

Imperial Park

Public Scoping Meeting Notes

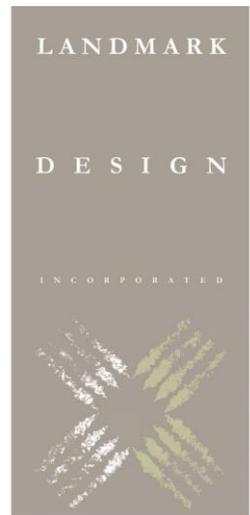
December 15, 2013 – 6:30 to 8:00 pm

In Attendance:

Ron Salisbury, Salt Lake City Engineering
Todd Reese, Parks and Public Lands Program Director
Emy Maloutas, Salt Lake City Open Space Lands Program Manager
Amy Barry, Public Services Project Coordinator
Nancy Monteith, Salt Lake City Landscape Architect
Joe Prudden, Ark-Ology Architecture
Mark Vlasic, Landmark Design
Jan Striefel, Landmark Design
Scott Krumm, Landmark Design
Lisa Benson, Landmark Design
Sally and Martin Barraclough
Ben and Barbara Burdett
Noall Montgomery
Alexis Cononelos
Helen Peters
Dan Weiler
Roger and Kathryn Grooms
Megan and Bill Howe
David Stevenson
Chris Sonntag
Sharen Hauri
Rich and Teresa McIntosh
Topher Horman
Sheldon Byde
Ruth Ann Pehrson
Floyd Moon
Jared Campbell
Lisa Morrise
Lynne Olson
Ben Mates
Judi Short
Coralie Christensen

Summary:

- The meeting started with introductions of the original design team, City staff, and Landmark Design staff.
- The group was asked to raise their hands if they had already been involved with the project.



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
AND LAND PLANNING

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Almost everyone in attendance had been, except for a couple city employees and a few local neighbors.

- Mark gave some background information on the surrounding area, and Imperial Neighborhood, and the park site.
- Explanation of the previous design efforts done by the neighborhood, and Landmark's design process and schedule (construction expected to begin this summer).
- Explanation of the Handout-Comment form.
- Restroom? Decisions to be made are 1) is it needed and 2) what type of restroom.
 - Things to consider: Cost, Security, and Functionality (how will the park function (or be used) without a restroom.)
 - Three types of restroom options
 - Screened/sheltered porta-potty
 - Single unisex restroom
 - Male and female designated bathroom (1 stall each)
 - Questions and Comments
 - What does the screened porta-potty look like? It's architecturally screened to blend in with the park.
 - If it's out of site, it sounds better than a permanent restroom.
 - A restroom would be good for family gatherings.
 - Having a restroom keeps people from using the site inappropriately.
 - The cost/benefit ratio of having a restroom is too low to make a permanent restroom worthwhile.
 - Consider the impact on the neighbors.
 - There is a similar park in Logan (2nd North and 4th West) with a gazebo, walkways and playground that didn't have a restroom, and it seemed to work just fine.
 - Is it expensive? Costs range from about \$10,000 for a screened porta-potty option to somewhere near \$100,000 for more permanent restrooms.
 - If there were to be large gatherings, they could rent their own porta-potty.
 - Public restrooms in parks are unpleasant, seem unclean, and maintenance is difficult
 - Todd Reese explained that public restrooms in Salt Lake City parks are maintained daily, but that they could be trashed even 15 minutes afterwards. They do not have the means to visit multiple times per day or lock all the bathrooms at night.
 - If there is not a restroom, children will relieve themselves in the bushes/on trees causing unsanitary conditions.
 - The restroom needs to be accessible.
 - We are okay with dogs peeing on trees – it's okay for kids to pee on the trees too.
 - A restroom would not be cost effective. The use of the restroom for a park of this size would be low compared to the amount of money it would cost to build.
 - Is cost an issue considering the size of the budget?
 - Those who live close to the park don't want people coming to their door to use their

bathrooms.

