

20 August 2008

Minutes of the Alpine City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PRO) Committee meeting held August 20, 2008 at Alpine City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:22 pm. The following members were present and constituted a quorum:

April Cooper, Larry Brown, Evertt Williams, Bryce Higbee

Dave Fotheringham was absent.

Staff: Ted Stillman, April Riley

Others: Jim Tracy (City Council representative to PRO Committee), Brad Reneer, Tracy Wallace, Ginger Belnap, Paul Thompson, Scott Kenney, Jannicke Brewer, Bill Baker, Amy Lundquist, Nancy Pope, Heidi Snarr, Jennifer Zantos, Joan Norton

A. 100 South Park Master Plan

Ted Stillman said the City Council has considered and approved the addition of the property the City owns on 300 North to the contract to develop a master plan for that property as well. Lars Anderson will assist in preparing a master plan for the 300 North property as well.

Ted Stillman said the first step is to determine what facilities we want in the park. The next step would be where to locate the facilities in the park. Larry Brown suggested that the committee start with the easy items that they know for sure they do or do not want to include and then come back to the other items that aren't as clear cut. The PRO Committee discussed the various facility options.

Amphitheater

April Cooper said the only reason she would say no to an amphitheater is because we just included one in the Arboretum Master Plan. Jim Tracy suggested that an amphitheater in the park on 100 South may not be the best place as it is surrounded by houses. Larry Brown said the amphitheater could also be moved from the Arboretum to the 100 South Park.

Linda Wilkins said she lives close to the gazebo in Legacy Park where they have concerts on occasion. She said it's not the best location for them, but she has never heard anyone complain about it. Evertt Williams said his concern is parking. Ted Stillman and April Cooper stated that the arboretum has two small parking areas in it. Jim Tracy said if they take out the hill for an amphitheater that would eliminate the sled hill as well.

Ballfield

Jim Tracy said he envisioned that if a ball field were included it would not be for scheduled play. April Cooper suggested they could leave it in as just an open grassy area that if the need did arise, the ball field could be altered for a specific type of play. Committee voted to not include a ball field.

Gazebo

Ted Stillman said he thinks only one group included it because no one else thought of it. Larry Brown said there's one gazebo in town already. Jim Tracy gave some examples of what the gazebo is used for currently. Evertt Williams stated that depending on what type of pavilions that are used, there may or may not be the need to have a traditional gazebo. April Cooper said she was in the group at the charette that included the gazebo and said that the intent was not necessarily to get a gazebo, but some kind of feature that would draw people to that spot. Jim Tracy said he thought a gazebo would break up the park and make it more passive. April Cooper said they also thought it would serve as a good resting point in the middle of the park where people could get out of the sun, but still see what's going on in the park. Bryce Higbee said he is okay with a gazebo in the park and indicated the plans from the charette all seem to have some kind of central feature.

Splash pad

Evertt Williams said that Lars Anderson indicated that splash pads are expensive to build and maintain and have the same problems as swimming pools with spreading illnesses such as cryptosporidium. April Cooper said she would be okay with including it in the master plan. Jim Tracy said a lot of children want a swimming pool and this may be a good compromise.

Fountain/Pond

Larry Brown said he would like to include some kind of water feature. A splash pad is not a calming water feature. April Cooper asked if there was anything that we could do with the creek while it was running. Ted Stillman said there are access issues. Evertt Williams asked if there is existing water in the area and Ted Stillman said no. Bryce Higbee asked if the creek will be fenced. Ted Stillman said it is currently fenced and will remain. In the 1980s, the Whitby's sued the adjacent property owners to the west. The court ruled that the property line was in the middle of the creek and ruled that the existing deer fence on the east side of the creek has to remain. Committee decided to include a fountain type of water feature over a pond.

Climbing Wall

Larry Brown said if this was included, placement would be key so it didn't stick out. Jennifer Zanthos commented that she thought the playground area was to be for smaller children. The Committee clarified that they did not want to have these facilities in completely separate areas in the park, but to have the climbing wall near the playground area for older children, but separate from a tot lot.

