



Meeting Summary

Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

October 14, 6 PM

1. Attendees:

- Committee members and staff in attendance: Brandon Martin (chair), Stacy Roth, Deb Settle, Lisa Brunner (virtual), Sarah Martin (virtual), Carrie Paulette, Councilmember Tom Madigan (virtual), Keith Moody, Nathan Brungardt
- Consultants in attendance: Kate Bender, Ruanda McFerren, Maren Aster (virtual)

2. Report on Community Engagement Process

- The community engagement process is wrapping up. Only two events remain, the second open house and staff engagement at their Halloween luncheon.

Event	Date
Summer Concert Series Event	Saturday, August 23
Summer Concert Series Event (Fiesta RP)	Saturday, September 13
Roundtable: Employee Engagement	Tuesday, September 2
Roundtable: Sustainability	Thursday, September 4
Open House #1: Community Center Open House	Saturday, September 20
Roundtable: Parks & Trees	Wednesday, September 24
Roundtable: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion	Tuesday, September 30
Roundtable: Arts Advisory	Wednesday, October 1
Open House #2: Roesland Elementary Conference Night	Thursday, October 16
Employee Engagement Luncheon	Friday, October 31

- Approximately 141 people have participated in public engagement efforts so far: five employees, seven Open House attendees, 30 community members through Roundtable discussions, and 99 people at the Summer Concerts.
- Key takeaways from public engagement include:
 - A strong sense of community and connection to neighbors
 - Desire to invest in and value inclusion and diversity

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- Appreciation for strong existing community engagement
- Commitment to sustainability
- Love for major assets of Roeland Park: walkability and trees especially

3. Themes and Ideas for Strategic Plan and Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- Five themes were identified for the Strategic Plan
 - *Economic Development*: Redevelop vacant spaces; Increase density in commercial district / reduce “big box” feel; and Invest in more local/small businesses to keep dollars in RP
 - *Support connectivity and mobility*: Walkability; Add speedbumps / traffic calming; Invest in streets, curbs, sidewalks, streetlights; and Add bike infrastructure / bike share
 - *Extend community building and communications*: Improve website and flow of information to residents; Broaden communication and engagement to try to engage those who don’t engage; Work toward committees and Council reflecting community diversity
 - *Opportunities to invest in housing*: Add more multi-family development; Continue code-changes that support housing development; Consider housing along stages of life; and Concerns about decreasing affordability and how teardowns/rebuilds impact the fabric of the community
 - *Sustainability and support for the environment*: Increase density for more sustainability footprint; Continue to support mature tree canopy; Continue native plantings; Continue implementing sustainability programming within; and Improve opportunities to connect with nature / natural environment
- Three themes were identified for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - *More Programming*: More community-building events (e.g. concerts in the park); More Community Center programming – earlier hours, more classes, non-sport activities for kids, summer camps; and More fitness programming and facilities for all ages
 - *Diversity and Equity in Programs and Facility*: Ensure all age cohorts are catered to; Further geographic equity with new opportunities east of Roe Blvd; Pursue universal design and accessibility; and Explore community partnerships with local non-profits and affinity groups
 - *Greater Community Connectivity*: More traffic calming, especially near parks; Trails between parks, and trail connections to the regional trail network; and Enhanced connectivity between the Aquatic Center, Community Center, and Nall Park

- There were some topics that did not come up much during the public engagement process that will require further discussion.
 - Strategic Plan: Public safety, Public infrastructure, Public transportation, and City finances and operations
 - Parks and Recreation Master Plan: The Aquatic Center, Maintenance & Operations, Personal Safety, and Sustainability
- Discussion of these themes and ideas included:
 - Sidewalks: Subdivision regulations typically require that new sidewalks be installed on both sides of the road. The City's Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan recognizes this. On streets where one sidewalk already exists, adding sidewalk on the second side of the street is lower priority. In new construction subdivisions, sometimes sidewalks are only built on one side of the street to lower development costs.
 - Public Transportation: This probably did not come up much partially because there is so much walkability. Support for public transit could be incorporated in the plan by having a strategy around advocacy.
 - Recently, the City Council approved funding for bus shelters at six bus stops in the City. This was a \$70,000 investment. Shelters can help increase visibility of the system.
 - Dog Parks: A lot of public comments supported this, but it didn't emerge as a need during the Nall Park plan engagement efforts. There are concerns about the noise, smell, and maintenance needs of dog parks. If one were to be located in Nall Park, whether or not it is compatible with bike trails/infrastructure would need to be considered.
 - Community Center: Not everyone realizes that JCPRD operates that Community Center. They do offer programming that is specifically for 50+ adults. This plan could be an opportunity to engage JCPRD around future programming and operations.

4. Resident and Business Survey Updates

- 170 households have responded to the resident survey so far and responses have been received from 9 businesses.

5. Next Steps

- November 10th Ad Hoc Committee meeting: Report on conclusion of the community engagement efforts
- January 12th Workshop: Combined meeting of the City Council and the Ad Hoc Committee

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