



**Minutes of the Park Community Program Committee
Molalla City Hall
117 N Molalla Ave., Molalla, OR 97038
November 2, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Jody Newland at 5:06pm.

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Councilor Crystal Robles, Councilor Jody Newland, Nicole Jung, Tina Teel, Emily Garland, Doug Eaglebear

Absent: LyndaAnn Kransberger

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Dan Huff, City Manager; Darlene Bishop, Executive Administrative Assistant.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Gary Hopkins, Bear Creek Subdivision HOA President

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT DECISIONS

The information that staff requested from the playground equipment company has not been received. This discussion will move to the next meeting.

CURRENT PROJECTS/COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

Chief Yelkus Park: Tina asked if a skate park could eventually be part of the design at this park. Jody answered, yes, but that would be a later discussion. Tina had a drawing which included trees in the wetland area; walking trail around the park; she suggested that maybe the Culture and Art CPC could help with some statues, maybe something like a statue of Chief Yelkus or salmon. She would like to see the landscape stay native. A large pavilion in the center of the park, possibly some horseshoe pits or a basketball court at one end.

Jody shared some pictures from a website showing Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park. The website is www.earthscapelay.com/project/sir-wilfrid-laurier-park-edmonton-coyote-playground. She also suggested some bollards blocking off the pedestrian/bike portion of the path. Suggested parking near the wetland side of the park; fenced, off leash dog area; walking trail; pavilion some of the equipment shown on the website shown above. She would also like to see some of the existing trees remain for shade sooner rather than later.

Gary asked about vehicle access to Bear Creek subdivision. Dan answered that it is a possibility in the future. He shared that many residents have concerns about increased traffic in their neighborhood. Dan answered that most people going to this park will probably use the access from Toliver Rd instead of going through the subdivision. Molalla Forest Road will not be full developed like a City Street, it will be more like a less improved road, which will cause people to drive slower on it. Jody asked about speed bumps being put in, Dan said that will be looked at. There will be signage near the area that vehicular traffic and bike/pedestrian traffic merge, this will alert the walkers/bikers that they may encounter cars.

Jody asked about restrooms at this park and if plans should just include portable toilets for now. Dan talked about the fact that waters/sewer/storm design is underway now and you can just put a box on your maps where you would like to see restrooms in the future.

Doug asked about involving Emergency Services and Law Enforcement in the design of the park for safety and security reasons. Dan assured him that conversation has started and they will be involved when an internal review is done of the proposed design.

Jody feels that the skate park concept doesn't fit with the natural design plan. Other members agreed.

Doug asked about impact studies required for the wetland areas. Dan answered that will not be developing near the wetlands so it is not needed.

Crystal showed pictures of some wooden tables that have stools also made from wood that are interactive, (She will send pictures and I will forward when received). She would like to see this park ADA accessible to some extent; have some sensory items included; good lighting in the park; possibly a community garden and fall protection.

A discussion was had about the possibility of doing a fundraiser for fall protection at Fox Park. Dan answered that could happen, we would just wait to install the new equipment until the fall protection was put down. When we get the pricing for fall protection at Strawberry Park, we should be able to estimate how much it would cost for Fox Park.

Doug asked about the possibility of having a community meeting to allow residents to have some input on the design. Dan said that can certainly happen, but the committee should have an initial design in place first. Once the group decides on the initial design, we can have our landscape architect draw the concepts to scale to find out what items can actually fit in the space.

Doug asked about the maintenance of the park and how it will impact the City's crews. Dan stated that what is being proposed at this time can be maintained with our current staff. If more parks are added, more staff may need to be hired.

Tina asked about the maintenance of a dog park. Dan said that most cities that have dog parks have an association that takes care of the dog park. It would be a challenge for our crew to keep it maintained, so maybe a more natural dog park would be best. There was a discussion in the group about how important a dog park would be. It was pointed out that it is part of the City's Vision Plan and many residents have expressed a desire to have a dog park somewhere in the City.

Jody read an email from Rae Botsford. She stated that she would like to see an amphitheater style area in the park for concerts/plays.

Summary of the concepts discussed: Walking Path; Natural (Pacific NW/Wood); Pavilion/Concert Amphitheater; Horseshoe/Basketball, etc.; Dog Park; Natural/wooden play structures (like those shown on the website listed above); traffic concerns/parking/bike/ped transitions; Restrooms; Safety/Law Enforcement; ADA Accessibility; Sensory.

Clark Park Pavilion: The group unanimously voted for the design that looks most like the pavilion at Fox Park. Staff will move forward with working toward that happening.

NEXT MEETING: November 16, 2021, 5:00 pm in the City Hall Conference Room. The group discussed setting a once a month meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. They decided to set a meeting for January 18, 2021 and will re-evaluate the meeting frequency after that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the Park CPC meeting was adjourned at 6:24 pm.