

## **Parks & Open Space Committee**

### Meeting Summary

August 9, 2019 7:00 pm

Jeff Bezold, Chair  
Adam Blau  
Mark Collier

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

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The meeting agenda was continuation of implementation of items identified in the Community Plan. Nancy Barre attended the first discussion regarding Tower Park improvements. She stated her interest in the improvements to the existing tennis courts in Tower Park. Staff explained that this project was independent from the “Shelter 3” design and in fact has already been funded in the 2019-2020 budget and is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2019. The specifications are being developed and the project will be bid upon their completion. Discussion continued on the court sharing necessary for “pickleball” courts and how they may be lined with the court resurfacing.

Concepts/projects discussed included:

#### Tower Park – Shelter #3 & Basketball Courts

Staff shared the final design drawings for the proposed shelter and restroom for this location. The plans are similar to design & materials for the Tower Park pallet. The restroom is a single-use facility located adjacent to the shelter but will be available for multiple events/users of that space (i.e. volleyball/basketball leagues, camps, etc). This portion of the project is the initial construction and will be bid for a private contractor to perform. This bid will be considered by Council in September and project completion expected by March 1, 2020. The city will be performing the other site improvements and amenities during that same period.

#### Outdoor Exercise Equipment – multiple parks

Discussion centered on the placement of several items within Rossford Park. It was agreed that the concept should be introduced in this park initially and then determination of adding in other parks would be considered. Staff was tasked with proposing 3-4 locations and recommending specific equipment types for the committee to review at next meeting.

#### Tower Park – concept projects

There has been some initial research into vendors that could provide/operate a zipline structure. It was agreed that initial concepts would be to solicit input from providers and explore an independent (from city) owner/operator arrangement. Staff will attempt to schedule meeting with potential provider(s).

#### Highland Park Grading – James Avenue entrance

A subsequent meeting, staff was directed to 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. Staff shared several concept grading plans that would provide grading to enhance the area of lower Highland Park. The concepts depicted fill materials being placed within the boundry of the park and other concepts that would be possible if certain encroachments into abutting properties were available.

Additionally, preliminary grading to make connection to the existing roadway within Highland Park was detailed. Staff indicated that permits from SD1 have been submitted and arrangements for potential fill materials are being explored. The committee agreed that staff should share plans with abutting owners for informational purposes and to gauge their interest in accepting fill material.

Discussion continued on the potential uses of the improved space and whether a discussion with the Fort Thomas Swim Club would be appropriate at this time to consider all possible scenarios involving the use of James Ave and the potential proximity to any future city improvements (i.e. parking, splash park, pedestrian access, etc). staff will make first contact with all abutting property owners.

#### Highland Park Ballfield –

Staff updated that fundraising to place a synthetic surface on the infield portion of the HP ballfield. The fundraising committee has experienced enough success that they are still hopeful that this project will be initiated later this year. The city will have no direct costs associated with this project but similar to other similar projects (football/soccer fields) the General Services crews may provide some support labor for certain aspects of the construction.