

Downtown Committee Grandstand Review

By Jon Anderson, Town Councilor & Liaison to Downtown Committee

The Ad-hoc Downtown Development Committee, partnering with the Crossroads Development team, is making progress in their work to establish a vision of the downtown area of the Downs. Since its formation in January 2021, the Committee has been actively researching best practices in downtown design. The Crossroads Development team is in the process of hiring a consultant to collaborate with the committee and provide more concrete and comprehensive examples. Their research on community needs will further shape decision-making.

One area that the committee recently evaluated was whether to keep or remove the Grandstand. A recommendation to retain the existing grandstand structures, renovate them, and maintain as a focal point of the Downtown development was provided by a subcommittee. No recommendation was made regarding ownership, public vs. private usage, or ultimate specific use, though many uses were identified as possibilities.

The subcommittee did express a strong sentiment that the final use of the structure ought to meet the following criteria: draw users, be high-energy, be primarily non-residential and provide an opportunity for people to gather both indoors and outdoors. The subcommittee identified several projects across the globe where old industrial spaces were modernized to meet the new needs of a town. You can see one example [here](#) in Tilburg Netherlands, where an industrial space was converted into a library.

The Grandstand structures will be the only few pieces of architectural iconography that remains at the Scarborough Downs site. The subcommittee viewed the Grandstand as an icon of the past that will hopefully connect the Downs to Scarborough's rich history and maintain authenticity. With a careful, well-planned renovation, the subcommittee felt it could become the crown jewel of the downtown development, connecting the future of Scarborough with its past while providing an element of authenticity to anchor the new development that will surround it.

The Downtown Development Committee meets bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 6:30PM EST. The next meeting is scheduled for 4/13. If you would like to provide your input to the committee, you can contact them via the Ad-hoc Downtown Development Committee website by clicking "Questions or Comments" or submitting a form [here](#).