

April 23, 2008

Summary of comments from the public meeting held by the Alpine City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PRO) Committee held April 23, 2008 at Alpine City Hall for the purpose of receiving public input on the development of a city park to be located on 100 South.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Members present that constituted a quorum: Dave Fotheringham, Larry Brown, Bryce Higbee, April Cooper, Evertt Williams

Staff: Ted Stillman, April Riley

Present from City Council: Mayor Hunt Willoughby, Jim Tracy, Tracy Wallace, Kimberly Bryant, Thomas Whitchurch, Kent Hastings

Present from Planning Commission: Jannicke Brewer, Steve McArthur, Steve Cosper, Brad Reneer, Troy Stout

1. Welcome & History – Mayor Hunt Willoughby

Plan is to get information and ideas. No decisions will be made tonight on anything. Anything we think of tonight may or may not happen. We have to look at desire and cost and look at phasing it or bond to do it all at once. The meeting will be conducted by PRO Committee and the task is theirs to fine tune the input gathered tonight.

2. Vision of Park, Planning Process, National Park Standards – Dave Fotheringham

Advisory board to City Council and report to PC and CC. Advise on planning open space, research and evaluate regulations and programs. Also have 2 subcommittees – rodeo grounds committee and trails committee. Help with maintenance and parks and trails master plan.

Planning process – we had some earlier meetings to determine the process we wanted to take for this park. Tonight we are having a public meeting to get input. After this, we will analyze that input and go into a charrette process this summer. From the charrette process Lars Anderson will help us develop a master plan that we will work on in the fall and when that is done we will hold another public meeting and will make recommendation to Planning Commission who in turn will make a recommendation to City Council who will then choose to adopt the plan or not.

Current facilities and standards – these are based on national standards.

What we would like to do tonight: there is a survey available for you to fill out and provide ideas and input that way. The survey has a map on the back showing the park where you could mark where you would like to see your ideas in the park.

We sent a letter to the elementary schools and some of the students responded and their ideas are posted on the walls, including proposed names for the park.

3. Examples of Parks – Lars Anderson

Regional usually draws from about 30 miles away.

Neighborhood parks – can have smaller athletic fields

Lars Anderson gave a presentation with slides showing various examples of parks

4. Public input for ideas

Penny Roberts – I like the idea of a passive park that the entire family can enjoy. Seeing the drawings of a skate park makes me nervous and I would be opposed to it.

Liz Strikwerda - Skate park in the middle to buffer. Alpine does a good job of supporting youth sports, but we have a large group of kids that do skate

Quiet area. Are there enough ballfields?

This is a large piece of property, we need to plan for growth.

Great nature park with walking trails, maybe a small area for kids with some fountains or water features, ADA accessible.

Hayden Strikwerda – we don't have anywhere to skate, it would be nice to have somewhere to skate that we could walk to (currently goes to AF)

Skate park – everyone gets mad at us when we skated at businesses, but we wouldn't have to do that if we had somewhere to skate

Zach – skate park, we already have a lot of places with ball parks, but those that like to skate don't have a place

Brad Reneer – library (people say you can go to AF and get a card there, but the same could be said about a park), we should also look at the mind and provide a place for kids to go and explore books and have the same opportunities mentally and intellectually as well as physical and I think we're getting a little imbalanced in that way

Christine Jensen – park with multiple uses, however sports park is not part of that, what is the maintenance on fountains like they have at The Gateway – Lars Andersen said a splash pad take a little more maintenance than a typical pool but you don't have the drowning . I would support a passive park with a splash pad and maybe a small area for skating and trail along creek, really something with multiple uses for all ages.

Katrina Hughes – swimming pool. We have to drive to other cities and the pools are so crowded so we stay home and turn the sprinklers on, but it's not the same. We have all these sports parks and not every kid plays those types of sports. Diving board makes pools fun too.

Rock climbing wall – lots of kids like to climb and this would help them improve their climbing ability

Small neighborhood skate park area, grassy open area, athletic fields, walking path, bonding with multiple use.

Arboretum not needed.

Bonds are at historic lows.

Get money up front – costs can sky rocket.

Skate park – we skate everywhere and our parents are worried about us, but if we had one in the neighborhood our parents would feel better. We could put it in the middle with trees and water features around it to buffer the noise and put a walking path around the outside.

Skate park – put it in the middle where people would hear it much or make it indoors with AC, snack bar

Tad Norman – skate park on behalf of many of my grandsons and their friends. In respect to noise, pools are noisy and cheering at a ballgame, skating is not the only noisy activity.

Amy Johnson – skate park, the noise is much more minimal compared to other sports. Put me down for a large donation for any asphalt or concrete for a skate park. Library; no additional baseball fields.

Robin Hansen – nice play structures for young children (toddlers and up), splash pad

Tetherball, tennis, racquetball, swimming pool. More unusual sports that people could try. We already have plenty of football and soccer fields.

