Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting

attendees
Brian Sand
Heidi Neltner
Jeff Bezold
Jim Millar
Katie Spicer
Kendal Fields
Traci Nestheide

Ben Reynolds
T. Webster
Mitt Horner
Bill Wehr
Peggy Lauer
Herman Lauer
Chris Manning
Sara DiLandro

discussion items:

- Chris Manning welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed what the committees have been working on for new attendees.

- Chris reminded the group that the survey is live and encouraged everyone to push it out to family/friends/colleagues/etc.

- Chris also reviewed the Partnership Committee’s site tours of Sargeant Park and the City-owned riverfront site that has received some grant money for soft surface trails. Both sites were very inspiring and have a lot of potential. The Partnerships Committee believes these sites should be included in the Parks & Open Space Committee’s plans and open for community input and exploration in the next phases of the planning process. If the Parks & Open Space Committee agrees, the Partnership Committee will recommend the following for Sargeant Park:

  > The City of Fort Thomas should partner with the City of Dayton and Campbell County to produce a master plan and shared vision for the park that is mutually beneficial, and then work together to fund, implement and manage the park.

  > While producing the master plan, a potential partnership with SD1 should be explored in an effort to manage stormwater, reduce erosion, improve water quality, and provide passive recreational opportunities.

  > The Parks & Open Space Committee should graphically illustrate Sargeant Park as a collaborative opportunity on their plan and include it in their strategy.

- The committee spent the remainder of time reviewing the draft board for the public open house that will be scheduled early next year. Components of the board include the following:

  > Park System Map that shows the park properties in relation to the hillside greenbelt (areas with slope great than 20%), gateways, schools, potentials connections, and possible park collaboration opportunities (which include riverfront property, potential extreme sports park site, and Sargeant Park).
> Vision Statement: To preserve and enhance the quality of the environment so that our community embodies a “city within a park”.

> Goals & Objectives

- Continue to enhance the city parks and recreation facilities for all users.
  - Enhance the unique role each park plays in the total experience of Fort Thomas.
  - Explore methods of linking parks and open spaces with schools, commercial areas, civic centers and neighborhoods.
  - Work collectively with the schools and other groups to provide for recreational opportunities.
  - Maximize opportunities to foster partnerships and share investment to enhance parks, trails, and gateways.
  - Identify recreational uses and facilities that are missing from the current offering and collaborate to meet those needs (such as a splash park, zip lines, camping/glamping, ropes course, climbing wall, skate park, pump track, etc.).

- Invest in Tower Park as a regional destination
  - (This park has a lot of great assets and so much potential as a hub of activity. Tower Park also has the only field sized for adult recreation leagues and users do not want to lose this asset as a community gathering spot).

- Invest in the enhancement and maintenance of existing assets (park infrastructure, structures, etc.)

- Enhance connectivity of and accessibility to community parks for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles).

- Encourage community stewardship through citizen advisory/volunteer groups and a tool to make it easier to volunteer.

- Encourage stronger social media presence to inform residents of assets and invite visitors to Ft. Thomas.

- Enhance online scheduling tools so park assets (fields, shelters, etc.) can be utilized/scheduled/reserved more easily and efficiently.
Encourage budget allocation for capital and operation (including maintenance, staffing, programming, and fundraising for capital projects).

- Next meeting was not scheduled due to the upcoming holidays.
Park System: Vision, Goals & Objectives:

- **Vision Statement:**
  - To preserve and enhance the quality of the environment so that our community embodies a "city within a park".

- **Goals & Objectives:**
  - Continue to enhance the city parks and recreation facilities.
  - Enhance the unique role each park plays in the total experience of Fort Thomas.
  - Explore methods of linking parks and open spaces with schools, commercial areas, civic centers and neighborhoods.
  - Work collectively with the schools and other groups to provide for recreational opportunities.
  - Maximize opportunities to foster partnerships and share investment to enhance parks, trails, and gateways.
  - Identify recreational uses and facilities that are missing from the current offering and collaborate to meet those needs (such as a splash park, ziplines, camping/glamping, ropes course, climbing wall, skate park, pump track, etc.).

What are your Park System Comments/Concerns?

1. Tower Park
   What are your comments/concerns?

2. Highland Hills Park
   What are your comments/concerns?

3. Rossford Park
   What are your comments/concerns?

4. Riggs Memorial Park

5. Gateway Parks

6. Riverfront

7. Potential Extreme Sports Park Site

8. Sergeant Park (Potential Collaboration with the City of Dayton)