

**BIG COTTONWOOD PARKS MASTER PLAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 3
MOUNT OLYMPUS SENIOR CENTER**

Tuesday, June 16, 2009
5:00 PM

Committee Members in Attendance:

Rita Lund	
Susie Cates	Mt Olympus Sr Center
Darian Abegglen	SL County Recreation
Wendy Zeigler	Serendipity Stables
Jeff Ward	Tree Utah
Scot Safford	Trail Runner

Design Team/Project Management

Morgan Selph	SL County
Mark Vlastic	Landmark Design, Inc.
Jennifer Hale	Landmark Design, Inc.

Others in Attendance:

Sue Hall	Serendipity Stables
Amy Giauque	Serendipity Stables

PROJECT UPDATE

Review Public Input from Open House #2: Alternatives (Mark Vlastic)

Good turnout at the Open House on May 28th.

- Approximately 172 people signed in.
- 93 comment forms were received (at the OH and via email)

The summary of the comments from the second open house was distributed and reviewed. The summary included a synopsis of comments made about the park system in general as well as issues regarding each of the specific parks. As part of that review, the following discussion items came up:

The need for the trails to be more comprehensive, in particular, connecting parks via street rights-of-way was expressed. Mark Vlastic mentioned that this might be a difficult task as trails are not indicated in any major trail master plans (Salt Lake County, Wasatch Front Regional Council, etc.) along major east-west streets in the area and that several of the major streets may be owned by entities that are currently not planning to provide the improvements needed to designate and implement safe bike lanes, add sidewalks, etc.

Question: What would it take to get these pedestrian/cyclist connections?

Response: If County or State-owned, it often requires the City to be willing to take the road as their own (they become responsible for maintenance of the road at that point) and designate it as a trail in their Trails Master Plan. That said, even if a city designates it as trail (institutes a bike lane, etc.), neighboring cities may or may not choose to continue that trail through their city. [For that reason, it is often beneficial for trails to be designated and maintained at the county level.]

Question: A committee member mentioned that they had seen past master plans for the Holladay Lions area that have emphasized developing the park into a park for persons of all abilities (a comment

submitted at the open house referred to this plan). That said, the current "beeper" softball diamond is fenced, locked and rarely used. Is that a vision that should be continued in this plan?

Response: The softball diamond is a special facility that was built with funds from private donors and is not used as much as it was anticipated. Additionally, its infield is shorter and can be only used for its intended users or by Little League teams. However, because it was a donation it probably won't be removed at this time.

Question: Is the final Master Plan going to be officially adopted by the County? If not, then how do those who don't agree with it/speak against it? For example, if the decision to keep (or not keep) the disc golf course becomes a controversial issue between disc golfers and neighbors.

Response: This particular plan probably will not be *officially* adopted. However, it will still be maintained as the Master Plan for the parks by the County's Parks and Recreation department and will be considered valid and valuable as it has included a pretty extensive public process (questionnaire, open houses, etc.). Likewise, part of the process—prior to the finalization of the Master Plan—will include taking the master plan to other invested parties, such as Holladay City, Millcreek Township, and other interested/affected user groups, to get their feedback and input to ensure that the final Master has support and greater longevity.

Question: Is there a way to increase the buffer zone between the neighbors and the disc golf course in the park?

Response: One of the alternatives included such an approach—reducing the extents of the disc golf course and increasing the area for other uses within in the park (such as a walking trail around its perimeter).

Comment: Illegal activities are an issue for the Creekside area/disc golf users in particular. Police have expressed concern for the area in the Neighborhood Watch section of the Holladay newsletter.

Comment: Perhaps there would be a benefit to charging a fee for the area—like they do for golf courses—and using to go toward maintenance costs.

Response: There is a significant difference in level of maintenance between disc golf course and a golf course. Disc golf courses doesn't require regular mowing and the replacement of baskets only occurs every ten years or so.

There may be a way to rearrange the park to better separate different users and strategically/carefully locate places where different user groups cross-over. It may also be possible to create better visual access from the neighborhood and in the process encourage a more "eyes" on the park from the neighborhood.

There are a lot of different mitigation efforts to be tried before considering removing disc golf from this area.

Comment: Sue Hall (Serendipity Stables) expressed a concern with how Alternatives 2 & 3 dealt with leased equestrian uses (decreasing her current operating area and adding a combined riding area with Brighton Meadows) and how it could potentially affect her business in the future. She also expressed a concern regarding the combined riding area—how shared maintenance will work out and insurance will possibly change.

Response: We don't know how all of that will work out at this point. Once a preferred alternative has been developed it will have to be taken to the real estate department, attorneys, etc. of the County and that will have to be worked out with the individual lessees.

Alternative 2 & 3 include a greater natural area (removes currently leased/fenced off land and opens it to the public) and that is definitely something that the public wants more of (it was expressed in the questionnaire and OH comments).

Question: Would it be possible to integrate users (dog owners, walkers, horseback riders, cyclists) as happens in Central Park or, locally, in Dimple Dell? Expand equestrian trails into the park to compensate for the decrease in leased acres?

Response: This park doesn't have the area that Central Park or Dimple Dell has. It would probably require fencing and other means to keep users separate enough to be safe. It is definitely something that should be explored.

Additionally, the idea of extending other uses into the equestrian areas should also be explored ("feathering" or minimizing the edges or distinction between park uses/areas and equestrian uses/areas).

Question: What about the expansion of the softball complex at Big Cottonwood?

Response: The extra fields are definitely needed for County programs. However, the expansion will eliminate areas that are used for other sports (ultimate Frisbee, lacrosse, cross country, corporate games, volleyball, football) and will increase parking.

Response: There is a significant soccer facility being developed in North Salt Lake area. That could lighten the load for multipurpose sports fields in these areas. However, fossil fuel consumption—requiring soccer users to travel to North Salt Lake—should be considered as the master plan is being finalized.

Comment: A concern was expressed about increasing parking in the Holladay Lions area and how that might bring more people through the Senior Center parking area making it a "thoroughfare."

Response: Parking for the area is greatly needed. These concerns could most likely be addressed through sensitive design and traffic calming methods.

Comment: Millcreek Community Council needs more group meeting places (outdoor and indoor) and accessibility to current facilities.

NEXT STEP – Developing the First Draft of the Preferred Alternative

A 1st draft of the preferred alternative will be presented to the Advisory Committee. It will be presented to various focus groups (e.g. Millcreek Township, Holladay City, and various user groups). At that point, the preferred alternative will be refined and presented to the public.

Question: Will funding priorities be a part of this plan?

Response: That is a planning process in of itself and is something that will come after the Master Planning process. At this point, our primary focus is to look at needs.