

Parks Committee Work Session on Neighborhood Park Criteria
Wednesday, February 10, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Members present: Linda Nolte, James Cook, Jenny O'Keefe (arrived 10:50)
Staff present: Curt Petersen, Annie McVay

Meeting Summary

The group discussed establishing Neighborhood Park Criteria in two sections. The first section describes the broad goals and principles of the criteria. The second section lays out more detailed elements of the actual park design and amenities.

First Draft of the Principles

1. Clear statement of purpose

The demographics of the neighborhood should be established.

Targeted demographics and their recreational needs should be clearly identified.

2. Establish a sense of place / Define the neighborhood:

Provide a unique theme or amenity within the park. An example is the play structure at Columbia (Pirate) Park in Bend. This could include public art or a recreational opportunity not currently available in the park system.

3. Neighborhood involvement:

Planning should involve the neighborhood and encourage ongoing community involvement during and after construction.

User satisfaction should be measured on an ongoing basis.

4. Sustainability and maintainability:

Encourage environmentally responsible design while recognizing the community need for parks as green (irrigated) spaces.

Insure sufficient land for current needs and future expansion.

Provide adequate staffing and funding for ongoing maintenance.

5. Equitable access and a diverse mix of usages

ADA access.

Activities for all ages and ability levels.

Community access through trail connections, etc.

Siting to take advantage of nearby special use facilities. Senior housing, schools, etc.

6. Safety from physical hazards and crime:

Siting parks and amenities to be clearly visible from the neighborhood and surrounding streets increases the sense of safety and discourages vandalism.

Parks should be integrated into the neighborhood and open to it. The use of fencing around parks should be discouraged.

7. Serve the wider community:

While neighborhood parks, by definition, serve primarily their surrounding neighborhood, they should also, where possible, address the overall recreational needs of the city.

Initial List of Elements or Park Amenities and Design that will be developed

Shade

Lighting

Restrooms

Signage

Activities Provided (play structures, bocce, differing age groups etc)

Physical Design Elements and Considerations

Action Items and Next Steps

Committee members will draft a 'purpose statement' for the Criteria. These will be sent to Annie by 2/25/16 – Annie will compile these drafts and send back out to the members.

Committee members are to review the broad goals listed above – make edits, additions, clarifications etc.

Next work session is on Monday, February 29th at 2:00 p.m. – Public Works Main Building (NOT Transportation Room)

Here is a link to the NRPA reference Linda brought to the meeting

http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Papers/Rejuvenating-Neighborhoods-White-Paper.pdf