Basketball and Tennis Courts

Jim Tracy said it's easy to have on the plan so it can be added at a future date. Evertt Williams asked if it's possible to have a court that can be multiple use. Ted Stillman said it's difficult to do. Jim Tracy stated he thinks there is a lot of demand for tennis courts and they would be used. Jim Tracy said there are existing tennis courts at Burgess Park and at Timberline Middle School. Evertt Williams asked Ginger Belnap, who was representing Lars Anderson, if you can have multiple use courts. Ginger Belnap said she has not seen it done commercially, but residentially it is very common. She indicated that tennis courts are typically larger than basketball courts so using a multiple use court does shrink the size of the tennis court. Evertt Williams said you can get more users on basketball courts at a time than tennis courts. Larry Brown asked if these courts would be for public use or scheduled use. Jim Tracy indicated that the facilities in this park would be for open use and not for organized play even though the pavilions could be reserved. Committee decided to include basketball and tennis courts.

Playground

Tracy Wallace suggested that the City talk to Pleasant Grove City police about their experiences with the facilities at Discovery Park.

Linda Wilkins stated that we have a lot of children sledding down the cemetery hill during the winter. She didn't think creating that type of area in the new park would probably not be very difficult and in the summer it would be a grassy hill. April Riley indicated that if the Pack Development does come in that they have a park with a designated sledding area.

Skate Park

Jim Tracy read some motions from the City Council made a few years ago about developing a skate park in Burgess Park. Ted Stillman a location within Burgess Park was never agreed upon. Jim Tracy also indicated it was never funded. The Committee discussed the option of starting with smaller modules that younger children could use and could be changed out. Jim Tracy said if there were problems, the modules could be removed. Larry Brown said it doesn't hurt to reserve the footprint, but said his concern was spending a large amount of money on one feature that caters to a narrow demographic. Jim Tracy stated he doesn't want the City to become part of a circuit that children who wanted a skate park would rotate among. He said he thinks this needs to cater to the residents of Alpine and not extend to other cities.

Amy Lundquist stated she was present representing the PTA at Alpine Elementary. She indicated that she has great concern having a skate park located near to the school and having young elementary children that walk by that area. She stated that there is a large group of parents that share that concern. April Cooper said that even if they choose to have the footprint in, the PRO Committee still does not make the final vote. The plan will have to go through Planning Commission and City Council. Larry Brown stated that just including the footprint does not mean we are committing to have it in as the plan still has to be approved ultimately by the City Council and there will be more opportunity for public input.

School drop off

Amy Lundquist stated that she is concerned about having a street connect from Blackhawk Lane to 600 East and put more traffic onto 600 East. One option was to have Blackhawk Lane connect to 100 South instead along the west side of the park. April Cooper stated that if there's another road running north and south and what would stop people from then traveling down the new road as well.

Linda Wilkins suggested a compromise of putting a walking or bike path on the west side that the children could take instead of walking along the street. The Committee indicated that there will be trails in the park.

Library and Senior Center

April Riley stated that she had talked to a resident in town that does a lot of development and in talking with him, when you plan parks that it's important to consider the programming as that is what draws the people, not the facility itself.

Ted Stillman reviewed different options for a library.

Tracy Wallace asked Ted Stillman where the mayors of the various cities are at with an inter-local agreement for North Utah County. Brad Reneer said he recently spoke to the library director at Pleasant Grove and she said they will be re-evaluating in 3 years and there is the possibility that if it is not successful it may not be renewed. She said to join they have to be state certified. Currently they do not do the interchange like Salt Lake County, but that the cards will work at various libraries. Paul Thompson said he has talked with various libraries and it is much like what Brad Reneer indicated. Paul Thompson said one way to become part of the group was if we had a collection that the other libraries did not have and wanted to have in their system. He said it was his understanding that it would be done for 2 years and then if they were certified at that time.