- Would it save on cost to have it built in connection with the pavilion instead of a freestanding restroom?
- If the pavilion is desired by the park users, then a restroom is necessary.
- If we don't install a restroom at the initial construction, the plumbing/foundation could be built and a restroom constructed later, or have a contingency plan to add one later? Mark explained that it's really not feasible to come back and add one later. If a restroom is desired, it should be included in the final design. The community needs to set its priorities now.
- The restroom shouldn't be located too close to the pavilion. The odors would be undesirable next to the place where people are eating and gathering. Someone suggested that the doors could face away from the gathering area.
- A permanent structure is more appealing than a porta-potty.
- What do we lose by putting in a bathroom?
- Money in the budget would be taken from something else.
 - If we don't have a list of items that the money can be spent on, then are we really taking the money from something else?
 - It will determine the type of materials used – concrete instead of stone, less landscape material, less play equipment, etc.
 - There will be running water for hand washing if a full restroom is installed.
 - The neighborhood has small yards, so having a large gathering space with a gazebo is needed, but a small one.
- It would make the residents more comfortable to have it be lockable at night, maybe automatic locks.
- It would be better to have a permanent restroom structure with a pavilion.
- Since the church was already on the site, we could tap into the existing plumbing/sewer system.
- Emy Maloutas suggested taking 2 field trips: Rotary Glen Park (at the mouth of Emigration Canyon) which has a pavilion and 2 restroom stalls that are being refurbished, and Laird Park (17th East and Princeton) which has no restrooms.
- Kids need restrooms, especially groups of kids on play dates.
- Porta-potty in Gilgal Gardens is \$45 a month, and is maintained once a week. Could have a contract with more frequent maintenance.
- Vote for restroom – 18 yes, 0 no (majority of room voted against the use of a porta-potty).
 - Suggestion to develop design alternatives that explore all options and costs.
- Joe Prudden reviewed the previous design and plan for the park, including design ideas and amenities, which are about 3 years old.
 - Design Ideas:
 - Gazebo with power outlets for community gatherings, tables with painted checker boards.
 - Site amenities such as an accessible drinking fountain, benches, picnic tables with

painted checkers boards.

- Play space with areas for young and older children with interactive elements – art areas for drawing, energy generating playground equipment.
- The use of dynamic colors and educational elements (plants, sustainability, etc.) throughout the park.
- Grove of trees for picnicking and shaded activities.
- Large open space for casual sports activities.
- Design for security and safety for all ages.
- Solar power sources and solar lighting.
- A running/walking/exercise path around the park with exercise stations.
- Park landscaping and appropriate irrigation systems.
- Demonstration garden using water wise plantings.
- Restroom facilities.
- Questions and Comments
 - The gazebo/pavilion is for family use, it does not need to be huge.
 - Suggestion to recover the existing parking area to expand the park, then create parallel parking along street. Parking for a large number of cars on a regular basis is not needed.
 - Suggestion for bicycle parking.
 - Idea for solar panels on roof of pavilion to have energy source for lighting and outlets.
 - Problem of breaking and maintenance
 - Suggestion to have power outlets located throughout the park, rather than just at the pavilion. This would make it easier to hold events such as 5K races, etc. without needing to bring in generators. Power outlets need to be lockable to prevent unauthorized use.
 - The roof of the pavilion should be completely covered on part, and then slatted on the other part to allow the sun to warm the space certain times of the year.
 - Consider how people of all different ages can use this park.
 - Pavilion should be for about 30 people.
 - Suggestion for memorial or art wall.
 - What is the separation between the park and the adjacent houses?
 - The fence there now is a mix of materials and a new fence or wall should be constructed to have a consistent separation and look.
 - The telephone poles might need to be incorporated into the new wall because of their placement near the fence, coordinate with the city.
 - Trees are important for the design; they have health benefits
 - Suggestion for row of trees along back fence.
 - They will take a long time to mature and provide good shade. Consider other means to provide shade in the meantime.
 - What are the exercise stations?

- Design idea put more emphasis on a walking path than actual exercise stations with equipment.
- Suggestion for water feature or splash pad.
 - The cost of a commercial splash pad may not be feasible with the budget or for this park. Code will not allow the placement of residential quality splash pads in public parks, and commercial features cost a great deal more than residential features.
 - Request for examples of cost and size of splash pads.
 - Require specific maintenance.
 - Amy said that it could be added to the same route and use the same personnel who will be maintaining the new splash pad at Monument Plaza.
 - Suggestion for some type of use of water or small water feature. It could be a very simple feature, and could become part of the art, or the educational/demonstration features.
- The park will definitely have a drinking fountain.
- Is it possible to have the hand washing station outside of the restroom so that it can be used for people preparing food under the pavilion? Ron Salisbury stated that code requires hand washing facilities to be located inside the restroom.
- What type of playground/equipment? Unique? New? Generates energy? Kinetic?
 - Add science to play.
- Suggestion for shade covering.
 - Better for play in the middle of the day
- Suggestion to add topography (berms) to park.
- Suggestion for interactive or educational elements in the playground and park
 - Interpretive signage about the views/geography/geology of the Wasatch.
 - Interactive sundial using shadows
- Will there be BBQs?
- Will be used in all seasons – is used now for by people with dogs. (Install dog clean-up facilities.)
- Existing street lights do not have power outlets. Power was provided by the church that used to be on site.
- Social, Cultural, or Historical considerations that could influence the design of the park.
 - Match the existing atmosphere and architecture of the area – cottage style. (Not too cute or ultra modern.)
 - To help with fundraising for the park, they hold an annual Fall BBQ.
 - Porch Fest had bands playing up and down the street – could be moved to park open area.
 - Power would be needed for the events.
 - Orchards/fruit trees
 - The church on the property was community funded and built, church steeple was iconic to the neighborhood – Christmas ornaments of the steeple were sold.
 - Suggested themes: Agriculture Community/Irrigation; Community Built; Something to Learn; Views of Mountains.

