

Parks & Open Space Committee

Meeting Summary

March 11, 2019 6:15 pm

Jeff Bezold, Chair
Adam Blau
Mark Collier

Others in attendance: Eric Haas, Mayor
Ron Dill, CAO
Chris Manning
Bob Heil

The meeting agenda was to consider the General Thomas Statue location and continue discussion on implementation of items within the Community Plan.

The Parks & Open Space committee opened discussion on consideration for location for the General Thomas Statue at Tower Park. Chris Manning and Bob Heil represented the “General Thomas Committee” that had presented alternative locations to Council at their February City Council meeting. They have subsequently met with their committee members and the sculptor to review/discuss locations. Their committee is recommending the location adjacent to S Ft Thomas Avenue, the south side of the entrance to Tower Park. Also presented were details of the “plaza” that would support the monument, landscaping, and an access to the playground that would originate from this plaza. Discussion also included the materials/size/style of the base supporting the monument and a potential entrance sign at this location. The committee agreed with the recommendation and will report to the full council.

Concepts/projects discussed included:

Outdoor Exercise Equipment – multiple parks

Staff provided costs/options for this type of equipment. There is a wide range of potential pieces of equipment and the associated costs are scaled to the complexity/size of the equipment. Individual (stand-alone) pieces can range from \$1000 – 8,000. The committee requested staff to explore potential locations and recommend appropriate equipment types at those locations. The committee also recommended development of a sponsorship program that may offset costs.

Tower Park – Shelter #3 & Basketball Courts

Staff provided a concept plan that identifies the location of all the improvements that could be supported within this space. The plan addresses upgrade of existing amenities (basketball & volleyball courts) replacement of the picnic shelter, reconfiguration & addition of parking, addition of play equipment, bocce court, benches and tables, and walkways. Committee recommended adoption of the plan and request for inclusion in the budget process to fund improvements.

Tower Park – concept projects

Multiple concepts were developed in the community plan for new amenities including potential bike course, ropes course and zip line. Discussion of the potential for the committee to visit an existing location for zipline/ropes course to further study the issue was suggested. Staff will research potential locations and operational procedures at these locations. A visit will also be considered.

Practice Field Availability

The committee suggested that staff reach out to potential partners in the community that may have interest in providing turf fields. Obviously the extended play is an asset however; the city does not have sole responsible for cost associated with these types of upgrades to facilities. The committee acknowledged that with participation from user organizations, this is a potential asset for our fields that should be considered.

Highland Park – James Avenue entrance

The committee discussed the current state and use of the area at the end of James Avenue within Highland Park. It was agreed that the use of the space is minimal and the facilities including sand volleyball and a basketball court are underutilized, non-essential for league uses, and deteriorating from non-use. The fencing is marginal and existing lighting obsolete. It was recommended that these amenities be removed and that the staff establish a method for accepting suitable fill material to begin the process of changing the elevation in this area consistent with the recommendations in the Community Plan.