

ASR

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

MEETING MINUTES

PROJECT: PALA VISTA PARK
COMMUNITY MEETING #2

DATE: MARCH 24, 2018

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

LOCATION: VISTA CIVIC CENTER

Below is the introductory information provided by the design team and followed by comments recorded at the second community meeting convened to review the proposed park with stakeholders and to solicit input as to desired programming.

1. The budget for the proposed park improvements is \$750,000.
2. The park will take into consideration the expansion of Civic Center Drive
3. ASR provided some initial ideas to begin the discussion – this included ideas such as open passive space, a tot-lot(s), gateway ideas, art inclusion, site furnishings, pedestrian connections, safety and security.
4. Tony W explained the process following this meeting would be for ASR to develop a conceptual plan for the park based on this input and that would go to the Parks & Rec Commission and then to City Council. The public will be able to see the plan at either public meeting or online and provide further comment.

The comments/items brought up include:

1. The Vista Garden Club wanted to advocate for the preservation of the existing mature oak tree on site. They indicated that any impact to the root zone, either during construction or after, would ultimately adversely affect the tree and would like to see it preserved.
2. (Linda Hays – property owner) had several comments:
 - a. Expressed concern for needing a small restroom facility given the number of children in the neighborhood.
 - b. Would like to see definite measures taken for safety along Civic Center Drive – worried about kids kicking balls out into the street.
 - c. Asked if art mentioned would be purchased or donated – Tony explained that the Arts Commission would participate but the

ASR

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

project would pay for the work. Concern was that the budget would be too limited for other higher priority things like children's play opportunities.

- d. Would rather see more money spent on actual park facilities than on "gateway" signs – there is already a sign on Civic Center Dr.
 - e. Families want less signage and art and more opportunities for play.
3. Mr. Lopez concurs with Ms. Hays on many things. Had the following comments:
- a. To be a "park" the space needs to have a restroom. Seems foolish to provide a space that is supposed to be a park without a restroom.
 - b. Pointed out that the area is very densely populated but wanted to know if a feasibility study had been done to determine the number of people to be served? Tony indicated that the facility is intended to serve a ½ mile radius – walking distance.
 - c. Felt strongly that a needs assessment should be done to inform what is done with the "park".
 - d. Suggested that the Kiwanis "parkette" across the street is useless and perhaps the two sites could be combined in some way?
 - e. Suggested that the community wants/needs places for birthday parties (like Wildwood Park).
 - f. Expressed his feeling that the passive linear park is just a "homeless shelter" space. Would like design to address this issue.
 - g. Recommended a tiny area specifically for skateboarding – something for the kids to grind on since they will be using it anyway.
 - h. Recommended we design to discourage ball play.
 - i. Suggested possibly striping the curb along Pala Vista for drop off for the park.
4. Would like focus to be on areas for kids to play –there is no where close. Would like to avoid groups taking over the space for parties.
5. Avoid spending budget on utility/infrastructure –the need is for usable green space.
6. Has four children and concurs with Ms. Hays that there should be a restroom. Also expressed concern for security and avoiding having homeless people move into the space.
7. Brought up that a lot of the children in the area are allowed to play unchaperoned. Recommended the following:
- a. A small dog park since people walk their dogs there anyway.
 - b. Some mounds for children's play but not a structure per se.

ASR

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- c. Benches but no picnic tables – too many people congregate on tables.
 - d. Can there be something done to address the parking? There is too little room on the street now.
 - e. Recommended musical play pieces rather than a structure.
 - f. Suggested a walking trail would be fine and would like to see some exercise equipment to encourage the parents to be in the park and fitness.
 - g. Would like an attractive barrier/fence along Civic Center Drive.
 - h. Said she has concerns about drinking in the park – on tables, etc.
8. Suggested that “grass=kids=balls in the street” – recommended that there be a barrier along Civic Center Drive. Would like skate “pods” or small areas but only if budget allows.
 9. Wanted to compliment/thank the City for the public process and commitment to making parks. Understands the consternation but suggested it is also up to the residents to do more – to call police if there is a problem, etc.
 10. Recommended a small dog park on the northern, triangular part of the space to avoid conflict between kids and dogs.
 11. Vista needs to do a lot more generally to provide parks. Tony W. and Mayor Ritter responded pointing out that Vista is built out and that opportunities such as this infill space are the way of the future.
 12. Terry Woods – North County Daily Star – requested a copy of the meeting minutes. ASR to provide to Tony W. for distribution to appropriate persons.