

MEETING NOTES

Prepared By: Doug Godfrey

Date: February 19, 2014

Subject: Harlow Platts Meeting Notes – Shelter Improvements

Meeting Notes:

On February 3rd, 2014 from 6-7.30 pm, the Parks and Recreation Department held a public meeting at the South Boulder Recreation Center to review and discuss proposed improvements at Harlow Platts Community Park. The proposed improvements are part of the November 2011 Capital Improvement Bond.

The public meeting was an open house format where members of the public were invited to review and comment on the project which includes providing a new shelter and associated restroom. The Parks and Recreation Department is also proposing to add a new shade shelter over the sand play area at the existing playground.

At the meeting, Parks and Recreation Staff presented graphics illustrating the location of the shelter/restrooms and of the shade structure. The presentation materials showed a rendering of the proposed shelter and pictures of the proposed fabric shade structure.

Below is a summary of the comments that were received from the public. The comments are generally grouped in topics that emerged during the meeting.

In addition to the responses provided below, the Department is preparing a more comprehensive reply to questions that have been raised. These will be posted to the website as soon as possible.

Neighbor Questions and Comments:

General Park Planning and Maintenance Comments

1. I would like to see the skate park closed for more parking.
2. There should be more parking allowed on the street.
3. We would like to see some paddleboat and canoe rentals at Viele Lake.
4. Upgrade the skate park.
5. Provide shade over the sand area.
6. Provide a splash pad or some type of water feature for kids.
7. Provide an indoor play place / playground for running, climbing, swinging on cold winter days and hot summer days. Perhaps provide a trampoline or something unique to SBRC.
8. Remove old shelter – ‘warming hut’.
9. Provide drop-in child care at SBRC.

10. There is a lot of activity on the soccer fields during the summer. There should be a flashing light that indicates when the fields are in use.
11. Family friendly pool at the SBRC.
12. There needs to be more trees on the disc golf course for enhancements and obstacles.
13. I'm glad to see some shade structures added, but very disappointed about the surface (dirty gravel) not being replaced for rubber/asphalt surface. Also the play stuff seems old and could use replacing. It would be nice to see money spent for the children in this community.
14. Hottest playground in town. Great to see shade structure being planned. Bathrooms and drinking fountain much appreciated too.
15. Future improvements should include a family pool, better play equipment. There are a lot of families here.
16. Drop in day care in SBRC.
17. Provide more flexible concrete area for folding tables and events. (Buffet table/space).
18. Reduce parking for Fairview students.
19. Consider Nordic Track at Harlow. Boulder Nordic Club.

Response

The passage of the November 2011 Capital Improvement Bond allows the Parks and Recreation Department the ability to address infrastructure deficiencies throughout the Parks system, as well as, the opportunity to provide desired amenities that had previously been identified by departments, but were unfunded.

Infrastructure deficiencies include safety issues, issues surrounding federal accessibility compliance, maintaining industry standards, and replacing outdated equipment.

Projects that were included as part of the November 2011 Capital Improvement Bond were selected by a 16-member community stakeholder committee. The shelter at Harlow Platts Community Park was selected by the committee as a bond project as it was identified as a need in the 2006 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, but did not have funding.

The Parks and Recreation Department is always open to receiving comments about how the parks, facilities, and programs throughout the Boulder community can best be maintained and operated to a level consistent with the community's values. In order to be consistent with the language and intent of the bond, improvements must meet these criteria.

Issues that fall outside of the funding criteria for the November 2011 Capital Improvement Bond can be considered through a normal planning process and possibly be addressed through other funding sources.

Proposed Shelter – Maintenance and Aesthetics

1. Construction material on outside of the restroom is not attractive.
2. Reservation permits for the shelter should end in the early pm.
3. Allowable noise should be limited by 8pm.
4. The shelter design is pleasing.
5. Like the proposed improvements. Quality should be at or above improvements in other parts of Boulder. South Boulder seems to get neglected.
6. Provide tables without seats. Serving tables.

7. Shelter / restroom...natural earth tones.
8. Lower the roofline of the building. Lower profile. Maintain view shed. Recessed into berm.
9. There should be a sufficient budget to keep the shelters and restrooms clean and functioning for 7 days a week.
10. There needs to be a firm commitment from the City for quality maintenance of the restrooms.

Response

The Parks and Recreation Department will be working with an architectural consultant to ensure that the quality and materiality of the shelter and associated restroom facility are constructed with materials that fit within the context of the park and surrounding areas and can be easily maintained and yet does not sacrifice aesthetics.

Harlow Platts Community Park has a full-time employee that oversees general maintenance and appearance of the entire park. The full-time employee is on site Monday through Friday from roughly 7am through 3pm.

The Parks and Recreation Department currently contracts with a custodial company to clean and maintain all open shelter facilities. Not all shelters and restrooms in the park system are designed to be opened year-round, so only open facilities are maintained. The shelter and restroom facility at Harlow Platts is planned to be a facility that is open year-round. The shelter and restroom facility at Harlow Platts will be cleaned by a contracted custodial company.

The Parks and Recreation Department also contracts with a company to lock and unlock different restroom facilities throughout the park system. The operations and maintenance staff has indicated that they would prefer that the restroom facility NOT be designed with an automatic locking/unlocking system. They would instead prefer that the facility be locked and unlocked by a contracted company. This will ensure that the restroom facilities have been cleared when they are too be locked.

City parks are generally open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., and from sunrise to sunset during the fall/winter seasons. City park shelter rental hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Times left unscheduled are for cleaning/routine maintenance and general public use. Generally, restroom facilities will be locked from dusk to dawn.

Proposed Shelter / Restroom - Location

1. There is a lot of wind that comes down Heidelberg. May need some type of wind break.
2. Move to other end of the parking lot. Block 1 view instead of 4 homes along Heidelberg.
3. I'm glad the shelter is planned for the south end of the park. It is needed especially the restrooms when the SBRC is closed.
4. Yes. Good location.
5. Decrease footprint of the shelter. Minimize the number of tables.

Response

The Parks and Recreation Department has worked with the architectural consultant that developed the building concept plan to determine an appropriate location for the proposed shelter and restroom facility.

The location of the restroom and shelter facility at the immediate south end of the southern-most parking lot addressed a number of site concerns as well as concerns raised by the public at the October 2012 public meeting. The facility is located on an accessible path in close proximity to accessible parking stalls and the children's playground. The facility has been located and oriented to minimize impacts to the surrounding area.

Proposed Shelter / Restroom – Security

1. There is a worry that the restroom will be a magnet for homeless/transient individuals to congregate in the park.
1. Issue with restroom locking time. It should be early enough for neighborhood watch group to check occupancy.
2. I don't think that the restroom concept will be able to be monitored to prevent graffiti and other type of problems.

Response

The Parks and Recreation Department will be contracting with companies to maintain and lock the restroom facility at Harlow Platts Community Park. The Department currently uses similar services for shelters and restroom facilities throughout the City. The Parks and Recreation Department also has a full-time employee that is in charge of maintenance and day to day operations of the Park.

Park will generally be open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., and from sunrise to sunset during the fall/winter seasons. City park shelter rental hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Times left unscheduled are for cleaning/routine maintenance and general public use. Generally, restroom facilities will be locked from dusk to dawn. The company the Parks and Recreation Department contracts with to lock and unlock the restroom facility will also make sure that no one remains in the facility when it is time to be locked.

Finishes and furnishings within the restroom and shelter facility will, to the greatest extent possible, be constructed of materials that are easy to clean and maintain in any instances of vandalism.