

meeting summary

October 4, 2017

7 – 9:30

Highland Hills Shelter #1

Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting

attendees	Ben Reynolds	Traci Nestheide
	Katrina Boehmer	Sam Shelton
	Kat Disney	Holly Collinsworth
	Jeffrey Sackenheim	Ron Dill
	Lelia Wendel	Chris Manning
	Jeff Mohr	Jim Beineke
	Chris Rust	Heidi Neltner
	Teresa Hill	
	Jim Millar	

discussion items:

- Eric Haas welcomed committee members & offered an exciting idea for consideration to get the thinking started – a splash park and ice skating where the sand volleyball courts are! Get the Swim Club involved too!
- Ron Dill thanked everyone for participating and told the committee that he was particularly excited about the parks work, because it has so much potential.
- Chris Manning discussed the committee’s overall work plan and some particularly time-sensitive needs, such as questions for the citizens survey. CT is hoping to have questions submitted from all committees by 10/16.
- The Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats (SWOT) Analysis Spreadsheet was the discussed, and the committee agreed to go ahead and start the Highland Hills Park SWOT while they were together. Following are SWOT comments from the committee.
- Highland Hills Strengths
 - > Central location of significant greenspace - in the middle of town
 - > Serves as a unifier, connector and a divider
 - > Shelters
 - > Dog Park
 - > A lot of woods
 - > Trails
 - > Good size play set

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- > Restroom is really nice
- > Wooded areas- especially with the stream
- > Downtown Cincinnati view
- > Trails run along creeks
- > Trails connect and separate
- > Greenbelt is important
- > Sweetbriar park connects different areas- also an opportunity
- > Steps are great for exercise
- > Frisbee golf course
- > Great place for Eagle Scout projects
- > 4 bridges
- > Gets a lot of interest on Google
- Highland Hills Weaknesses
 - > Lack of shade in play area and dog park
 - > Play area not fenced in and maybe too close to road
 - > Frisbee golf- needs improvement
 - Placement of spots
 - Outdated
 - Need signage- get lost halfway through the course
 - Flow of the course
 - > Access – single street
 - > Signage problem
 - > Wayfinding signs

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- > Identity
- > Traffic/safety concerns on Mayfield
 - Amount and flow into the park- moves too fast
- > Wasted land where tennis used to be
- > Access to Baseball field is too limited for general public
- > Don't have enough trails (1.5-2 miles of trails at Highland)
- > Ohio Avenue- public entrance to park- no one knows about it
- > Not enough amenities for teenagers or older adults
- > Adult workout
- > Fitness for all ages
- > Drainage issues
- > Benches
- > Dog Park
 - No shelter
 - Dog park is highest utilized facility by outside citizens
 - Not enough attention paid to dog park
 - Needs to be enlarged
- > Sand volleyball courts
- Highland Hills Opportunities
 - > Sweetbriar
 - > Could add more trails
 - > Use James as a gateway
 - Relieves pressure of single access road

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- > Road to Highland Park from James
- > Baseball field- how can it be accessed?
- > School fields - spread out, best use of our spaces?
- > Refine and expand trail system
- > Cross country trails
- > Use park and city to add an invitational meet
- > Connect our assets
 - Connect Highland Park to HHS/Route 8/ Tower
 - Can kids cut through trails to get to school?
- > Linkages- personal property to park
- > Enhance dog park
 - Flat area for larger dogs in expansion
- > Views of City
- > Four-five streets that reach old tennis court
- > Futsol court
- > Splash pad at old tennis court
- > ice skating
- > Relationship between swim club/park/school, strengthening their relationships for mutual benefit
- > Public pool?
- > Aquatic facilities
- > Chess tables
- > Public private partnership with swim club for aquatic features in park

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- > Park brochure
- > Google website
- > Could be an app
- > Wifi in all parks
- > Balance for all ages
- > Social activities
- > Pickle Ball
- > Bocce Ball
- > Croquet
- > Camp ground opportunity
 - Earn the right
 - Privileges
- Highland Hills Threats
 - > Vandalism
 - > Property linkages
- Parks System Discussion
 - > Camp grounds at the parks
 - > What are we missing?
 - > Permitting process
 - > 5 Rivers Metro Parks is doing adventure recreation and urban camping
 - > Opportunity
 - Improve each park identity
 - Trail heads- uniform signage

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- Way finding signage need to be consistent
- Theme art trails
- Hubbard Studio connection
- Bring art into the trail system
- Man-made watershed retention pad- wetlands
 - Learning opportunity
 - Partner with schools – educational trails and signage
- Private property
- Reservoir trails
- Marked distance trails
- Fitness/wellness trail
- Think of whole **city as a park**- link it all together with RHF and celebrate each section with additional opportunities
- Need hazardous tree removal and replacement strategy
- Conservation management plan
- Consistent trail guidelines
 - Trail construction
 - Levels of trail
 - Good use of trails for all
- Federal government restrictions around reservoirs
- Sewage issue at watershed areas
- Make good trails, and people won't make their own trails
- Allow natural growth to come first

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- Honeysuckle, etc.
- Build what we can maintain properly and pay for
- Group confirmed that meeting on the first Wednesday of the month works best.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1st, 6:15pm at Ziegler Park.
- The group plans to complete the SWOT analysis of all parks and system by November 1st.
- Thanks to Holly Collinsworth for taking notes!