

Boulder Park Master Plan Amendment
Public Meeting #1
02/06/10
Columbia Elementary

Secretary: Debra Ackley, FOBP

Connie Perry - Landscape Architect, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (Project Manager)

City has committed to partnering with FOBP to create a master plan for the park. Though the city does not currently have accessible funding for improvements. Although the city will actively seek out funding opportunities, FOBP will need to bring funding forward for these unfunded improvements.

The purpose of this first public meeting is to gather comments about park improvements via a survey and a comment board.

The entire master plan process, to include outreach and site analysis, resulting in an amended Master Plan is expected to take 1 year.

Cathe Bailie - Co-chair Friends of Boulder Park

Acknowledged FOBP board and officers and representatives from the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) and UCHealth Memorial. Olympic Training Center representative was unable to attend, but is interested in partnering with FOBP on park events.

Gave a brief background of the creation of FOBP and highlights of the organization's accomplishments.

Website has been set up by volunteer Michele McCann and is now live
www.friendsofboulderpark.com

Postcard notifications will no longer be mailed to neighbors about future meetings. Email list will be used instead.

Britt Haley - Parks Design and Development Manager

Acknowledged that a strong friends group shows that the community is invested in working towards completed improvements to the park.

Connie Perry continues with the Master Plan process, overview, time frame, and funding.

Master Plan break down:

- Start with community outreach (like this evening's meeting) compile input from the survey and category board.
- Begin survey work of the park
- Identify a list of priorities for needed improvements

March - July

- Begin observation in the park to detail park usage and individual activities taking place in the park.
- Volunteers will be trained in using the SOPARC site observation program to gather the data via observation at the park.

July- August

- Combine collected data, draft a preliminary Master Plan.
- August - second public meeting will be held to present the initial draft Master Plan and gather input from the community. Revise as needed.

October of 2019

Third open house will be held to present final Master Plan to the community and after which, if ready, the Master Plan will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for their review and action (vote on its approval).

When the Master Plan is approved, City and Parks and Recreation will begin a process will begin a process of researching funding for the plan. Funding has been discussed before tonight with the FOBP and FOBP will be responsible to find private dollars for the park improvements. The City currently has no budget for these park improvements.

Question and Answer session (Connie Perry)

1. How does the Parks and Recreation dept. prioritize projects?

Britt: The city doesn't have funds to cover all of the projects so they look for friends groups and grants.

2. Since Colorado Springs is "The Olympic City", shouldn't Boulder Park be more of an important eye piece for the city since it's on the main thoroughfare to the OTC?

The OTC will be included in discussions about the park. No mention of funding at this meeting.

3. Is there a list of prioritized park projects?

Britt: They have a list of those projects (to include 42 parks, median areas, and green spaces,) that are deemed to need the most immediate attention and prioritize them accordingly. There is a list of the 17 “worst playgrounds” in the city and they are trying to address those areas as funds become available. The list is down to 6 and as projects get finished the areas are taken off that list and others moved up.

4. Where does the funding come from for upgrades? Multiple sources:

Great Outdoor Colorado (lottery funds)

COS Health Foundation

Grants:

TOPC - a portion of these sales tax funds are alternated between playground structures, turf/irrigation water conservation and water consumption at green spaces.

National Parks Association

TABOR - Any refund is put to a vote of the people for a specific list of projects or a specific use.

City General Fund is not usually used

Every funding source has specific rules for spending those funds.

5. Do developers help with funding for these green spaces and parks?

In newer developments they are required to provide certain areas of green space/parks/playgrounds. This pertains to newer developments and doesn't pertain to older parks today, such as Boulder Park.

6. Where will funding come from to keep up the new upgrades to the park?

The Master Plan will include future maintenance in its content.

7. Are the Olympic Training Center and UC Health/Memorial partners in future improvements?

Both organizations have expressed some commitment and interest in future improvements to Boulder Park.

8. Can a general contractor donate work on their own?

Parks and Recreations can get creative with ways to accept these types of donations. Generally, the work is put out to a public bid but P&R will work with those contractors wanting to donate.

9. If we have a large donation revenue, will that bump us up to receive some of the larger matching grants.

No. Boulder Park is not considered a priority due to the heavy competition from much larger parks and green spaces.

10. Several questions about the trees in Boulder Park.

General public can propose to plant trees and shrubs in a park with the approval of City Forestry Division. Other neighborhoods have acquired trees from the Arbor

Society or other organizations, and often in conjunction with an Arbor Day, Earth Day etc, event. We have planted them in medians where trees were diseased or blown down.

11. One representative of Pride Soccer was in attendance. He has a connection with a soccer vendor for resurfacing existing tennis courts to convert them into a soccer court. Contact information was exchanged.

Community Input Exercise

Two stations were set up to gather input from attendees under the main question:

“What do park improvements look like to you?”

Stations had two white boards set up so that attendees could place sticky notes with their input on the boards.

Board #1 Aerial map of Boulder Park

Board #2 Place sticky note into each category:

- a. Key Observations
- b. Key Necessary Improvements
- c. Key Want

Participants placed their comments on the boards.

Also: A survey was distributed, completed by attendees, and collected.

Connie: Discussed where we go from here.

Analyze the input from the public

Organize volunteers for the onsite observations using the SOPARC process of site observation.

Draft site analysis and preliminary Master Plan

Susan Davies from TOSC thanked everyone and appreciated the large turnout (50+)

Attendees were dismissed to fill out sticky notes and surveys.

Meeting was concluded at approximately 8:00pm

SURVEY

1. Have you been to this park in the last year? _____
 - a. How often, or how many times? _____
 - b. For what reason? Recreation Event Playground. Social Exercise
Other: _____
2. Describe how do you use this park today? _____

3. How would you like to better use the park, in the future? Please explain briefly. _____

4. If you do not go to the park, why? Please explain briefly. _____

5. In your opinion, how do parks enhance your life? _____

6. General comment: _____