Rediscovering the Kessler Park and Boulevard System: Landscape as Art

No community is just to itself if it neglects to make the most of its physical beauties…

– George Edward Kessler

More than any other individual, George Edward Kessler carried the profession of landscape architecture into the heartland of America. Rotarians heard from Julie Donnell, president of the Friends of the Parks of Allen County, about this year’s centennial celebration of Kessler’s plan for civic improvements in Fort Wayne. The 1912 Kessler Plan for Parks and Boulevards featured a combination of an orthogonal commercial and residential boulevard system, and a network of riverfront drives which paralleled the three rivers of the city. This dual system of boulevards and parkways was interconnected, and served the purpose of linking the existing and proposed large parks together. Major components of the Kessler Plan include Rudisill, Anthony and State Boulevards; St. Joseph Parkway, Spy Run Parkway, and Thieme Drive; and Swinney, Foster, Lakeside, and Three Rivers Parks. In addition to the overall plan for the Park and Parkway system for Fort Wayne, Kessler prepared detailed designs for Foster Park, Three Rivers Park, and the Thieme Drive and Overlook. Friends of the Parks Kessler centennial activities include work with AEP at Foster Park to hide electrical wires, a lecture by Founding Gardeners author Andrea Wulf on March 9, a forum on landscape ethics in July, and a symposium in September featuring landscape architect Eric Kuhne.
THE DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB  
Next Meeting: February 20, 2012  
Joint Meeting with Anthony Wayne Club  
See you at the Downtown Library  

"OPENING DOORS THROUGH SERVICE"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greeters</th>
<th>Jeanette Dillon, Lori Stinson, Anne Kolb, Dave Borgen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cashier</td>
<td>John Gliot &amp; Kay Ostrum</td>
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<td>Invocation</td>
<td>Jim Cress</td>
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<td>House</td>
<td>John Hoffman, Allen Shoup</td>
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<td>Song Leader</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>Spin Editor</td>
<td>Bruce Haines</td>
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<td>Program</td>
<td>Dr Tony Bennett, State Superintendent</td>
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<td>“Indiana State Education System”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>@ Downtown Library with Anthony Wayne Club</td>
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Upcoming Programs

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Catherine Carlton</td>
<td>&quot;My Summer of Enchantment: Interning at</td>
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<td>the American Museum of Magic&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(Marshall MI)</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>Justin Brugger</td>
<td>&quot;Background of the 40 Percent Increase in</td>
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<td>City Water Rates&quot;</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Sharon Pohly, CEO, Girl Scouts</td>
<td>&quot;Girl Scouts 100 Year&quot;</td>
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<td>of Northern Indiana Michiana</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>Andrew Constantine, Music</td>
<td>&quot;The Current State of the Philharmonic</td>
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<td>Director, FW Philharmonic</td>
<td>and Classical Music&quot;</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>Charles Shepard, Executive</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director, FW Museum of Art</td>
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Proposed New Member  
Please call President Mike with any comments

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<tr>
<th>Douglas Perry</th>
<th>VP for Academic Affairs, Indiana Tech</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>Bill Gabbard, Jane Wilks, Mike Kelly</td>
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Valentine’s Day Fundraiser A Success!

The first Valentine’s Day wine and cupcake fundraiser was a huge hit! Co-chairs of the Fundraising Committee, Louise Jackson and Holli Seabury, were assisted by Mary Campbell, Carol Fuller, Jason Daenens, and Chip Olsen. Even the student Rotarian from Wayne High School jumped in to help decorate the gifts! A big thanks to Rotarians who donated wine: Jason Daenens, Jane Wilks, Mike Kelly, Louise Jackson, Chip Olsen, Ken Lizer, Mary Campbell, Barb Watchman, Irene Walters, and Dee Hoffman. The donated wine allowed $30 of the $35 purchase price to go back to the Club. The fundraiser raised approximately $1,300. A special thanks to Will Murphy and Dave Borgen who each ordered a dozen wine and cupcakes combos to use as employee and customer recognition gifts - they must be very popular right now!

Welcome Our New Club Member Don Cooper!
Rotarians were introduced to new member Don Cooper, Vice President and General Manager at KPC Media. He has been in Fort Wayne since 2010. He and his wife Cindy have twins, both in college. Welcome Don!

Recycle with Rotary, FW TinCaps for Washington Elementary
The Fort Wayne TinCaps and The Rotary Club of Fort Wayne have started a Aluminum Can (Pop Cans) Recycling Program with Washington Elementary. Rotarians: If you would like to assist with this program please bring your rinsed out aluminum pop cans to the meeting on the first Monday of each month during the school year. If you have any questions you may contact David Lorenz, Fort Wayne TinCaps at 407-2815. Thank you for your support!
Fort Wayne Rotary 2015 Centennial Survey Results

Our club’s centennial committee reported out the results of its recent survey concerning how to observe the Fort Wayne Rotary 2015 Centennial, how best to honor and observe this milestone.

