



Meeting Summary

Subject: City Park Tomorrow – Neighborhood Meeting
Date: June 4, 2018
Location: Lincoln Center – Columbine Room
Attendees: Approximately 80 City Park neighborhood residents

MEETING FORMAT

A meeting was held specifically with neighborhood residents to present current plans and ideas for future improvements to the core area of City Park and to receive feedback on the proposed ideas and phasing from the neighbors.

The 30-minute presentation included: history of City Park; core area limits; project goals; 4 initial concepts; 2016 public outreach; summary of 2016 citizen feedback; current refined concept; design ideas for specific project elements; proposed phasing; and estimated cost for each phase.

Following the presentation, a question and answer session was conducted. After the question and answer session, electronic polling was done to obtain information on the level of support for various park elements and to determine which elements / proposed phases were seen as higher priorities.

Below is a summary of the question and answer session:

2016 CITIZEN FEEDBACK PROCESS

When presenting the 2016 design concepts, how many people voted?

- **Staff Response:**

There were approximately 75 to 100 people who attend the public meetings and gave input on the 2016 concepts. In addition to those who attended the public meetings, there were others who provided input through comment cards and at summer events hosted within City Park.

EXISTING TREES

A large percent of trees in City Park are Ash Trees and will be affected by the Emerald Ash Borer. Have you considered how you are going to work around that?

- **Staff Response:**

The City Forestry Department has identified which Ash trees in the park will be treated and which trees are in poor health or condition and that will not be treated for Emerald Ash Borer. Locations of proposed park elements have taken into consideration trees that will likely need to be removed in the next year or so due to poor health or safety concerns. Existing, healthy trees are being preserved and protected.

EXISTING CITY PARK TRAIN AREA

Would a dog park work in the area with the old city park train tracks and shed?

- **Staff Response:**

A dog park would create compaction to tree root zones and stress to existing trees in this area, so it is not as suitable as passive types of uses would be.

PLAYGROUND / SHELTERS / RESTROOM

Is the footprint of the proposed playground smaller than what is in City Park now?

- **Staff Response:**
The footprint of the proposed playground is smaller; however, the proposed playground offers more vertical play experience than the existing playground and has less unused space within the playground surfacing area.

Why are you moving the playground and shelters?

- **Staff Response:**
The existing playgrounds are in the sun and have sand surfacing that absorbs and holds heat, making the play environment very hot on warm days. The existing shelters, which provide overhead sun protection, are in the shade of the existing tree canopy. The proposed plan switches these locations to provide a shaded play environment and picnic shelters that can be surrounded by irrigated turf space or planting beds.

Are the frogs going to be moved?

- **Staff Response:**
The proposed improvements do not impact the location of the frogs.

Why not fix the shelters and restroom, and not replace them?

- **Staff Response:**
The existing restroom was retrofitted from a building with a different use / purpose. As such, it's layout is not ideal and the layout makes maintenance access to utility pipes more challenging. Renovating the structure is a consideration that can be explored more closely. The proposed, new restroom provides a men's restroom, women's restroom and a family restroom with an adult size changing table.
The existing shelters are in poor condition. Replacing them in a new location, rather than continuing to repair them in place, is preferred.

PARKING / CIRCULATION

How are you going to accommodate parking if you close City Park Drive?

- **Staff Response:**
Off-street parking is proposed near the relocated tennis/pickleball courts. In addition, formalizing the existing on-street parking on South Bryan Avenue west of the lake is proposed, and additional on-street parking areas are proposed along other portions of South Bryan Avenue, Sheldon Drive and City Park Drive.

How are bikes going to be accommodated?

- **Staff Response:**
A north-south multi-purpose path is proposed along the west side of Sheldon Drive from West Oak Street to Mulberry. In addition, the proposed promenade will provide a safe east-west circulation for both bikes and pedestrians across the park. Additional bike racks are proposed near the relocated tennis-pickleball courts, entry to Club Tico, City Park Pool entry, picnic areas, playground, pavilion and north lake shore.

Has a traffic study been done to look at impacts with closing a portion of City Park Drive?

- **Staff Response:**

Yes, a traffic analysis was completed by the City traffic department. Most of the traffic runs north-south on South Bryan Avenue. Closure of the stretch of City Park Drive between South Bryan and Sheldon will not negatively impact traffic patterns.

OPEN SPACE

How much open space is being taken away with the proposed design?

- **Staff Response:** For the park as a whole, the amount of open space will be roughly the same. With the removal of tennis/pickleball courts, removal of a portion of City Park Drive, and removal of unnecessary pavement near Club Tico, the amount of open space in the Core Area would increase by approximately 46,000 square feet. West of the ditch, with the addition of off-street parking and relocation of the tennis/pickleball courts, open space would be reduced by approximately 44,000 square feet. Open space is defined as planted or turf areas.

TRAIN AND TROLLEY

Do the train and trolley have the same season for operation?

- **Staff Response:**

Both the train and trolley run generally from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

SECURITY

Will there be additional security for the park with the addition of night lighting of the boardwalk and other park areas?

- **Staff Response:**

The park hours will remain the same, with the park closing at 11pm. Proposed lighting will create a safer environment within the park during operating hours. Rangers would still patrol the park as they currently do.

Can you see into the treehouse towers, because that could be a safety issue?

- **Staff Response:**

There will be clear visibility into the play structures.

PHASING / COSTS

Why is the train the first phase of the project, and how long will it be until tennis courts are relocated?

- **Staff response:**

The train was voter approved and has approved funding in place. Construction of phase I is planned in 2019.

The timing of the relocation of the tennis courts is dependent on approval of additional funding for phase II. If phase II funding is approved, reconstruction of the tennis courts could happen in 2019 or 2020.

Will the existing restroom stay in phase one?

- **Staff response:**

Yes, the existing restroom will stay with phase I construction. It will be inside of the train tracks. An accessible sidewalk connection will be provided across the tracks to the restroom.

How much will the cost of maintenance increase?

- **Staff Response:**

The Parks Department is currently providing maintenance for existing elements within the park. Most of the proposed features replace old or worn out features. Overall, the amount of maintenance would not change or could possibly be reduced with newer features. The only feature that would result in additional maintenance, is the trolley garden. The trolley gardens are included in phase III. Staff is working on determining the additional funds needed to maintain the trolley gardens.

GENERAL COMMENTS PROVIDED

- City Park improvements should focus on what younger generations want and like.
- Design ideas presented are nice, but prefer they don't happen at City Park.
- Concerned about preserving the character of the park.
- Concerned about preserving open space in the park.
- Suggest interviewing picnic shelter users in the park to see what their needs are.
- New tennis/pickleball courts should be constructed before existing are removed.
- Suggest increasing the area for the playground and providing more places for parents to sit.
- Water quality of lake should be improved.
- Concerned about how the proposed architectural style of the pavilion, picnic shelters and new restroom fit with the park's sense-of-place.
- Safety should be a higher priority in the phasing of improvements.
- Glad to hear the existing trees are being protected as they are one of the best parts of the park.

SUMMARY

There was excellent attendance, lots of questions were asked about specific components, a divergence of viewpoints were expressed, and significant support for maintaining the "character" of the Park was articulated (although "character" appears to mean different things to different people). Support for the overall vision was evenly divided, while each of the specific elements received majority support.

Please note that this document has been prepared as a meeting summary and is therefore not intended as detailed meeting minutes.