

## **FORT THOMAS COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Parks & Open Space Committee**

Meeting Summary

December 2, 2019 5:30pm

Jeff Bezold, Chair  
Mark Collier  
Ken Bowman  
Adam Blau

Others in Attendance: Eric Haas, Mayor  
Ron Dill, CAO  
Joseph Ewald, Finance  
Jann Seidenfaden, City Attorney  
Chris Manning, Human Nature  
3 Citizen Observers

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

#### **Rossford Park Exercise Equipment**

Staff shared an update on the selection of particular pieces of equipment, based upon the learning from Ault Park. After some discussion, it was agreed that two elliptical (aerobic) pieces would be placed near the existing play area (so parents can exercise while they watch their children playing) and two press (strength) pieces will be placed along the outfield edge. A color chart was reviewed, and it was agreed that black was the preferred color, to match all of the other furnishings/amenities in the park. Staff will work on getting these ordered and installed soon. If all goes well with these, there was interest from the committee in exploring pullup bars of different heights near the restroom as a second phase.

#### **Tower Park High Ropes Course/Zipline**

Staff shared an update on the search to find a vendor/partner on this project. The potential partner from the Carolinas offered to come up and do a preliminary layout for a fee, but it turns out that they do not manage these types of facilities as an on-going partner. Staff will continue to look for someone who can. It was agreed that the City will not implement this course without a private partner to manage it.

#### **Tower Park Shelter 3 Area**

Staff shared an update on the construction in this area. The existing shelter has been removed, and utility work will begin soon. The City and the Contractor will be coordinating the work, which will continue through into the Spring.

#### **Recreation Department Input**

With the new Shelter 3 coming on line soon, there have been two recent planning meetings with Recreation staff to brainstorm about programming for the area to take advantage of the new shelter, volleyball, updated courts, cornhole and bocce. The goal is to have a balance of open times and planned events/programs to serve the entire community.

## **Tower Park Softball Field Improvements**

Staff shared an update about plans to improve the softball field area in Tower Park in coordination with Alexander Circle and Mess Hall parking improvements. A complete update is anticipated with new restroom, small play area, new fencing/backstop/safety nets, regrading of infield and new trees on the perimeter. Staff will be working with Human Nature and CT to design these improvements and will keep the Committee updated on progress.

## **Highland Hills Park Dog Park Area**

Ron reported to the committee that he had recently met with a group of citizens who are interested in coordinating and helping with improvements to the dog park. At the meeting, Ron shared plans that the city has to improve the cul-de-sac, paving, curbing, trailhead, tree plantings, sidewalk and parking. The group was supportive of the proposed improvements. They also discussed the need for better benches, more shade, honeysuckle clearing and replacement bags for picking up after the dogs. Many in the group are willing to volunteer to plant trees, clear honeysuckle and replace bags. It was agreed to work together on these phased enhancements, and it is a great example of how citizens can be engaged to volunteer and improve the parks, for mutual benefit.

## **Parks Advisory Council**

The dog park example stimulated a discussion with committee members about citizen involvement throughout the parks. During the community planning effort, the idea for a Parks Advisory Council was discussed. With recent examples of cooperative efforts, like the dog park, trails, and community events, it was agreed that the idea of a Parks Advisory Council should be explored further, and the ability for citizens to volunteer easily and in coordination with City plans should be an important part of this. It can also provide a more effective and efficient feedback loop, as well as a potential fundraising, so needs in the parks can be addressed as quickly as possible.