



Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee May 17, 2023 6PM

In Attendance

Committee Members: Nisha George (Chair), James Terwilliger, Hilary Blum, Carolina Martins, Kate Nelson

Staff: Keith Watson (Support Services Manager), Gery Keck (Planning Manager)

Board Liaison: Alfredo Moreno (absent)

Absent: Jane Leo, Jacqui Orenda-Weber, Nanda Siddaiah (Secretary)

1. Call Meeting to Order

Keith called meeting to order at 6:06

2. Approval of Minutes from April 2023

Kate made a motion to approve minutes as submitted, James seconded. Minutes Approved

3. Public Comment

No public comment this month

4. New Business

- a. Update: Downtown Beaverton Parks and Open Space Framework Plan (Gery Keck, Planning Manager)

Background

- One of the first projects to partner with the city of Beaverton
- builds off vision action plan, Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy and Central Beaverton Urban Renewal Plan
- Community wants more parks, open spaces & opportunities to recreate, connect with nature, gather, build community

Location

- Concentrating on downtown Beaverton, Central Beaverton area

Project Goals

- For Downtown, this plan will build on previous plans and outreach, describe types of parks, recommend general areas for new/improved parks, natural areas and open spaces, describe amenities, ensure all spaces are welcoming and inclusive, outline and implementation strategy

Community Engagement

- 1650 participants, 2000+ comments, 36+ events attended, 300+ online community survey responses, multilingual focus groups, accessibility focus groups, youth focus groups. Asked about ideas for the look and feel, how to make spaces welcoming and inclusive

Four Themes & Goals:

- 1. Gather Community - creating spaces to gather within parks, collaborating with developers to offer accessible parks
- 2. Welcome & Celebrate - supporting different cultural events in parks, including art and making areas welcoming and able to be used for different types of programming and events
- 3. Protect & Reflect Nature - integrating nature play and providing nature experiences in downtown, enhance public access and views along local creeks
- 4. Connect - improve access into and around parks, better signage and navigation of parks and open spaces
- Gery noted that staff was pleased that themes and goals aligned with THPRD 2018 vision action plan and comp plan

Plan contents

- Introduction, Existing Conditions, Community Input
- Goals + Actions, Framework Plan Map
- Implementation Strategy

Timeline

- Spring 2023 - Review Plan with City Council, BURA and THPRD Board
- Summer 2023 - Revise Plan, Seek approval from City Council, BURA and THPRD Board

Q&A

Nisha: has land been set aside for the project yet?

Gery: Land has not been acquired yet, the plan is going to help with determining where to put parks BURA does own property downtown that is supposed to be used for urban renewal but if a developer were to buy it then THPRD could work with the developer through a SDC. The closest park is 5th street park, city owns The Round, 1st Street Commons and a few others.

Carolina: Has been involved with BURA and has heard in the listening sessions that the property they own cannot be used for parks. They have guidelines for what the development should look like but there is a restriction on parks. What does pocket park mean? As more development happens, this creates a heat island effect, so this is a challenge to bring in green spaces.

Gery: When the developer comes in there are requirements for green spaces so THPRD could work with them on that. Pocket parks are typically ¼ to 1 ½ acre in size.

James: The development across from Kaiser by the Bi-Mart has a very flat roof, what if that could have been a park? Taking inspiration from the High Line in New York where there is mixed pedestrian and garden use. Push to think more 3-dimensionally.

Gery: Good idea, THPRD is continuing to talk to the city about code that would promote incentives to place parks in different places

Hilary: One of the goals is to raise awareness of creeks and natural spaces - how will this be achieved?

Gery: Interpretive signage, nature mobile could show up, maybe the city could look at daylighting the creek, trying to locate parks and walkways along the creek where it is exposed already. Recuerdo park has stadium stairs going down to the creek

Nisha: Concerned that so much work has gone into the plan and gathering community feedback but there isn't a specific code requirement all the park locations/sizes have been identified yet. What if the amenities the community is asking for isn't possible with min land amounts? Developers will pick the minimum amount; referenced Washington County new development 2-5-acre range asks for developers where it ends up closer to 2 acres.

Gery: There is a minimum greenspace requirement for developers but not sure what that is at the moment. The framework plan is going to be used by the park and the city. Developers are going to be able to see this, to see what the city's plan is for parks and vision. In south cooper mountain THPRD ended up with lots of small parks because lots of developers have split up the area. The idea is to bring in the developers early to see what the vision is before they make the final building plan, perhaps they can team up with multiple developers to build a bigger, connected park.

James: What about community gardens?

Gery: In the plan, we talk about creating spaces downtown that are unique and diverse. Not having a playground at every area, lots of different ways the spaces are being used by residents, people who work, people who visit

Nisha: Who in Beaverton is championing the project? Is Beaverton going to commit to making code changes to make park size/zoning possible?

Gery: Sara King, partner at Beaverton along with lots of planning and development staff. They will be adopting the plan and showing developers at the beginning of discussion. THPRD is getting calls from some developers now.

Carolina: Clarifying the history of the 2-5 acre set aside that Nisha referenced

Nisha: Aisha had presented a couple months ago, that for new development in Washington County developers are requested to set aside 2-5 acres but it has turned out to be closer to 2 acres.

Keith: This was for the new development areas like North Bethany

Gery: THPRD has considered areas as small as 2000 sq. ft. for parks. But the idea is to present a plan to developers early so the park can be integrated into beginning design instead of being an afterthought with leftover, unbuildable land. The preliminary Cooper Mountain Community Plan has some new neighborhoods that have minimum 2-acre parks because a lot size minimum was set.

James: Might as well set aside room for pickle ball since that's very popular

Gery: Yes, that's been on the radar

5. Old Business

a. Challenge Grant Discussion

- A project at Cedar Hills Recreation to replace gas cooktops with induction
- James had proposed a project about a climbing wall, but he felt the induction project had more impact for current needs of community,
- Nisha: talked about the background of induction project
- Committee was supportive
- Kate has a contact that is a kitchen designer that can introduce to Nisha
- Keith - goal is to present to the next Joint Committee Meeting

6. Wrap-up

a. Next Meeting: Keith will be out of town for the June meeting. Need to confirm whether we intend to present in July and then will decide whether to move or just cancel June meeting

7. Adjourn

a. Meeting adjourned 7:20p

b. Minutes respectfully submitted by Nisha George, Chair