

## meeting summary

June 11, 2018  
6 pm  
City Building

## Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting

attendees	Allison Stevie	Jim Millar
	Ben Reynolds	Joe Schwerling
	Brian Sand	Katie Spicer
	Brian Schwalbach	Lelia Wendel
	Chris Rust	Ron Dill
	Jeff Bezold	Chris Manning
	Jeff Mohr	Sara DiLandro

### discussion items:

- Chris Manning welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed what the committee has been working on for new attendees.
- The next public meeting has been scheduled for **Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Mess Hall**. It will mimic the organization/layout of the first public meeting with a short presentation of highlights from each committee followed by a breakout where individuals can view committee's ideas in more detail.
- Chris and Sara reviewed the project team's progress since the last committee meeting. The majority of our meeting was spent reviewing concepts and discussing additional supporting improvements.

Riverfront/Route 8: The future of the riverfront and Route 8 as a local park road with several nodes/trailheads is currently proposed by the committee. This big idea would also incorporate an off-road trail circuit of both land and water trails where walkers/bikers/kayakers/etc. can recreated along the river. This idea would incorporate several nodes at the 275 bridge, Tower Park, HHS/HMS connection, and the new Riverfront Park that will function as small designated parking areas, trailheads, and kayak put in/take outs. They will also serve as access points for connecting pedestrians to/from the riverfront up to Ft. Thomas. The proposed riverfront node at Tower Park includes a proposed paved shared-use trail as a multi-modal connection to Ft. Thomas for pedestrians, bikes, skates, etc.

- > Using the Riverfront for passive recreation opportunities like camping/glamping is another big idea that will be explored in Phase 2. The City owns some riverfront property and there may be opportunity to purchase additional land and/or partner with property owners like Aquaramp to collaborate on the Ft. Thomas River Camps opportunity. The project team is meeting with Aquaramp to further explore this opportunity.
- > Tower Park ropes course/zip line: An opportunity for an ecologically-sensitive recreation feature by the Mess Hall. This opportunity could introduce a new public/private partnership with an organization who could assist with the design/construction/operation/maintenance.

## meeting summary

June 11, 2018  
6 pm  
City Building

It could also offer opportunities to coordinate with local schools/sports teams/businesses/corporations to use the team building space along with the Mess Hall and Midway District businesses as part of their field trip/team building activity.

- > Tower Park Bike Park: A bike park is being proposed as a space for multiple generations, families and all skill levels to enjoy. Locating this park by the practice fields in Tower Park allows for accessibility and visibility, which is important. There could be an opportunity to partner with KyMBA and CORA.
  - > Tower Park Pickleball: The lower, far right tennis courts will have pickleball striping added to them to integrate the sport into Tower Park offerings. The committee will work to identify a more permanent location within the parks.
  - > Tower Park Recreation District: The Committee discussed the long-term opportunity to collaborate with the Army Reserve and the School District to create a more cohesive recreation district with tournament level facilities. Expanded and better-connected parking and pedestrian pathways/sidewalks is an important need throughout Tower Park, especially at the south end as the current network is overcrowded and unsafe for children.
  - > Highland Splash Park: The Committee reached consensus and would like to present two alternatives for feedback at the public house- an "initial phase" and a "potential expandability" option that would allow the City to expand on the initial splash park in the future. This opportunity would provide a much needed amenity for the community in an area that is currently underutilized and close to the school. The committee stressed the need for this amenity as one for residents, that doesn't draw traffic from areas outside of Ft. Thomas. There could be opportunities to utilize citizen groups to keep this area safe and clean.
  - > Highland Park entrance on James Avenue as another big idea for Phase 2. There is a possibility of purchasing one or two residential lots on Highland Ave. adjacent to James Ave. to accommodate safety improvements to the new park road. The new entrance proposal also involves turning Mayfield into a cul-de-sac with pedestrian-only access to the park. There will still be emergency vehicle access. There is also an opportunity to sell one or two residential lots from park property at the new cul-de-sac to help fund the proposed park improvements
- The Committee also discussed additional park feature/support ideas such as additional programming/activities with sponsorship opportunities for all ages (i.e., youth programs, yoga/fitness classes, pickle ball, etc.), canopies/shade structures for existing parks (there are grants available), upgrades to play structures, bike racks, and improved social media/communications to foster citizen involvement (i.e., Friends of Parks, Ambassadors).