

LOKKER PARK

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1

MEETING NOTES

I. Welcome

Jay Bain, Jordan & Bain Landscape Architects, Inc.

Also present are Mary Otten, General Manager; Mathew Parker, Parks Services Manager and Nick Marienthal, Park Supervisor of PVRPD

II. Project Overview

The primary goal of this project is to fix the concrete areas around the large play area due to the uprooting of trees, replace or remove the 20 year old play equipment in both small and large sand areas, and/or install new fitness elements.

The Landscape Architect has to look at the site – infrastructure, permitting, building codes, etc. Making the necessary repairs will be the first priority of this project, then the changes the community wants will be considered if within the allotted budget and scope of work.

The basketball area will remain, and public restrooms will not be added. The playground equipment was installed 20 years ago, and changes have been made to codes which does not allow for sand as surfacing underneath play equipment. The sand will have to be replaced. A couple of options for play equipment surfacing are as follows:

- Rubberized resilient surfacing – preferred; has a 10 year life expectancy; expensive, but lasts longer
- Wood fiber – 5 year life expectancy; once you put it down, it needs to be fluffed up, which requires more maintenance man hours; wood fiber is ADA compliant, but it has to be maintained.

With the new playground guidelines, the children's playground must be separated from the adult fitness portion. This can be done with concrete walkway bisecting the space, benches, etc.

III. Community Comments/Requests (During the Meeting)

- Do not take away any more lawns, some homeowners use more of the grass, dogs, etc. Can fitness equipment be added to the drought tolerant area ("bark zone") instead of taking up space in the play area?
Jay Bain says yes, but would need to know what types of actual equipment the community wants or will use.

LOKKER PARK COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1

- Question of needing the balance beam was raised – trip hazard – some homeowners say yes as kids play on it.
- Safety concerns with the play equipment (it's old).
- Regarding the tree removal – what does that mean – suggestions of putting trees in composite gravel as it can grow with the root system. Some homeowners want reassurance that any trees removed be replaced or replanted elsewhere.
Per Jay Bain, 20% of sidewalk has to be shaded according to Green Codes.
- Companion swings – putting play equipment as a combination for the age groups
- What's the budget and how much is repair/code compliance?
Per Jay Bain, budget is about \$400,000. The repair estimate comes in at \$75,000, plus design fee of almost \$40,000, which leaves less than \$300,000 for new equipment/areas.
- Are public restrooms being added? The community DOES NOT want public restrooms.
Per Jay Bain, NO bathrooms are being added to this park.
- Neighborhood likes the separation between the age groups of play area.
- Older kids use the fitness equipment as a jungle gym. Some homeowners like the natural play elements so why not just put them in for the kids. They don't see a lot of adults use the balance beams. SEPARATION OF THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AND ADULT AREA IS KEY.
- CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA IS PRIMARY, ADULT FITNESS IS SECONDARY. Soft elements – ping pong, chess, cornhole are other options. Young adults like that idea but wouldn't be "good" for the regular park goer as you'd have to bring in your own equipment.
- Separating the walking paths or have parallel areas so the pediatrics, the geriatrics and the dogs don't have the issues of meeting within the same path.
- Some would like to see rock structures, logs, and more natural elements as opposed to the traditional platforms/bars of playground equipment which tell kids what to do, i.e. climbing a platform to get to the next platform.
- Can the parks department redo the sprinkler system? Homeowner spoke to Matthew Parker directly regarding his concern with sprinkler system.

Landscape Architect Notes regarding community requests/comments:

- Longevity of equipment should be a focus – cool colors last longer on the play equipment – natural color scheme.
- Fitness equipment – more popular are the ones with the moving aspects but break down more often due to more moving parts, then they can't be used.

S

LOKKER PARK

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1

IV. Community Comments/Requests (Comment Cards)

- “Prioritize children’s play area; include natural play elements (logs, log rounds, rocks, climbing ropes and walls, plants, cavses, etc.), hillsides are great. Please consider wood fiber for surfacing, it provides excellent sensory input and saves money.”
- “Please save or replace the trees. We appreciate asking us what we want, but in the past follow through was not accomplished. Priority is children’s play then utilization of the ugly bark wasted spaces. Thanks for asking us!”
- “Please preserve a ‘sandbox’ area integrated in each play area. Would love for the swings to be mixed with both baby and big kids so that my kids can enjoy it together (both on same equipment). Please ensure enough benches near play equipment/sandbox.”
- “Any adult equipment in “bark area” by paths; natural colors for plastic; natural play areas; spare the Crape Myrtles.”

V. Suggestion Boards

Three boards were shown with examples of playground equipment, fitness equipment and some natural play elements.

Vi. Closing

Thank you to all who took the time to listen to the plans for a portion of Lokker Park. The next community meeting is on Tuesday, January 30th at 6:00pm in the PVRPD Senior Center. This meeting will show concept designs.