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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Jeff Haley, Parks Planner  
From: Tina Briggs  
Date: February 09, 2012  
Subject: Mesa Memorial Neighborhood Meeting

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**Staff Attendance:**

Jeff Dillon, Parks Planning Superintendent  
Jeff Haley, Parks Planner  
Doug Godfrey, Landscape Designer  
Carey Sager, Parks Supervisor  
Tina Briggs, Grant Writer

**Outside Consultant:**

Carol Adams, StudioTerra  
Matthew Greenwald, By Design, CU Student Group

**Meeting Notes:**

Jeff Haley, Parks Planner, gave a short presentation of previous planning efforts, the current concept plan and funding as well as a preliminary project schedule for the Mesa Memorial Park development. The design consultant, Carol Adams, presented the existing concept plan for the park and specific outcomes of previous neighborhood input that occurred in 2008. Matthew Greenwald gave a short explanation of the CU student group and how they might be a part of this project. There was a short question and answer session followed by a breakout opportunity to discuss fundraising, volunteer opportunities, and design elements.

**Neighbor Questions and Comments Summary (not verbatim):**

**Q:** Will there be a fence along Table Mesa?

**A:** Currently there is not going to be a fence. There is a vegetation border on the South side of the park along Table Mesa.

**Q:** What kind of grass will be in the park?

**A:** It will likely be a bluegrass blend that is drought-tolerant and has been successful in other local parks.

**Q:** Will there be a berm on the South side of the park?

**A:** No, creating a berm along the South side of the park might encroach on the 100 year flood plain and therefore have to extend into the proposed multi-use turf area that would limit play opportunities.

**Q:** Has a shelter been considered?

**A:** A shelter did not surface in the 2008 public engagement process and is not reflected in the budget. The neighborhood may express a higher priority in the final design process and it may be a fundraising or volunteer opportunity.

**Q:** What is the timeframe?

**A:** Construction will begin in the spring of 2013. There is a more comprehensive timeline in the presentation.

**Q:** What kinds of trees are being considered?

**A:** The trees are not specified at this stage of the planning process. They will be trees recommended by the urban resources forestry department. You can read more about some of the recommended trees at [http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=3854&Itemid=3164](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3854&Itemid=3164)

**Q:** What are the indications of lighting for this park?

**A:** Mesa Memorial is considered a pocket park which is not generally lighted. There are no current plans to light the park.

**Q:** Are there restrictions on gardening?

**A:** Gardening had not surfaced in the 2008 public engagement process. Most residents in the immediate area have single family homes with yards that accommodate private gardens.

**Q:** Why is the contingency on the presentation so high?

**A:** At this level of concept planning there are many variables that need to be covered. That number will decrease as the plan gets more defined.

**Q:** How much does the play equipment cost?

**A:** Please see the presentation for some play equipment ranges.

**Q:** Are there any plans for a tensile shade structure that could be removed in the winter?

**A:** A shelter or shade structure did not surface in the 2008 public engagement process and is not reflected in the budget. The neighborhood may express a higher priority in the final design process and it may be a fundraising or volunteer opportunity.

**Q:** How large is the CU group that may offer assistance?

**A:** There are 10 students on the student group board. Projects are usually capped at 24 student members.

**Q:** How do we communicate our ideas?

**A:** Come to the public meetings and give your input, e-mail Jeff Haley at [haleyj@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:haleyj@bouldercolorado.gov), or call Jeff Haley at 303-413-7233.

**Q:** Is the funding for this project for this year only? Will it expire?

**A:** The current approved funding for this project will remain through the development of the park.

**Q:** Can we get a list of Contact information from the speakers tonight?

**A:** Jeff Haley [haleyj@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:haleyj@bouldercolorado.gov) 303-413-7233.  
Carol Adams [Carol@StudioTerra.net](mailto:Carol@StudioTerra.net)

**Breakout Sessions:**

These are the notes taken from the groups.

### **Volunteers**

Dry land volunteer – Diane C

Connections through yahoo group (existing)

-grant writing

Material donation

-Chad Julian

Jeff Demeyer

Builder (shelter)

Wood/steel

Construction

CU Partnership

Investigate HOA Maintenance agreement opportunities

Cindy Bagus

Landscape designers in community

Volunteer help with recognition from local schools - Donna Louie

Bear Creek

Montessori School

Fairview

### **Design Ideas**

Re-look at a bridge option further south than the original plan

Pear Trees along Table Mesa (non-fruiting)

Direct link from bus stop into park

Small community garden

Bermed area for adventure play

Shade Idea: plant, vines, and arbor

Kids riding bikes

Re-think skate park

Concerns about community garden idea (not much support...)

Rabbit warren idea, and use as a “berm”

Fly a kite open area important

Look at sidewalk meander

Montessori playground upgrade, maybe focus on young kids? Focus on tweens?

Playground meeting with kids

No fence

Sight Triangles

No evergreens on north end, but some shade ok

Clean up cottonwood suckers

Seasonal shade – summer

Structure doesn't seem necessary, maybe more trees?

### **Grants and Fundraising**

Several member of the community stepped forward and were willing to write or edit grants. There is a list of grant samples as a starting point. The community members were willing to share their e-mail addresses with each other to assist in organizing the effort. In addition, there will be some conversations

with the PLAY Boulder Foundation about the possibilities to assist in the non-profit grant and fundraising efforts.

Comments:

Remodeled home tour fundraiser

Requesting donations from local businesses for specific pieces of equipment or projects

Writing grants

Grants applications are much stronger with support from the community. The support can come from many different avenues. A few examples may be:

- Writing a support letter for the project
- Pledging volunteer hours in the form of labor or administration
- Offering to share a skill you may have as a project leader
- Soliciting donations from local businesses or organizations
- Spearhead a fundraiser with help from your neighbors

City staff is working hard to find avenues to close the funding gap. The Parks and Recreation Department is planning to apply for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant in the Fall of 2012 or the Spring of 2013. Unfortunately, they are working on many projects simultaneously and are unable to take the lead on all of the great ideas shared at the meeting. The greatest effort will be put forth to help facilitate and provide information for neighborhood lead efforts.

**Next Steps:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting – Design Development

- Outcomes of previous meetings
- Design workshop (CU student collaboration)
- Update on focus groups (volunteerism, fundraising)

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – Project Update

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting – Construction Documents

- Review construction documents
- Coordinate fundraising and volunteerism
- Update on fundraising