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Parks Recreation and Greenways

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2007
West Jr. High School

Co-Facilitator: Kim Stonecipher-Fisher

Support Staff: Jill Stedem

Present: Steve Stonecipher-Fisher, Don Laird, Mike Snyder, John Holmes, Mariel Stephenson, Cari Gerlt, David Bedan, Tim Nigh.

Absent: Robin Albee, Bob Bartlett, Mark Mohengasser, Jessica Moore, Christine Roberson, Dan Smith, Doug Tarwater, Priscilla Wilson.

Next Meeting: April 4, 2007, Stephens College, 6pm.

I. Minutes of the January and February Meetings:

Approved: Don Laird, Second: Mariel Stephenson.

II. Key Meeting Discussion Topics:

Goal:

An expansive, interconnected network of parks, greenways, and trails which provide a wide variety of recreational facilities and opportunities for all citizens, contributes to an aesthetically appealing city, connects to county and state open lands, and protects the environment, streams and wildlife.

Sub-Topics Goals:

1. Parks- Goals:

*a. Neighborhood-*within walking distance(1/2 mile), Planning and Zoning encourages developers to incorporate parks in neighborhoods; shelter and playground equipment; space for sports fields (where appropriate); relatively low maintenance; park design based on neighborhood desires.

b. Regional- performance venues; swimming; varied sports opportunities (i.e. ball fields); restroom facilities; indoor and outdoor shelters which can be reserved; parking; concessions; fishing and boating (non-motorized); connect to trails and other parks; varied trails; within 5 miles of everyone.

c. Nature: hiking; protected natural areas; quiet; educational; nature center; wildlife observation area; connected to other parks and trails; limited use trail system; need four: north, south, east, and west.

d. Urban Parks: place to eat; shelters; performance venues; adjacent to highly developed areas; landscaped for shade; aesthetically pleasing flowers/planters; connected to business and each other; oasis in the city; open grassy areas; easily accessible to shoppers.

Parks-Strategies:

- Examine existing network and identify gaps in the different defined types of outlined parks.
- Have overall plan to make sure we meet as many needs as possible without duplications.
- Provide incentives to encourage public and private cooperation/ collaboration to acquire and develop additional parks and facilities.
- Start a program of volunteers for park clean-up (i.e. Adopt a Park).

2. Trails- Goals:

Interconnected to parks, neighborhoods, schools and businesses; variety of uses; minimize conflicting uses; different types of trails for different uses; strategically placed bike racks.

Trails- Strategies:

- Coordinate efforts of different interest groups to produce and fund a desirable multi-use trail plan.
- Planning and Zoning will encourage new developments to achieve the goal of trail connectivity using current and new easements.

3. Recreation- Goals: variety of facilities like ARC; ice skating rink; golf; tennis; soccer fields; ball fields; basketball; pools; based on population and demand.

Recreation- Strategies:

- Marriage of private and public interest groups to build recreational facilities like an ice skating rink.
- Increase current facilities as public demands.

4. Greenways- Goals: enhanced trails and transportation; wildlife corridors; watershed protection and preserve flood plains; aesthetically pleasing; maximize edge effects so more people can use green space; connecting when possible along and in between stream corridors increasing total area covered by natural areas and open spaces.

Greenways Strategy:

- Coordinating efforts of different interest groups to produce a map for multi-purpose greenways.
- Provide incentives to promote green space.
- Use easement and development rights as well as acquisition.

III. Motions and Votes:

none

IV. Actions to be Taken

Tim Nigh will lead Parks information table at the April 4th Public Meeting in Kim's absence.

Meeting Adjourned