

LA Countywide Parks Needs Assessment

Rancho Palos Verdes Workshop

January 27, 2016

7-9pm

Hesse Park

Workshop Notes

Presenters: Cory Linder, Director of Recreation and Parks, City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Matt Waters, Senior Administrative Analyst, Recreation and Parks, Rancho Palos Verdes

Note: Staff presented a powerpoint on the Countywide Needs Assessment Process and took questions and comments from attendees during and after the presentation.

Question: Are we able to find partnerships?

Cory, yes.

Question: Are other Peninsula Cities participating in this process?

Matt, I believe all four Peninsula cities contributed updated parks and amenities information to the County, but Rolling Hills, RHE, and PVE are not holding workshops, which is their choice. The great majority of cities in the County are hosting workshop.

Question: Is someone from the County here?

Matt – No, but the County website can provide additional information on the process and contact information..

Comment: I don't understand why we need this workshop.

Cory, we want to be cooperative with this County-driven process and be open to other funding opportunities in the future.

Matt, there's overlap with the recently completed City Parks Master Plan, but this is a County-run process.

Question: Could our RPV Master Plan be changed?

Cory, yes, the Parks Master Plan is a guiding document for this and future Councils. Any changes to the Parks Master Plan would have to be approved by Council with public involvement.

Question: Are there County Parks within RPV?

Cory, Friendship Park only.

Question: How did LA County come up with the numbers?

Matt, the numbers are based on parks within the study area.

Question: Is the background for this data available?

Cory, yes it will be available on the City's website and through the County.

Comment: We don't want to close the doors on money from this source.

Cory, that's right. Funding may be available through a future Proposition, but we are not obligated to perform projects or accept funds from the Council. If the right project comes along, then it would be advantageous to have the possibility of County funding.

Question: Funding has been for initial purchase not maintenance. We need to be careful adding on stuff.

Cory, true. we don't want to start new projects that we can't maintain.

Question: Why is there no bike riding at Hesse Park?

Cory, we understand your concern but it is currently a violation of the City's Muni Code to bike at a park site.

Question: Is the fiber optic plan off the list?

Cory, City Council discussed that and the Public Works department readdressed this.

Matt, the Master Plan can change. Action taken by the City council has been taken on some issues but the Master Plan is fluid.

Comment: Less concrete and asphalt is good.

Question: Is the skate park approved?

Matt, the skate park is a possible component of the Master Plan along with many other possible components. The next step is a separate Master Plan for that site.

Comment: My comment is concerning Del Cerro parking. We need a reasonable parking situation. What is there now is too much control and there are no restrooms.

Cory, the City has made some significant changes there to address neighborhood impacts.

Comment: I am a Del Cerro resident and these changes needed to be made. The measures taken were for safety reasons.

Cory, The Del Cerro parking changes are a work in progress and will be reassessed in the future to gauge their effectiveness.

Comment: We are encouraging out of area use through social media.

Question: Are costs being considered? For example with the skate park?

Cory, absolutely. Design, construction and maintenance costs will be considered on all projects.

Comment: I'd just like to pass this information along, that we could influence this LA Park Needs Assessment by stating our parks became overused.

Question: Is there money for repairs in the budget?

Cory, yes.

Comment: The County is broke, thus, where will they get the money?

Matt, the County may be preparing for another Proposition Measure to replace Proposition A which has funded Countywide recreation projects for twenty years including City projects such as the Portuguese Bend Nature Reserve, Lower Hesse Park, and the PVIC expansion. The Needs Assessment process is likely a part of that process.

Comment: Concern expressed about drought and have water smart projects.

Cory, all new development will incorporate water-wise elements.

Question: Are you doing a Request for Proposal?

Cory, yes, at Ladera Linda Community Center with prior approval from City Council.

Question: Is information being given to LA for proposition funding?

Matt, there may be projects and equipment funding in the future, but it is unknown. LA is looking for a general sense of how much money could be needed to upgrade amenities in parks with the LA County.

Cory, this is a parallel process. We will keep up to date with LA County.

Matt, our Master Parks Plan doesn't go away because of this LA County Needs Assessment.

Question: What's the goal to have a proposition on the ballots?

Matt, that is up to the County; it's their process. They are going to take the information from the Cities and study areas. Information will need to be submitted by the end of February.

Comment: Money will go to those areas with fewer parks per person and economic challenges.

Cory, this has been a concern.

Matt, that is true of many grant programs, but past County grants have been available and have been utilized by RPV on a case by case basis.

Comment: Inner cities aren't coming here to RPV.

Comment: This process is a great opportunity for Southern California overall.

Comment: Ladera Linda was given to RPV by the School District.

Question: If we take money from the County will we lose control over the use of Ladera Linda?

Matt, we can turn money down. Any grant must be approved by City Council.

Cory, we have to and will look at the condition of any grant we are reviewing.

Comment: Ryan Park had playground equipment given by other funding. Once you take money your hands are tied.

Comment: I was excited in June when the City Council approved the skate park at the Civic Center. The object of the skate park is it will be for RPV children. This is important.

Question: Are there components in this plan for skate parks and swimming pools?

Cory, we already are collaborating with the school district for pool use. The recently approved Parks Master Plan includes a skate park and swimming pool as possible components.

Comment: A pool is needed as we have an aging population in RPV. Arthritis has increased in the elderly and I am pro-pool.

Cory, the programming that can be done with a pool is endless.

Question: Did City Council approve money for the Peninsula High School?

Cory, yes, with the understanding that there would be joint use. We have an agreement and are looking to doing more activities.

Question: Is tonight's goal to receive opinions from this small group?

Matt, yes.

Question: When is this information needed?

Matt, by the end of February.

Question: Could we potentially hold another meeting or do this online?

Matt, yes, that's possible.

Question: Shouldn't City Council view this procedure as something we should really go after?

Matt, projects are not going to be funded because they were discussed or identified tonight. The list provided to the County simply provides a general sense of potential

projects that were included in the Parks Master Plan. Any potential funding on future projects would need Council review and approval.

Question: Was this a requirement by LA County to do a workshop?

Matt, not all Cities participated, but 95% of LA County cities are doing these workshops. A workshop was required to be a full participant in this process. The County wanted the project list to be generated through a community workshop process.

Comment: At this point, a participant walked out of the meeting saying the process was inappropriate.

Comment: People shouldn't get upset with this meeting and the process.

Question: Is the top 10 wish list going to be seen by City Council?

Cory, yes. And it will be on the City's website too.

Comment: I would like to add a pool to the list.

Comment: I would like to see a Senior Center built.

Question: How do we come up with this list? What is the timing?

Matt, this is not a funding list. The list gives an indication of some potential projects. The City is under no obligation to fund any of these projects. The overall County process is supposed to be done by March or April and then reviewed subsequently by the County Board of Supervisors.

Comment: I'd like to add fencing along the coastline at many sites.

Comment: I'd like to add a place for kids to bike.

Comment: I'd like to add skate boarding and biking areas.

Comment: I'd like to add trail maintenance in the parks of RPV.

Question: Why did the skate park fall off the list?

Matt, City Council hasn't spoken as to what should be on the list.

Comment: Add fitness zones (stations) at certain RPV parks.

Comment: Social media has made RPV a destination.

Note: Attendees were then given 10 dots to place on potential project sheets in order to indicate their level of support. Attendees placed 0-10 dots on any sheet.