- General Questions and Comments
 - Suggestion for an email explaining budget and costs of each park element suggested.
 - Suggestion to have the meeting somewhere closer to the park/neighborhood.
 - Emy Maloutas said that the City is developing signage standards for the open spaces, and the new standards may feed right into the signage for this project.

Meeting Schedule

- Alternative Concepts Open House – February 13th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 - Forest Dale Golf Course Clubhouse
- Preferred Design Open House – March 6th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- POST Committee Meeting (SHCC) *Public is invited– March 17th
 - Sprague Library
- SHCC Full Session – April 2nd
 - Sprague Library

Comment Form Comments received at the meeting.

Is a restroom desirable? 1 person wrote no

Which Type of restroom is preferred?

- 8 Single-unisex restroom
- 7 Male and female designated restrooms
- 3 Screened/sheltered porta-potty

Of the following amenities, which 5 do you feel are the most important? (Shown in ranked order.)

- 19 Gazebo with power outlets for community gatherings.
- 16 Site amenities such as an accessible drinking fountain, benches, picnic tables with checkerboards.
- 15 Play space with areas for young and older children with interactive elements – art areas for drawing, energy generating playground equipment, etc.
- 14 Large open space for casual sports activities.
- 9 Restroom facilities.
- 8 A running/walking path around the park with exercise stations.
- 5 Grove of trees for picnicking and shaded activities.
- 6 Park landscaping and appropriate irrigation systems.
- 5 Design for security and safety for all ages.
- 4 Solar power sources and solar lighting.
- 2 Demonstration garden using water wise plantings.
- 1 The use of dynamic colors and educational elements throughout the park (plants, sustainability, etc.).

What other suggestions or ideas do you have?

- Art wall
- Memorial area (purchased bricks)
- BBQ area and facilities (6)
- Splash pad
- Splash pad might be an over-reach for this park
- Interactive sundial to teach kids about the sun and seasons (2)
- Compass rose of some kind.
- Shade over play area –sails or trees (3)
- Playground equipment similar to the type behind highland park elementary – more than just a slide and swings.
- Good fence to separate park from adjacent neighbors, perhaps higher to keep balls from going over.
- Berms
- Climbing wall
- Flat area for stage (or portable stage) and chairs.
- Lots of trees (2)
- Permaculture principles to integrate water-wise landscaping.
- Demonstration garden should include food-producing plants – fruits and veggies.
- Water catchment from pavilion roof to feed swales and planted berms.
- For a park of this scale, I do not think that the additional costs are worth the effort and would be underutilized, but if costs are low, would not mind bathroom.
- Animal (dog) free park – this park is not large enough for dogs.
- I have used Laird Park a lot, it is a problem to not have a restroom.
- Shade needed
- Power outlets needed
- Traditional style
- Trash cans
- Orchard motif/fruit – fun idea
- Church history interesting
- Mountain views
- Bathroom is necessary for groups or play-dates
- Restroom similar to Liberty Park with direct outdoor access
- Make the play space unique – not seen before in SLC
- Exercise stations won't get used
- Path does not need to duplicate other paths or sidewalks, just a nice diversion, could do double duty as a tricycle path
- Community garden space
- Non-traditional design on the shelter/gazebo, do something interesting
- What do you have in mind for older adults?
- Have you thought about rules for dog users or amenities?
- Young aged soccer groups could practice here, space is desperately needed
- Spend the money on good playground equipment
- Fitness equipment could just be simple – bars for pullups, sit ups, monkey bars

- Swings please!
- Dispersed picnic tables, so people could have casual lunch/dinner without having to be in pavilion
- Fire pit
- Benches need to have backs. Many residents are senior citizens
- Incorporating some rainwater harvesting techniques found in a series of books by Brad Lancaster. Such a system might allow runoff from the street gutter into a swale planted with vegetation. It would optimize the existing rainfall. Perhaps the City would like to work with us on a pilot project to test the idea (though I know it has worked well in other locations). It could provide a teaching opportunity on water conservation for kids and adults alike.
<http://www.harvestingrainwater.com/>
- I'm not opposed to a bathroom or pavilion if these features do not take necessary resources away from developing other features
- While I realize this meeting was a brainstorming session, there were a lot of different hints people would like to see included in this project. As designers of this very small space, I'm sure that you will choose quality over quantity and include only a few refined features over cramming in several different items.
- Parking would be best on Atkin Ave, it would keep people from parking in front of people's houses
- Avoid putting the restroom near the fence (neighbors) as well as keeping a small distance between the fence and pavilions/play equipment

Description of park design by young girl

- Drinking fountain on every corner of park
- Swings, tall slide, monkey bars
- Two platforms and a rope bridge in between