Draft Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan Updates

Park and Recreation Commission

November 19, 2015

Action items since October PRC meeting

1. Include plans-to-date and future action items for the Beverley Park Plan and the Mount Jefferson Park and Greenway Plan in the Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan
   - **Staff are completing these plans and they will be included in the plan to Council in January. The inclusion of these plans does not propose anything new but rather documents the existing processes and the action items moving forward.**
2. Add the possibility of lights and artificial turf on the field to the Ewald plan.
   - **Staff will add to the plan further investigation into these two items prior to implementation of the plan.**

Action items since October PRC meeting

3. Hold community meeting on Montgomery Park and report back to PRC additional feedback
   - **Meeting held on November 17 at 8am at the Park gazebo**
   - **10 – 15 in attendance, representing neighbors, parents from St. Anthony's, local businesses, and tennis players**
   - **Meeting was held on the same day that Old Town North Small Area Plan was underway. During the OTN plan process, staff has conveyed that that the concept plan for Montgomery Park is flexible. The community views Montgomery Park as a hub/node for the planning area, and if necessary, we can bring the park plan back to update as the vision for OTN evolves and is implemented.**

Montgomery Park
Community Meeting Feedback

Concerns raised

- Moving the playground closer to Royal may expose children to fumes from vehicles and foul language used on the adjacent sidewalk. May also invite strangers into the playground. A more open lawn adjacent to the playground may mean balls from sports use could fly into the playground.
- There is concern about what can be planted given the soil conditions.
- The recommendations, particularly the contentious ones, are a very high cost
- Moving the backboard out of the tennis court increases cost and removes parking. Increased development in the surrounding area will put added parking needs in the neighborhood.
- Not enough landscape and shade shown, the center oval does not meet this need.

Montgomery Park
Community Meeting Feedback

Solutions discussed (1 of 2 slides)

- Clarify the text on tree locations
- Add lighting to the park
- Allow space for a farmers market/programmed activity in the parking lot
- Remove parking meters and replace with 2-3 hour limit parking
- Instead of showing the looped walkway, recommend a landscape plan that preserves an open lawn, planting beds, benches, shade, and a meandering path to connect north and south. The planting beds may provide an opportunity for stormwater capture.

Montgomery Park
Community Meeting Feedback

Solutions discussed (cont.)

- Emphasize the importance of beautification of the park and the related need for trees and other plantings that enhance what's there today.
- The water feature proposed within the playground may extend beyond the playground boundary and into the landscaped area (may be a multi-purpose water feature).
- Ensure the playground serves all ages and has shade. This may mean shade structure canopies until new trees mature.
- Revise the playground location on the plan to more accurately depict that the boundary would be at the top of the slope.

Montgomery Park Community Meeting Feedback:

Continued concerns on the tennis backboard/practice court options

Option	Pros	Cons
1. Backboard on fence of existing court, as proposed on 1st draft plan	• Does not take up any additional space within the park • Easy to implement • Allows greater hard surface space for programming such as farmer's market	• Would require reinforced fencing to withstand wind load of backboard on fence • 1 player using it would prevent multiple players from playing a game (solution discussed to regulate that games have priority over single players)
2. Solo court constructed in half of parking lot	• Provides exclusive court for solo play adjacent to some of the most heavily used courts in the City • Does not dramatically increase impervious surface	• Limits potential programmable space in the parking lot (farmer's market, etc.) • Reduces parking by 4-5 spaces • Adds additional chain link fence to the park • High cost
3. Construct solo courts along north side of tennis courts	• Does not interfere with any other park use • Allows greater hard surface space for programming such as farmer's market • Allows two practice courts	• Would require a retaining wall with very high associated cost • Would greatly increase impervious surfacing in the park and require large stormwater mitigation
4. Do nothing	• No change to the parking lot or park • Allows hard surface space for programming such as farmer's market	• No dedicated practice court

Staff Recommendations

1. Revise the Montgomery Park Plan to include the non-tennis related solutions discussed.

2. Add a backboard to an existing court to allow for solo play with regulations that matches override solo practice. If the backboard becomes an issue, further explore other options.