
Project: Ewing Young Park Master Plan

Meeting Number: 1

Meeting Location: Chehalem Park & Recreation District Senior Center

Meeting Date: 11/28/2017

Notes By: WHPacific

Meeting Time: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M

I. Introduction

- Don Clements, CPRD Superintendent:
 - Doing development over the years and decided to move forward with a comprehensive plan.
 - “Everything is on the table.”
- Mark Hadley, WHPacific:
 - Approx. 5 people that were present are direct neighbors to the park
 - Master Plan process is based on 3 goals:
 1. Community conversation – what would benefit you as park users.
 2. Respect the land, understand the environmental conditions – Purpose of the Environmental Assessment.
 3. Guidance for the park district how to best use their funds.

II. Future Park Improvements – open discussion with community, facilitated by Mark Hadley

- BMX Track
 - “Groundskeeper” stated it’s a lot of maintenance
 - Desire to add a cover over track – No walls, roof only.
 - Increase use of facility for all seasons
 - Races take place from May to Mid-October – Ewing Young track only able to provide for half of the season
 - Proposed idea of building a secondary smaller track behind/adjacent to the current track and covering that.

- Precedent Project – Lincoln City (has 1 covered skate area and 1 not)
- Current BMX Track is attractive due to its U-shape and variety – not its length. Can be rebuilt smaller to allow for covering.
- Need to consider requirements that allow it to be a sanctioned track (point system)
- Current track is too advanced for younger kids – “Groundskeeper” wants to implement a 3 tier skill level zones
 - Precedent Project – Salem
- Fence off entire track that locks when closed
 - Current conflict with Remote Control Car users who drive their cars on the BMX track and create ruts – need signage and boundary
 - Helps with maintenance and longevity
- Revenue generating potential with BMX track but in order to achieve that the parking and restrooms need to be improved and elevated.
 - Vendors from events can use parking lot
- Skate Park
 - Desire to cover the skate park
 - Showing signs of wear and tear – surface is eroding
 - Approx. life span is 25 years, this skate park is approx. 15 years old
 - Covering would prolong its life and provide all year round use (shelter from the rain and shade from the sun)
 - Nowhere in Portland (besides under the bridges) has a covered skate area
 - Newberg residents commented they drive to Eugene to use their covered skate park
 - Mountain Dew Tour in Portland came to Newberg for their skate park
- Dog Park
 - Propose the 2 covered facilities become joined as 1 (break in the roof)
 - Positive response to the current separation of areas for large and small dogs
 - Desire for adding a light to extend the use time, especially in the winter
 - Ewing Young Park closes at dusk

- Dog park users host pot lucks with cash donations from time to time to chip in for improvements/lighting
- Disc Golf
 - Gentlemen at the meeting go to the course almost every weekday, even in the rain, as long as it is not too wet.
 - The course needs improved maintenance – lack of mowing is problematic, once grass is 8” or higher it is difficult to find your disc
 - The course needs better signage and improved tee pads
 - People who don’t disc golf use the course as a means to walk around the park
 - Disc golfers and walkers do not currently pose a conflict of uses
 - Support for the expansion to 18 holes, utilizing the entire park property
 - Expansion would give variety to the disc golf community
 - Excited about the prospect for a shot across the creek
 - It’s a low impact use – extending across the creek and risking it being in the floodplain is not an issue to the users
 - Would market to more tournaments – increased use
 - Tournaments would lead to increased tourist and revenue for the city
 - Example: Salem has a tournament for 200 people in January that is already completely filled with participants
 - George Fox University Disc Golf Team hosts a tournament at the end of the 1st semester in Champoeg – Opportunity to host at Ewing Young?
 - Don spoke: November - March is a slow time with a lack of visitors – keep in mind anything that can be done to increase tourism during that time
 - Champoeg Disc Golf Course (what makes it great)
 - Large, pizza shaped tee pads
 - High end baskets and variety of locations (located on mound, stumps, the ground)
 - Well maintained, great signage, good drainage
 - Drawback is that it is a flat course, the course at Ewing Young Park has better topography change

- Remote Control Car Track (RC Car)
 - RC Car Club expressed desire for the track to remain
 - Remove tree in the center
 - Add barrier to prevent cars from going off course and into the blackberry
 - Track needs maintenance and replace the stand
 - Current conflicts with BMX track
- Trails and Bikes
 - Add non paved trails for increased running/walking variety
 - Don shared the long-term regional connection goal (connect to 219 and Dundee) as well as the goal to cross the river and connect to Champoeg
 - In the winter the trails with woodchips are dry and usable and areas without are slick, wet, and muddy
 - Create connecting cross trails to allow users to adjust their running/walking to longer or shorter distance loops. This relates to the property on the other side of the creek.
 - Add benches
 - Bikes should not have access to all trails – concern about conflicting uses
 - Bike use only be along bypass towards Dundee and not in park?
 - Precedent – Champoeg has wide trails for both uses and narrower trails for one use only
- Historical Interpretive Elements and Signage
 - Improve entry to capitalize on the site’s historical importance. Your entrance is currently focused on the dog park, BMX track, and skate park
 - Needs better signage – trails are currently hidden and difficult to find their access point
 - Addition of signage along trails that touch on 2 themes
 - Interpretive – Historical features, Native Americans
 - Environmental – Flora and fauna
 - Precedent – River Bend camping area near Sweat Home – site has benches, no biking trails, and signage for historical and flora/fauna elements.
 - Brick material has historical significance – can be used throughout park for signs
 - QR codes for signage that you pull up on your phone would reduce maintenance

- Park Entry
 - Opportunity to add a secondary entrance at the stub street off of Charles
 - Already an issue for parking there for people who live there – creating a park entrance could pose a bigger parking issue.
 - Concern raised about security of the site if there were multiple entrances and restroom facilities
 - Don informed the concerned resident that increased vitality in the park will create a deterrent and move homeless out.
- Parking Lot Improvements
 - Need paved lot
 - Need more parking
 - During BMX events overflow parking is directed down along the loop around the old dump site
 - One entrance and exit creates a jam
 - Opportunity to charge for parking during events and have the overflow located at the school
- Restrooms
 - Bathroom situation is bad – Needs to be the 1st improvement
 - Precedent – West Linn has a self-locking bathroom facility
 - Build from natural materials would create greater historical connection
- Playground
 - Add amphitheater to allow for small gatherings – Shakespeare in the park
 - Pristine, natural setting
 - Expressed interest in “Messy” nature play
 - Precedent – Champoeg has a nature play area featuring a sand and water pump
 - Asking for a “place to be” and not too much development
- Overall concern about balancing the natural features and the developed areas (BMX track/skate park) – All areas of the park need attention.