



Meeting Summary

Subject: City Park Tomorrow – Community Meeting
Date: June 7, 2018
Location: Lincoln Center – Columbine Room
Attendees: Approximately 100 Community and Neighborhood Residents

MEETING FORMAT

A meeting was held with community 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.

The 30-minute presentation included: history of City Park; a description of the 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 are considered higher priorities.

Below is a summary of the question and answer session:

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. The design team will look at ways to increase the footprint size of the playground to be able to accommodate additional play equipment.

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.

How much further away is the proposed playground from the City Park Pool than existing playgrounds?

- **Staff Response:**
The center of the existing main playground is 303 feet from the entry into the pool; the center of the existing tot lot is 437 feet from the entry into the pool and the center of the proposed playground area is 435 feet from the entry into the pool.

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.

Will there be increases in traffic with the proposed plan?

- **Staff Response:**
A completed traffic analysis indicates closure of the segment of City Park Drive between South Bryan Avenue and Sheldon Drive will not significantly impact traffic volumes on surrounding streets. The proposed elements currently exist in the park or have been in the park in the past (i.e. City Park Train and historic trolley), so no additional traffic is anticipated for replacing existing elements. The gardens are a new proposed element. It is not expected that this amenity will result in a substantial change in numbers of park users such that traffic patterns would be negatively impacted.

Could there be softer surfaced walking paths provided (around the lake) as well as a concrete path?

- **Staff Response:**
While the limits of this project don't reach the south end of the lake, the design team can explore where crusher fine pathways may be added.

OPEN SPACE / EXISTING TREES

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.

How many trees will be removed in this process?

- **Staff Response:**
The proposed plan has been carefully planned to save all the existing trees. Saving the cherished trees has informed the placement and design of every element of the proposed plan.

TENNIS / PICKLEBALL COURTS

Do you have suggestions for where we can get more pickleball courts in town; and if during the gap between removal of the existing courts and construction of the new courts, can the pickleball nets be moved to Greenbriar park?

- **Staff Response:**
If all or a portion of the funding of Phase II is approved by City Council, it is possible the new tennis / pickleball courts could be constructed concurrently with Phase I. Phase II improvements can be grouped into 4-5 smaller sub-phases so that if a portion of the Phase II budget is approved, several of the sub-phases could be completed.
In addition, there is another budget offer to add 4 pickleball courts at Spring Canyon Park.

TRAIN / TROLLEY / PAVILION (STATION)

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.

Is the use in the Pavilion limited to 3 months out of the year?

- **Staff Response:**
While the train and trolley operate from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the Pavilion is programmed to have year-round use. In addition to displaying the trolley and train for viewing year-round, there is a shelter component to the open area section of the structure that would also be used year-round. The pavilion has been designed as a multi-purpose structure.

PHASING / COSTS / CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

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 (possibly concurrently with phase I) 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 long will the park be closed during construction?

- **Staff Response:**
Construction sequencing will be planned to impact as small of a park area at a time as possible. The length and timing of construction will depend on how many and which components / elements are included in each phase.

If City Council chooses not to fully fund or partially fund this project, where does the money come from, or do some of the phases not happen?

- **Staff Response:**
Staff will explore grant opportunities, donations as well other options. Phasing will occur as funding allows.

GENERAL COMMENTS PROVIDED

- Concern for preservation of open space within the park.
- Concern about preserving the historical character of the park.
- Suggest adjusting phasing to address safety and lighting concerns sooner.
- Suggestion to construct new tennis/pickleball courts before existing are removed.
- Suggest a bandstand / small platform for music at the lake.
- Suggest the Trolley Pavilion be called the "Trolley Station" (Club Tico was historically called the Pavilion).
- Concern for the small footprint area for the proposed playground, suggestion to increase the size.

- Suggest providing more, but smaller playgrounds throughout the park.
- Like how the proposed playground promotes exposure to nature for kids which is essential for healthy childhood development (physical, emotional and spiritual); like the playground design leading to more imaginative and physically challenging play.
- Suggest the open area of the Pavilion (Station) be allowed to be reserved for dancing or other small group activities (surfacing material to be appropriate for dancing).
- Suggest temporarily moving the pickleball nets to Greenbriar.
- Suggest providing shade and wind breaks for relocated tennis / pickleball courts.
- Suggestions were given on which elements should be higher priority. While opinions varied, security / lighting and reconstruction of tennis / pickleball courts were mentioned the most.
- Suggestion to consider children's needs for improvements in the park before adults.
- Suggestion to reduce the size of the Trolley Pavilion (Station).
- Suggestion to look at amount of use each element / facility type within the park receives.
- Proposed improvements to the park should consider all ages and types of park users.

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). Comments were given on what the most used or most important elements are in the park, although what these were varied greatly from person to person. Majority support for the overall vision and the specific elements was received.

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