

Lower Hesse Park and Grandview Park Improvements Community Workshop #1

May 15, 2010
Hesse Park Community Center

Present: **City staff** – Deputy City Manager, Carolynn Petru; Interim Director of Recreation and Parks, Tom Odom; Recreation Program Supervisor, Nancie Silver; and Administrative Analyst, Katie Howe. **Mia Lehrer & Associates** – Principal, Mia Lehrer; Project Manager, Michelle Sullivan.

Michelle Sullivan and Mia Lehrer introduced themselves and shared that they had been selected by the City Council to create alternative concept plans of the two sites, and that this was the first of three workshops to hear from the community and share design concepts. Michelle emphasized that the purpose of this first site analysis community workshop was for the consultant and staff to listen to the community and receive their input and desires related to these two parks and to share with them a site analysis for each park. An informal poll of attendees was taken, and it was determined by number of hands, that of the approximately 50 attendees, 48 live right next to either of the two park sites. After a presentation and open forum for discussion, the consultant led attendees on site tours of both parks. Below represents what was covered during the meeting, including the feedback from attendees on the desired improvement and concerns expressed.

Site Analysis for Lower Hesse and Grandview Parks

- Circulation
- View Corridors
- Adjacencies
- Landscape Typologies
- General Grading / Drainage
- Current Amenities
- Opportunities and Considerations
- Panoramic Views of each site

Improvements Desired at Both Parks

- Neighborhood compatibility
- Increase overall accessibility to parks
- Native plantings
- Remove invasive plants and grasses
- Improve landscaping
- Consider making parks nature preserves
- Water conservation/ responsible use of water
- Improve trails (including trail borders, erosion control, and ADA accessibility)
- Continue to have the trails open for hiking
- Interpretive and park signage

- Places to observe and enjoy nature; keep natural character of parks
- Dog parks

Improvements Desired Specific to Lower Hesse Park

- Remove sand volleyball court
- Improve existing bench areas – remove surrounding weeds
- Shade for picnic areas
- Arboretum area
- Separate trails so slow and fast walkers do not collide
- Park site (maps/signs) showing visitors where to find amenities
- Dog poop bags
- Consideration of the inclusion of a skate park with the amount of acreage available

Improvements Desired Specific to Grandview Park

- Chemical toilet
- Solar powered restrooms
- Security cameras at restrooms
- Improve runoff and erosion control conditions
- Access off of Montemalaga – not Ironwood
- Potential for community garden
- Trails around the perimeter; the current trail travels up and over the park; you must exit the park on the same trail that brings you in.

Concerns – Both Parks

- Noise resulting from development
- Traffic resulting from development
- That the group at Community Workshop #1 is not representative of the community at large
- Maintenance costs
- Liability and danger of placing a dog park in a residential area
- An irrigated grass area will be costly to maintain and an irresponsible use of water
- That the City is not listening to neighboring residents' concerns
- Maintain neighbors' privacy
- Fire safety
- Parking
- Has the City adequately surveyed the community to assess needs
- Disturbance of animals currently in parks
- Prefer open spaces to development
- That the park will lose its natural open space character
- Whether the City can financially afford to make these improvements
- Outsiders coming to the park
- Par courses are not desired

Concerns Specific to Lower Hesse Park

- Traffic concerns related to
 - Grade on Locklenna Drive
 - Current low visibility of the existing parking lot
 - Speed at which cars travel on streets adjacent to park
 - Parking on residential streets
- Leave existing bridge as is, and bridges are not necessary
- Preserve neighbor privacy – special concern on western border
- Maintain views into the park from the northern residential properties, while not allowing park visitors to see into the residential homes
- Picnic areas are so isolated that they are not commonly used
- Question why additional court sports are needed in Lower Hesse Park

Concerns Specific to Grandview Park

- Maintaining buffer between Chopra residence and the park
- Not planting tall trees that would obstruct RPV resident views as a result of developing the park
- Clarifying property line between PVE residential lots and the city owned park property
- Parking lot not desired; adequate street parking exists
- The steepness and accessibility of the existing access points into the park site
- Seating areas could invite teenagers and illegal activity after dark; this activity took place at Grandview in the past
- Do not put concrete in; it is unattractive
- Keep the improvements simple
- Water fountains get vandalized
- Stagnant water collects in the water ditch; mosquito concern
- Erosion
- Adequate police patrol of the park and vehicular access to ensure police patrol within the park