

Parks & Open Space Committee

Meeting Summary

February 11, 2019 6:00 pm

Jeff Bezold, Chair
Adam Blau
Mark Collier

Others in attendance: Eric Haas, Mayor
Ron Dill, CAO

The meeting agenda was to open general discussion on the implementation of the Community Plan specific to the “Parks & Open Space” section. The committee started with a review of the goals & objectives and recommendations for implementation.

There was a wide array of topics touched in general discussion with several items identified and considered at length.

Concepts/projects discussed included:

Highland Park – James Avenue entrance

The committee acknowledged that this item will warrant extensive study to include traffic/pedestrian movements, impact in park, cost, feasibility, etc.

This entrance would require coordination with FTISD (Moyer) & Ft Thomas Swim Club but would provide for stronger identity of the access to each property

Item will need to be initiated through study of details through staff & potentially consultant as first step before consideration of additional amenities in this park.

Outdoor Exercise Equipment – multiple parks

Agreed that placement of exercise equipment on the “loop” at Rossford and the new “loop” around Tower Park ballfield are possible locations to initiate this type of activity.

Staff to research costs/options.

Riverfront Greenbelt Parkway

Discussion centered on the complexities of this type of project and recognition of the multitude of possibilities. There is an acknowledged strategy necessary to make contacts and develop partnerships ranging from KDOT, NKWD, CSX, Aquaramp, Corp of Engineers etc.

The amenities could range from walking/biking paths/trails, kayak/canoe launch, camping/glamping, and connectivity to TP amenities. This concept can be scaled to progress over time.....developing a master plan is first step.

Tower Park – Shelter #3 & Basketball Courts

This “area” of Tower Park is the last piece of the renovation of shelters. The current budget already plans for basketball court resurfacing/upgrade. It was agreed that the upcoming budget should address the location to include reconstruction/possible relocation of the shelter, parking & walkway improvements and planned amenities related to activities (volleyball, cornhole, bocci, etc) and lighting of courts.

Staff to provide concept plan to committee.

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 centered on the logistics of placing, owning & maintaining these types of improvements. Possibilities include having private ownership and/or management of the asset with lease agreements. Staff to research similar arrangements for comparable improvements & agreements with government partners.

Practice Field Availability

Committee acknowledged the challenge of maintaining enough field areas for the local leagues & city leagues that utilize fields for games/practices.

Some of the projects included in the community plan impact the open space/practice fields that are essential to current users.

Alternatives were discussed including the potential for placing artificial surfaces to extend use of certain field areas and what partnerships may be necessary to consider this type of option