

Elks Neighborhood Park

**Meeting #4 - Neighborhood Meeting Minutes – 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

06.09.11

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**Notes:**

1. Connector trail (existing dirt pathway) at the northeast corner of the site should be retained as it provides access to an existing bus stop on 28<sup>th</sup> Street.
2. Locally grown foods – Would need to determine access into the designated “farm” site. Possibility to locate “farm” in extreme northeast corner of the site – HOA has discussed converting their triangular shaped parcel of land at their southeast corner into a community garden. Locating the gardens adjacent each other may make some sense from a site planning perspective. This could/should be coordinated.
  - Commercial garden might have a solar operated hoop house.
  - City – Design Team will need to determine where to go with this option. Comprehensive Plan has been revised to allow this use. Current zoning allows for “agricultural” uses – Need to verify this.
  - Need to determine if the Elks Lodge would have a role or not.
3. Fertilizers – Lisa spoke to the insecticide/herbicide policy. Products are generally natural / non-synthetic and use is limited. Lisa indicated that at Holiday Park in Boulder, a Maintenance Agreement is place with the HOA. That particular HOA maintains much of the facility.
4. Kathleen – Discussed the Tree Maintenance Policy.
5. Playground Surfacing – Rubberized surfacing is preferred. Parks Operations has not had good luck with the wood chip system.
6. The attendees loved the “naturalistic” play features/amenities, although they were not necessarily fans of the standalone feature....it is too similar to the adjacent HOA play area and were looking for more diverse equipment selection. Lisa explained that the City cannot depend on the HOA (non-City playground).
  - Lisa thinks that a slide and swings are necessary features.
  - The idea of providing a slide feature between terraces was well received.
  - Net climber – Father indicated that the net climber concept is a great idea.
7. Plant Palette – In general, the proposed plants want to be western native, drought tolerant with possibly a riparian component in the shaded area.
  - Question was asked if edible plants / landscapes would be considered. Matt indicated that there needs to be a balance of plant material as it relates to attracting even more wildlife. Matt briefly discussed the Urban Wildlife Management Plan.
  - Edible plants (fruit trees) could be included inside the fence as part of the “locally grown foods/farm” concept.

- Cottonwood Trees – too much cotton. It was explained that the proposed varieties do not produce cotton.
8. It was mentioned that the existing bridge is heavily used as an access point and should continue to recognize this use pattern as the project moves forward.
  9. Pedestrian connection(s) to the neighborhood to the north:
    - Possibly re-route the north-south sidewalk link. Consider a curvilinear approach where sidewalk flows to the west, south of the arbor shelter, providing a more direct access (hard surface) to the playground. It was explained to the attendees that this sidewalk would terminate at the property line and not extend north to tie-in the existing HOA sidewalk.
    - Consider a second permanent pedestrian connection (hard surface) just beyond east side of the existing bridge, on the Parks property that connects / directs users to playground area.
  10. Existing wire fence dividing HOA to the north from park site to the south needs to be removed as part of the construction.
  11. Considering possibly extending the wooden rail fence to the north property line and then extending eastward to provide a more defined/vertical element on the north side of the “zip line” and to direct pedestrian traffic thru the 2 openings in the fence (see Item 9. above).
  12. Wildlife patterns – Deer do “bed down” in field and on the HOA property to the west. Wildlife crossing 28<sup>th</sup> Street is frequent. Possibly provide additional landscape planting “cover” along this corridor to further facilitate this movement east to west.
  13. Design team needs to verify that the dedicated parking spaces in the Elks Lodge parking lot are included in ROW or an access easement.
  14. Portable Toilets – Neighborhood parks aren’t typically populated with this feature, but given the magnitude of the shelter, they may become a necessary feature. A concrete pad will be provided and appropriately located to accommodate their footprint. 4:00 p.m. is the latest shelter rental reservation time.
  15. Horse Shoe Pit area – like the slightly relocated pit area. Residents in favor of keeping the monument / memorial signage.
  16. Lighting in the Shelter – Lisa would prefer the lights be on at all times. System will be tied to PV system, so this is not a big deal. In general, lighting will be minimal / security only lighting.
  17. Bike racks will be incorporated into the design. Trash cans and recycling bin opportunities, similar to other parks in the system, will also be included.
  18. Picnic Tables – Residents included the noise off 28<sup>th</sup> Street doesn’t necessarily make for a quality picnic area as shown in the southeast corner of the site, below the existing cottonwood trees. Possibly shift vegetation east and picnic tables west, to create some additional buffering.
  19. Fitness / PAR course elements were generally well received with the attendees.
  20. Residents indicated that they appreciated the City’s willing to listen to their desires for the parks programming and theme.

pc: Keith Walzak, C.O.B.  
 Mike Lamb, C.O.B.  
 Lisa Martin, C.O.B.  
 Chuck Sanders, Chuck Sanders Architecture  
 Joel Price, JVA  
 Dave Zickerman, Avocet Irrigation  
 Kate Hodgson, ESC  
 Tom Soell, JVA