Joan Norton said she thinks this is a great opportunity for us to create a great gathering place and to do something for every person in the community. She said in the past they have been able to raise the money for a library, but did not have a City Council that would support them. Joan stated there has been an ongoing problem of how to finance the ongoing cost of running a library. Joan asked Ted if he was aware of the ongoing cost of the American Fork library. Ted Stillman estimated \$500,000 to \$600,000 annually.

Scott Kenney stated he was strongly in favor of a library in Alpine for the same reasons Joan stated. Scott Kenney said what he wanted to see was to have some land set aside along 100 South that could be used for a library or senior center in case the Art Center does not succeed. Bryce Higbee asked why it would be important to focus on reserving space in place of doing something to support the Art Center to make it successful. Jim Tracy asked what acreage he is asking for. Scott Kenney said he would like to see about 7 acres set aside for it so there is enough space for the building and parking.

Jim Tracy indicated the property was condemned for a park and asked if a library and senior center could be developed on this property. Ted Stillman said those facilities could be as the park was condemned for park and recreation uses.

Jennifer Zanthos stated she wants a library and thinks the only way it will happen is if the City Council will stand behind it. Bryce Higbee asked if this is something the PRO Committee would even recommend to the City Council. Ted Stillman said the Arts Council made a presentation to the City Council

Bill Baker said he is not a resident of Alpine, but is very interested in this project. He has done some research into grants and used the example of the Eccles group that essentially has said if there is maintenance after the project is done they will donate to the project. He said there are also other grants through schools if it is a facility that they can use. He indicated that it is key to put our minds to finding creative ways to fund the project and fund the ongoing maintenance and operation costs.

Jim Tracy said we have a large piece of ground and the facilities that they have chosen to include in the master plan so far will not take up the majority of the land. Evertt Williams said it would be prudent to reserve a few acres for some future use that could be multi use. April Cooper stated she supports the concept of a library in the community. Larry Brown asked if we were talking about reserving a quarter of the property or if we need to talk about a specific number of acres.

The Committee decided to reserve at least 5 acres for future development that could be landscaped in the meantime and left open.

Ted Stillman reviewed results from the survey the City did for the 100 South Park. The PRO Committee discussed the items that were on the survey. The PRO Committee gave the direction to Lars Anderson to include the following items in a concept master plan that will come back to the PRO Committee for review and recommendation to the Planning Commission: restrooms, school drop off, open field/reunion/picnic/passive, parking, perimeter trail, splash area, tennis courts, basketball courts, pavilions/gazebo, trees, fountain, exercise area, natural area, benches, tot lot, swings, lighting for pavilions and tennis courts, large playground (a climbing wall could be included in this area) area, and at least 5 acres reserved for future development.

B. Willow Canyon Trail Alignment

Ted Stillman said this item can wait as the site plan is being revised. Ted Stillman explained that this item is related to the Lynton Site Plan that the Planning Commission is in the process of reviewing. There is the possibility that the Lynton's may request to move part of the existing trail depending on the revised site plan that is being worked on at this time.

C. Park Naming Procedures

Ted Stillman explained that there have been requests from residents in the past to rename parks and facilities in the City, but that we have not had a policy to really follow for such requests. For this reason, the PRO Committee will be reviewing some naming procedures that can eventually be adopted to provide consistency and rules. Jannicke Brewer mentioned that the procedure to change the name of roads was changed to have a fee. Jim Tracy suggested that in order to accommodate an onslaught of changes to rename parks and facilities that we should have a fee.

MOTION: Evertt Williams moved to recommend the Alpine City Policy for Naming Facilities as amended to the Planning Commission and City Council for consideration. Bryce Higbee seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Larry Brown, April Cooper, Bryce Higbee, and Evertt Williams voted aye. Motion passed.

D. Minutes

MOTION: Larry Brown moved to approve the minutes of June 18, 2008 and adjourn. April Cooper seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Larry Brown, April Cooper, Bryce Higbee, and Evertt Williams voted aye. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.