help plan make improvements over time, or when funding becomes available. One of the Phase I action items is the replacement and relocation of the playground. Based on feedback gained during the public process, it is recommended to remove the old playground* and build a new, smaller playground, at an area further away from the fountain. The new playground would actually be built on the Common, as recommended in the Plan. (*Note: Gardiner's Pubic Works Department recently removed all of the playground equipment, except for the swing sets, as the playground had reached the end of its useful life.)

The Common project is included in a group of other planning and design projects, referred to as the "Bundled Projects RFP." While completing the Common plan, the process was coordinated with several other planning & design projects included in the RFP, such as a citywide signage plan, the Waterfront Master Plan, and others. By including this project in the Bundled Projects process, the City was better able to coordinate efforts with the public, staff and consultants, as well as make connections with various aspects of these projects.

Gardiner selected the Wright Pierce consultant team for the Bundled Projects RFP. Brian Kent and Amanda Walker lead the consultant team on the Common project. Kent Associates will present a summary of the Plan to the Council on the 7th and be available for any questions.

Recommended Action: In order for the City begin implementing action items, called for in the Common Plan, it is recommended to approve the Plan at a future meeting. The Plan will be presented as a discussion item on May 7th.