

FORT THOMAS COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Parks & Open Space Committee

Meeting Summary

October 8, 2019 6:00pm

Jeff Bezold, Chair
Mark Collier
Ken Bowman
Adam Blau

Others in Attendance: Eric Haas, Mayor
Ron Dill, CAO
Chris Manning, Human Nature

The meeting agenda was a continuation and an update regarding projects/initiatives related to the Community Plan implementation. Items discussed included:

Tower Park/Shelter 3 & Basketball Courts Area

Staff shared an update on bidding the shelter & restroom. Bids came in too high, so the restroom was eliminated. Bids on the shelter will be in very soon. City crews will assist with some of the work. The elimination of the attached restroom, and the future addition of a port-o-let enclosure near the courts and trailhead sparked a discussion about the best place(s) in Tower Park where additional restrooms are most needed.

Tower Park/Restrooms

Staff shared the current thinking about two small new restrooms being added to Tower Park – one near the tennis courts and one near the softball field/Mess Hall. The character of them would relate to the new restroom near the playground. There was interest in including some storage space in the floor plan, particularly for the one adjacent to the softball field. After some discussion, the committee agreed with these locations moving forward.

Tower Park/Softball Field

Staff shared the idea that improvements are needed to the softball field to coordinate and keep pace with surrounding improvements to Alexander Circle and Mess Hall parking. Fencing, netting, regrading and right-sizing the infield are the main work items. Committee agreed to advance these items.

Tower Park/Zipline/Ropes Course

Staff shared that they had reached out to the potential partner that Jeff had provided, Challenge Towers Aerial Adventures out of North Carolina, and noted that we will be inquiring with them for more details about process, operations, maintenance, risks, etc. Jeff asked to be involved in those discussions.

Ken also encouraged staff and designers to be sensitive to nearby residents regarding how close the activity zones are placed and in preserving as much of the existing vegetation as possible.

The committee agreed to move forward with further exploration, with these considerations in mind.

Rossford Park/Exercise Stations

Staff shared a plan of the Rossford Park loop around the field, with approximately 6 potential locations for exercise equipment. Chris also shared photos of a very similar recent project in Ault Park, using Gametime equipment. Committee members seemed to prefer the artificial turf surface instead of the concrete. They also would prefer something different than the gray/silver color that was shown in the photographs. It was recommended to inquire with the Ault Park Advisory Council about which equipment seemed to be the most used, so that might inform our selections. It was agreed that staff should come back with some preliminary selections and color(s) options to share with the committee.

Jeff reminded staff that the shading net is still needed on the one backstop, and staff agreed to follow up on that.

Highland Hills Park/Trail Improvements

Staff shared a map of the next phase of proposed trail improvements. To-date, most of the improvements have been made by volunteers. Recently, they have been successful in securing some grant funds from Duke Energy and the Campbell County Extension Service, so these funds will enable the volunteers to actually hire some contracting support for the next phase.

Highland Hills Park/Baseball Field

Staff shared an update on the turf for the baseball field. Enough funds have been raised to install turf on the infield only. The community will continue to work on raising more money to eventually turf the outfield as well. Given that the infield is going to be updated, the City gave the High School permission to do their pre-game bonfire and pep rally there before this year's football game with CovCath.