

City of Albany Parks & Recreation - Bike Park Task Force Meeting

City Hall, Municipal Court, 333 Broadalbin SW

Thursday, January 8, 2009 - 6:30p.m.

NOTES

Attendees:

Rob Romancier	City of Albany
Sharon Edwards	P&R Commission
Bessie Johnson	City Council
Tari Hayes	City of Albany

Approximately 28 community members

1. Welcome

City staff welcomed attendees and gave an overview of the agenda. The December meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

2. Design Drawings and Edits

The taskforce finalized a draft design since the last meeting in November. Three park construction companies offered to take the drawing and convert it to a professional rendering. The results were presented to the members.

The taskforce liked many of the elements depicted in the designs. They decided to work off a design submitted from Suburban Rails. Notes from the discussion included:

They liked the bowl design better than what was designed by the taskforce. They would like it a foot or two deeper. It looks, in the drawings, to be all above ground. If the location next to the skate park is chosen we will be able to dig down as far as needed for depth. If the Timber Linn location is chosen the bowl would have to go up in height.

Wood elements are not an option for the task force given the climate; they would like everything in concrete. The taskforce was excited that the ¼ pipe is as tall and as wide as it was. It would work well for them, providing enough challenge and flow to allow for many users. The idle fly box was more advanced than they expected. The group debated over whether it needed to be toned down for skill levels, or whether to leave it as something to work towards. This element as designed would leave some flexibility, especially if funding becomes an issue.

The deck was exactly what they were hoping for.

The group struggled with the last element. It was far more complicated than expected. That part of the park is reserved for a “kids section” or for very basic beginners. The group was thinking more along the lines of a few rails, some hills and dips. They will leave that part of the park design to whatever the designers recommend for beginners.

ACTION ITEM:

- Staff will share responses with Suburban rails and investigate the possibility of a deeper bowl.

3. Location Discussion

Staff recently found out that portions of Timber Linn Park were originally obtained through a federal grant. In order to make changes to the park, Federal approval needs to be obtained. This can be a long and slightly complicated process resulting in the delay of the park. Timber Linn is still a possibility the group just needs to be aware of the possible delay.

The site next to the existing skate park has always been considered the second alternative to Timber Linn and the group discussed this as an alternative. The property available is almost 42,000 sq ft and would provide plenty of room for the park. The group made a list of positives and negatives to the site.

POSITIVES

- There are many amenities at Eleanor Park located just across the street.
- Building next to the skate park may bring added benefit to the Albany Police Department because they wouldn't have two places to patrol.
- Large open space
- Already owned by the city
- Reaches an underserved population in one of the poorer sections of town
- Already have an audience with the skaters

NEGATIVES

- Drugs, crime, violence – not with skaters and bikers but with transients and people who prey on kids
- Bikers don't feel like skaters would give them a stake at ownership of the park
- Not close to I-5 which would have a better draw from the I-5 corridor
- Timber Linn is closer to the YMCA which could help with bringing awareness to young kids; parents would probably be less willing to bring their kids the skate park location
- The APD response at the skate park has not been helpful in the past and the kids don't see why it would change with a bike park

The group discussed these issues in depth and feel that the APD needs to be involved more both in issues relating to the existing skate park and in any future plans for a bike park. The APD has been invited to all bike park meetings and hasn't attended. The kids have some real issues with the skate park and possibly locating the bike park next to it.

ACTION ITEM:

- Bessie Johnson will share some concerns with the APD director
- City Staff will work with the APD to address these concerns and attempt to have them attend upcoming meetings

4. Sponsorship/In-Kind Donations

Prior to going out and seeking donations and sponsorships, the group needs to give an update the City Council. The group brainstormed a list of personal references for in-kind sponsorships and donations.

These are people the taskforce knows, such as parents, relatives, and employers that have said they'd be willing to be involved in the park, either financially or with other support.

ACTION ITEM (S):

- The group will create a flyer with talking points on task force developments to help the members engage these contacts.
- The task force will invite these contacts to the Feb. meeting and the City Council meeting in March or April.
- The group will work to create a form letter to have ready to send out to local and state agencies when the time comes to solicit their support.

5. Upcoming Council Presentation

The group will give a small presentation at a City Council meeting in the near future. The presentation will be to update the Council on the work of the task force and to answer questions and or concerns from the Council and the community. Items to present include, design, marketing, and sponsorship plan, and preliminary budget. The task force would like to know if they are on the right track and if they have council support to continue.

ACTION ITEMS:

- The February meeting will be used to develop the presentation and role play for the City Council meeting.

6. Wrap Up

The group built the agenda for the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.