Alex Brown – skate park, it's hard to find places to skate. There would be less damage to private property.

Kate King – it would be great to know what kind of budget we are working with. Senior center – could we get any information on national standards regarding senior centers and compare that with the senior population in town.

Picnic areas, pavilions, places to go and enjoy as a family where kids can play on play equipment, walking area. I see people using it already walking their dogs, training their horses, using ATVs – we should keep these in mind as well. Keep it a peaceful place.

David Jossey (Soccer League president) – Alpine has about 875 kids that play soccer and that will probably grow, soccer doesn't require a lot other than grass and open area. I've been around different parks and seen skate parks and they seem to incorporate well with other parks.

Lisa Ashby – something similar to the Moab Percussion Park, some area set aside for wildlife indigenous to the area, more pine trees, skate park, I would like to volunteer my time to help with research, legwork, etc.

Austin Summer – skate park, soccer field

Dan Houser – what's the most expensive to build? To upkeep? Greatest liability? Swimming pools are generally one of the most expensive things for a city to do. Easily a \$1 million. Pools are more expensive to maintain. Skate parks don't have as much liability, but it's still pretty high. Location of a skate park is really important to deterring crime. Is it feasible to do a skate park in the middle? Lars stated if you put something like that in the center of a park it breaks the park up too much to really make the rest usable for other uses.

What is the senior population of the city?

Crime rates?

Bob Williams – family friendly, passive park, useful for all ages, activities that encourage family togetherness that don't single out a single use or single age group, opposed to additional ballfields

Diane Card – library, basketball courts (maybe improve courts at Burgess Park), environmentally friendly (xeriscape)

Eric Summer – library, skate park, bbq pits and picnic areas, compatibility along existing Dry Creek

Drinking fountain

Scott Kenney – library (preferably multi-use facility – seniors, exhibits that could rotate), skate park (a lot of kids do it and they're going to skate so we may as well do it in a controlled environment), xeriscape (don't have lawn that consumes a lot of water b/c we don't think of anything else)

Adam Ford – will there be access from cul-de-sac at end of Picadilly Circle to the park, no skate park right next to Taylor Meadows subdivision, library (I will head the campaign to raise all the funds to buy all the books to stock the library) – bring in professors for lectures, etc.

4 wheel or go-cart track

Draw from beauty of Alpine. Make a place where people can sit and enjoy the quiet and atmosphere, no lights. No skate park or anything else that might decrease surrounding property values.

Don't want property taxes to go up.

Gary Harding – all of us need to think what would I want in my backyard as we talk about what we want; we haven't talked a lot about finances – we are not in the best economy right now, there are a lot of people on fixed incomes; don't do anything that will decrease surrounding property values; no lighting; consider the wildlife that live there including deer, fox and sometimes cougars

Nick Ware – skate park – you can sink it down with berms around it so it's not so visible or noisy; water park/features. I'm willing to donate dirt.

Brad Christensen – I've seen a lot of little thinking stop big things from happening. Some grass and trees.

Brendan Waters – skate park

Mike Pacer – our biggest concern would be parking, our suggestion is to incorporate some parking into the park; park fashioned after International Peace Park in SLC with maybe some flags or memorial to past residents; family-oriented where all ages could enjoy the park and scenery; picnic areas

Family-oriented, not just more sports fields; play equipment; water feature

Mary Jo Crook – concerns: financial burden on citizens, parking. I advocate a library, but don't know if this is the best place for it. Passive quiet park, family-oriented.

Play equipment, picnic areas, trails connecting the various areas of the park, family-oriented. Smaller segmented areas.

Maureen Wallace – library/senior center; play structure for all ages; "wood park" in PG; walking path around; parking

Matt Grimmer – passive park where family can go, walking trails, play equipment. A concern I have is if it were to incorporate sports field is the traffic it would create. Austin, TX (Katenburg Lane off Oak Hills)

Library – is it easier to get grants for libraries than other things? A place with an auditorium for lectures and recitals, etc.; walking trails with natural vegetation indigenous to the area with labels; we should phase this according to priorities

David Atkinson – we need to be mindful of the financial implications; libraries are expensive to build, stock, and maintain;

More passive: quiet, limit lighting, walking trails, limit athletic fields

Do we want a local park or something that stands out and is really unique that draws the whole town? Let's plan this in consideration of all Alpine parks.

No skate park

Passive park.

Sean Lorscheider – canopies around the park, widen the road with some room for cars to park on the side; there's a subculture in the skating world that a lot of people are not aware of and we need to be more careful and protective of our children – my family learned about the subculture the hard way as me and my brothers were skaters and my brother ended up involved with drugs and he was introduced to them at the skate park

Part of it natural.

Dave Fotheringham thanked the public for coming and participating.

Mayor Hunt Willoughby thanked the PRO Committee and the public for coming.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.