

Minutes from Windemere Park Public Meeting

Held 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at the Gallup Park Livery meeting room

Colin Smith, Manager of Parks and Recreation Services, provided an overview of the background and history of the site, issues with the tennis court, and public and PAC input. After the introduction and overview, comments and questions were taken, and are summarized below.

Comments about court locations:

- Can option 1 go even further north?
- Location 3 was discussed as viable, option 4 as a compromise.
- Neighbor who lives closest to option 1 prefers option 4
- Some of the options are very close to homes – take this into consideration.
- Option 1B (center north – option generated and proposed at meeting) – allows for open space, natural buffer already exists and allows for more landscaping on west side.
- Can walk be put on east side of court for Option 1B? (yes)
- What does option 1B do to the survey that was sent out, since it wasn't included as an option? (PAC will consider all input)
- Court location should not preclude any future sidewalks per the 'Complete Streets' initiative
- Can courts be rotated so they are east west to allow more room (no – industry standard North South because of sun)
- Resident lives across street from current location – it is not a burden, she loves to watch people play and likes the view
- Wants the tennis courts back – most important thing. Better to put court on sides, not in middle.
- Can playground be moved and put the tennis courts where the existing courts are now? (playground would have same problems as tennis courts – posts would not stay in ground)
- Can paths be moved to create more room for courts? (yes, but it would increase cost)
- Can young trees be moved? (yes, at less cost than moving paths)
- Options 2 and 3 did not have prior neighborhood support.

Comments about Rec and Ed use of the field:

- Is the east/west orientation important? (will speak with Rec and Ed about orientation and location)
- Orientation helps to keep balls from going into the street
- What other options for the court would allow soccer?
- Important to keep east/west space open, used for soccer practices, kids use space, lots of pickup games
- Make sure that the sidelines are accounted for in providing space/area for field
- Concerns about kids running after balls

- Does Red and Ed use field at Glacier Highlands Park? (Was called Larchmont at the meeting. This park has a basketball court and playground. Would use all remaining open space)

Comments about tennis court construction/aesthetics/fencing etc.

- What type of fencing is planned? (Black vinyl)
- Can wind screens be installed for privacy/noise?
- Wind screens would not be an aesthetic improvement
- Concern about wind screens attracting hooligans because of the seclusion
- What type of landscaping will go around the courts? (Probably trees to cut down on weed growth)
- Landscaping should allow for better sight distance
- Plant mature trees
- Do we need to landscape around entire court (not necessarily, especially if it will take up more field space)
- Landscaping around court, where to place it?

Comments about softball backstop:

- How often does the backstop get used? How would option 1 affect backstop use?
- Kids do use the backstop, good to retain it
- Used for pickup games, not enough distance for a real softball field

Comments about open green space:

- Need to maximize green space – most important
- Can berms be modified to allow for more green space? (yes, but it would cost more money to do so, and there are mature trees on the berms to the west and south of the proposed courts)
- Keep the most available space for football and other field play
- Important to maintain space for spontaneous play – kites, etc.

Comments about soils/drainage:

- Can soil borings change over time? (no, but water table can change)
- Grading is crucial to keep water away from court
- Will stormwater mitigation be done for the new courts? (City looked into SRF funding, but project delay and shortage of funds eliminated that option)
- Water runoff is an issue
- There is water ponding in the north part of the park
- Can the soils support building the court in other parts of the park (yes – only the current location has the abysmal soils)

- What will happen to the area where the court is being removed? (need to see how it behaves, but will call Geotech to see if there are is soil mitigation that can be done)
- Need to pay attention to how court area is restored

Other comments:

- Please trim Forsythia at corner of park – overgrown
- Can a drinking fountain be put in the park?
- Appreciated staff taking and listening to public
- The existing overgrown area is unsightly – the City can improve this space – need to make sure this does not happen in area where court is being removed