Results are from 45 respondents.

1. Should the Fort Wayne Downtown Rotary Club undertake a centennial project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of our club’s founding? (Our centennial year will be 2015.)
   1. Yes 100%
   2. No 0

2. Should the centennial project have:
   1. A local focus? 49%
   2. An international focus? 0
   3. A combination of both? 51%
   4. Not sure 0

3. Should the project be:
   1. A “bricks and mortar” project (for example, a monument, building, garden, park, etc.) 16%
   2. A “service” project (for example, financial and/or volunteer support for a health clinic, literacy program, school, etc.) 15%
   3. A combination of both 53%
   4. Not sure 16%

4. Realizing that the project will be funded by members’ contributions, with perhaps some matching funds from fundraising projects and club reserves, what should be the approximate budget for the centennial project?
   1. $100,000 12%
   2. $75,000 0
   3. $50,000 41%
   4. $25,000 5%
   5. $10,000 8%
   6. Not sure 34%
5. Please share any additional thoughts you have about a centennial project. For example, you might suggest a certain theme or subject for a project, or a very specific project idea.

I think we should make sure to have a lot of publicity around this -- and honoring of the past and present with an eye to the future. Would like to see a big celebration - bricks and mortar - and maybe a bricks and mortar internationally as well. Perhaps a book a la Quest Club - and also a video a la Quest Club with viewing on PBS 39. Need to invite the International president of course to a celebration.

I think it would be great if we found project that continued to reach out to children who need support. Much as we have at Washington School.

Suggest city council name a major city street “Rotary Centennial Drive”

To me, local = downtown; international = Rotary goals. I hope our project is significant, meaningful and impactful -- that is Rotary, after all.

I would like to see a "lasting legacy" project in downtown FW. What about art work on the Courthouse Green and a gala type party in the Courthouse? Would also like to see a continuation of efforts in Africa but there needs to be something local that benefits the community and that Rotarians can have pride in and can point to and look at.

A large Rotary emblem visible from the air.

Considering Fort Wayne’s commitment to downtown revitalization and we are the “downtown” club, if we decide to do a “bricks and mortar” project, I think it should be downtown. I’d suggest we start talking to city officials and asking them what their pipe dream ideas are and then the club can look and see what we could manage.

Rotary represents leadership and quite selfless service.

A bronze statue of Johnny Appleseed placed in Headwaters Park or at his grave site. I have access to about $5000 to kick off the fund raising.

I would like the centennial to be commemorated in several ways. A small book celebrating the 100 years of the club, a service project where a large number of members participate, a physical gift to the city (similar to our Circle of Hope), a history minute at each meeting for the proceeding 12 months (1/14-1/15), and the establishing of an endowment where a chunk of club savings is endowed to ensure that funding will exist forever.

The project should build community awareness of Rotary. Our trees on Clinton are great but they don’t "say" Rotary. And the Ash Beatle (who knew?) shows how impermanent monuments can be.
More thoughts about a centennial project:

Be high impact, use this occasion to garner happy headlines and raise community awareness THROUGH SERVICE AND CELEBRATION. - Must above all reflect and advance that we believe and practice "service above self" and that on this milestone occasion, we want to imbue the community with a lasting and significant legacy to commemorate this event and improve our community through service. (**community can include Fort Wayne and great global community of Rotary.) CELEBRATE! Have fun. This is a time to toast to this achievement. Make the party a big one - city wide! Use a designated "party night" to celebrate, such as New Year’s Eve 2014 - to toast the start of THE YEAR OF FORT WAYNE ROTARY. If on another date, get a big name speaker and have a gala around that. Use various ways to tell story throughout. Also, use Facebook and other social media well and often to tell our story and raise interest. Involve all committees.

The Elkhart Rotary Club is building a botanical garden - some 10 million dollars in project costs; phased over time and with dollars being raised in the community. We need to think big - not small!!!

Would like to see Rotary remembered as being instrumental in moving forward something like rivers/cleanup and the ability to use them or lasting/ongoing projects to benefit somebody not just something. Not sure what.

Highly visible community project…..downtown development, small park, trees, river overlook, self-funding scholarship, travel scholarship, not sure what else.

Talk to Tom Henry to see if he has an idea on what’s needed.

English as a 2nd language project? Any health issues that our community is facing that we could assist in meeting? Could we work with someone like Matthew 25 . . . update equipment? Repair/refurbish the building?

Looking forward to providing more feedback to help the steering committee make a great centennial project choice.

What if we as a club spear-headed a fund drive (community and corporate) to raise some $ amount to benefit school repairs!

Should be child and adult focused – inspire youth to be part of Rotary – should combine domestic and international.

Let’s go to Togo!