

Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes September 21, 2020

Zoom meeting – virtual attendance

Call to Order & Attendance: 3:08pm

Present:

Matt Withers
Dave Hall
Gordon Bell

Gordy Holmes
Lisa Bruce
David Moynahan

Staff:

Carly Ruacho
Patricia Love
Amy Bergemeier

Absent: Rick Hawkins

Also known to be present: James Wohlers, Deb Bell, Steve Shepro, Judy Williams

Approval of Minutes:

Gordy Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 meeting. Gordon Bell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Church Creek Park Master Plan Review:

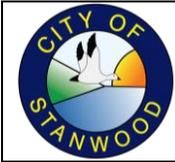
James Wohlers, of JA Brennan, presented the schematic for Church Creek Park’s Draft Master Plan. James spoke about creating an enhanced automobile entrance including upgrading the parking areas as well as adding a new entrance for pedestrians only on the NW corner of the Park. The plan includes the existing Disc Golf Course, our newly renovated playground, established restrooms and current ball field as well as added areas for new/renovated sport courts, picnic areas, Movies in the Park and a new/renovated picnic shelter/plaza area. The plan includes new loop trail alignments with possible paved walking paths and signage.

Comments/Concerns Include:

Lisa Bruce has concerns with the trails putting pedestrians in harm’s way from people using the Disc Golf game and potentially getting hit by the discs being thrown. Gordon Bell expressed previous concerns regarding the Disc Course. Gordon feels more thought needs to go into the trail design. On another note, Gordon also addressed having the trails include interpretive signs that would incorporate the history of the area. Dave Hall added he’d like to also incorporate the salmon history in some of the interpretive signage. Dave also mentioned if need be, we can move some of the T-Boxes around the ball fields to make the flow of paths smoother. Patricia Love suggested walking these areas another time with Carly and James to nail down better locations for the paths to create a cohesive flow for all participants at the park including the moving of the T-Boxes if necessary. Concerns were also expressed by having or not having warning signs on our pathways regarding the disc golf course. Dave Hall mentioned the Recreational Immunities Act that would apply to the park regarding potential liabilities.

The draft plan also included two possible Outdoor Classroom areas. Option 1 was shown east of Trail loop 1 closer to the creek and Option 2 was closer to the Parking area. Dave Hall loves the idea of having the classroom closer to the creek in order to incorporate salmon education. Gordon Bell feels Option 2 is a better option regarding the location as he feels it’s a safer area for the children at this time. Patricia likes the idea of leaving both locations on the master plan for now and giving it more review.

The plan provided two options for creek access – one being a steeper path that would not be ADA accessible “orange” lines and the “white” lines indicate a path that could be ADA accessible down to the



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creek. The ADA option would be significantly more expensive due to the need to grade the path and add retaining walls due to the steep incline. Either design would incorporate View Points. The paths are proposed to be 6' wide. Gordy Holmes thinks we need to compare costs for both options and see which is more feasible. Gordon Bell wonders if we would be required to have an ADA option at least to the viewpoints noted along the trail.

Patricia Love appreciated the comments and concerns regarding this portion of the trail.

Another loop in the Northeast area of the Park was shown, but is in the wettest area of the Park and may need on-site mitigation for wetland impacts. This trail also gets near the housing area of Church Creek. Lisa Bruce was able to locate an email for the HOA of that neighborhood so that a discussion about the existing gate into the park from the HOA can be discussed.

The parking circle near the new playground would be refreshed and could possibly incorporate a Japanese-style garden around the flagpole with enhanced landscaping.

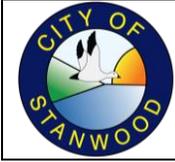
The limited parking situation was discussed. Patricia expressed there is a plan to incorporate possible overflow parking in the future design of the new City Hall/Police Station. Steve Shepro expressed concern about the lack of sunlight coming through the southern border of the park and how we get the trees trimmed safely. Steve also asked about the possible plan of having a driveway between Church Creek Park and the future New City Hall complex. Patricia outlined a couple options being considered moving forward. One option may be to buy an additional 1 acre from Vine Street Group to expand the future City Hall property. The plan is to definitely create the overflow parking area into the future City Hall Complex.

Dave Hall inquired about the design of the future City Hall and how that would look, wondering the level of stories the building will be and if it would be a solid wall that is facing the park. Patricia explained that it will be a one story building with glass walls facing the park. Lisa Bruce would like to see a pretty garden between City Hall and Church Creek Park.

Gordy Holmes has a question about the new sport courts possibly being affected by the trees in that area. He is concerned about the location being such that they would have a lot of tree debris falling onto the court creating a bit of an issue keeping it clean and clear to use. He feels the alternate sport court area may be the better option in mitigating that issue. James suggests the possibility of rotating the design to have them face North/South and snug it up against the new playground.

Gordy likes the idea of having the layout North/South due to the sun light affecting players if the court is laid out East/West.

Carly Ruacho would like to consider renovating the current court if it can be made big enough to fit 2 pickle ball courts together rather than using the alternative location. Lisa wants to make sure we retain an area for basketball. Patricia requested James to incorporate the idea of keeping the 2 pickle ball courts as well as keeping an area for basketball. She'd like to have James to add a couple notes to the Master Plan regarding the sport court ideas and what possibilities are available to us. Gordon recommends changing the terminology of the caretaker spot to host to more accurately reflect their purpose.



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James and JA Brennan will be providing a final master plan updating the graphic including the changes along with a 2-3 page technical memo that includes the proposed improvements to the park as well as the costs.

Updates:

Church Creek Park Playground Equipment

Carly presented pictures of the new playground. It turned out really nice with many different play options for all age groups. We ended up adding 180 cubic yards of playground chips, a few different climbing features and slide area, a log feature to climb around and through, 2 baby swings and 2 regular swings, and two spinners. So far there's been great feedback of the new playground equipment and area.

Gordon would like to add the Salmon statue if possible. Carly commented that once we have the final totals we can see if there is remaining budget to add additional features like bench(s) and/or the salmon.

Hamilton Park

Work has begun on the IS4 project to renovate the pump house structure on Irvine Slough on the north line of the park property. It was important to do this work now before the park was built.

Heritage Park

A contractor was selected for the baseball field renovation project. The State will not issue a notice to proceed at this time as they are now requiring the City to do more cultural resources work in the area to check for potential native artifacts. The State has had our proposal for 15 months and unfortunately didn't bring up this concern until now. The city already did testing of the soil surrounding the baseball fields previously as well as extensive testing of the nearby property and nothing was found during any of the testing. Consultations are working with the state to work through this issue.

Council recommended going with the sod option for the fields, however this option will conflict with the timing to get the fields ready due to the request by the state.

Next Meeting: October 19, 2020 @ 3:00pm.

PTAC committee takes place on the third Monday of the month.

Until Stanwood moves into Phase 3, City Hall remains closed to the public. This means remote meetings will continue until that happens.

Adjourn – 5:15pm