

Meeting Notes Summary – September 30, 2008 at Father Keith B. Kenny School

1. Jonathan Rewers gave a summary of the Park Safety Implementation Plan and a brief history of the park planning process for McClatchy Park.
2. There was a presentation of work prepared by local school children regarding community gardening.
3. Doug Godfrey with RHAA gave a brief history of the planning process for McClatchy Park. This history included presenting the findings from the August 9th community meeting.
4. Harold Kobayshi with RHAA presented the conceptual master plan for McClatchy Park.
5. Steven Giguere facilitated the question and answer portion of the meeting with assistance by Jonathan Rewers, and RHAA.

Below is a listing of the questions and comments from the community.

- Community members expressed that they were appreciative that the plan maintained much of the open space of the park.
- The plan should include smaller picnic areas throughout the park. In particular, picnic areas should be placed in the northwest part of the park. City agreed.
- The pastor from one of the churches adjacent to the park expressed his concern about noise that may be generated from the stage in its new location. He indicated that there needs to be something to buffer noise. The City will look into the noise issues and respond through the design.
- There were several comments about the need to provide a more enjoyable walking/jogging experience. The plan should include a more continuous jogging path through the park.
- Trees in the park need to be better maintained. Tree pruning could address issues of sightlines and general safety in the park. City agreed.
- Signage throughout the park is important. It would be nice to include some type of kiosk that advertised special events in the park. City agreed.
- One concern was expressed regarding the strong axial alignment of the walks in the park. But most of the community members found the design to be very strong.
- The main entrance walk off of 35th should be wide enough to accommodate farmer's market tents as well as emergency and service vehicles.
- It may be desirable to have walking/jogging paths that can accommodate bicycles. Addition of bike racks throughout the park. City agreed.
- Several people indicated that the path along the south and southeast part of the park (adjacent to property owner's fences) can be a security concern. Will there be lighting along this edge? City agreed.
- Play equipment in the park should not be 'typical'. Play equipment should highlight the history of Oak Park. City agreed.
- Picnic spaces should have grills and trash receptacles.
- There was a question as to whether or not the community could be involved in the design and installation of playground.
- Plan should show angled parking along 5th. City agreed.
- There was interest in seeing a community garden located somewhere in the park. The City commented on this issue by saying that SHRA is in process of establishing a large community garden at 14th Ave and Martin Luther King Blvd. This pilot program within Oak Park provides many more plots than McClatchy could accommodate. There may be space in the future for a small community garden area added to McClatchy.
- The skate park should be something out of the ordinary. City agreed.
- Two tennis courts are desirable in the park. City will look at the options.
- There needs to be a significant feature at the center of the community circle.
- Can the farmer's market and the stage area be integrated? The City explained that these 2 items will be adjacent but the uses are so distinct that making one space would not benefit either activity.

- Senior amenities need to be included in the design of the park. City responded with fitness stations will be added.

*These meeting notes represent the understanding of the preparer.
Please feel free to provide additional comments to this document in the form of written response.*

End of Meeting Notes