Talking Paper
On
Maintaining the Forest Hills Entryway Monument

The minimum requirements for the Forest Hills entryway on Queen Street are some relatively small retaining walls to accommodate the grade changes, and an attractive appearance that reflects community pride and enhances property values

Basic Assumptions:

1. There is no near-term requirement to modify or repair the curved brick walls containing the "Forest Hills" name for safety or structural reasons.
   -Routine cleaning of the structure and repainting the name will maintain the functionality and utility of this monument. It is "dated" with respect to similar contemporary structures.

2. The walls, with insets for six trees, on Queen Street are primarily retaining walls to control the slope of terrain along Queen Street.
   -These retaining walls are in poor condition at present and require repair or replacement
   -They must be maintained, in some form, on both sides of Queen Street

3. Of six original Deodar Cedar trees originally planted in the retaining wall insets, four remain
   -One was lost to the "Snowmaggedon" storm in 2010
   -One was taken down in 2012 due to excessive leaning
   -Three of the remaining trees are healthy and expected to remain so for several years
   -The tree closest to 23rd St on the west side (#286 on attached diagram) has defective roots and therefore a very limited life expectancy. Any serious wind or snow storm will likely uproot it--as happened to the tree already lost.

Options proposed for Forest Hills Community consideration:

Clean, restore and paint as required to preserve the curved entryway monuments on both sides of Queen Street with any of the first five actions:

1. Continue to repair the retaining walls around all four existing trees until some part fails
   - Continues to defer a required decision on long-term entryway improvement
   - Loss of tree #286 expected within three years; all trees will continue to damage walls
   - Retaining walls will appear less and less attractive as multiple repairs accumulate
2. Remove the defective tree #286 now and repair existing walls
   - Modify existing retaining walls to accommodate continued growth of existent trees
   - Replant three vacant insets with complementary, but smaller long-life trees
   - The entry way becomes un-balanced and walls accumulate multiple repairs
3. Remove defective tree #286 and its corresponding opposite across Queen Street
   - Retain two healthy trees furthest from 23rd St (#3 & #284 on diagram)
   - Rebuild/repair/modify retaining walls to accommodate growth of mature trees
   - Replant four insets with smaller, but complementary trees
4. Remove tree #286 now, rebuild and modify existing walls, and replace lost trees
   - Modify retaining walls to accommodate continued growth of all trees
   - Replant vacant insets with similar mature trees (cost approximately $3,000 each)
5. Remove all existing trees; rebuild retaining walls to current configuration; replant trees
   - Returns entryway to original design and appearance
   - Good for another 30+ years with minimum maintenance/repair
6. Remove all existing trees and retaining walls, plus the curved Forest Hills sign walls; design and install an entryway of contemporary appearance and quality befitting our homes
   - Re-landscape the entryway for a more contemporary look
   - Highest cost option; most disruption; significant change to entryway appearance