Your Parks, Your Future
Advisory Committee Meeting #3
ACTION MINUTES

Date: February 20, 2019

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Location: City Hall, 3rd floor conference room

Project Background: The City has initiated a planning process to update the Civic Park & Heather Farm master plans and assess the future programming of Heather Farm Community Center, Clarke Swim Center, Civic Park Community Center and Shadelands Art Center. This may include the rebuilding and/or consolidation of the community centers and swim center. The purpose is to ensure that these parks, community facilities, and programs best serve the community 10 – 15 years into the future. Members of the Advisory Committee have been selected by the City Council.

Meeting Objective:

The objective of the meeting is to provide an overview of and receive feedback on the three program recommendations. These recommendations will be used to determine the facility space needs presented at the March 6 meeting.

Agenda Items:

A. Call to Order
B. Approve Advisory Committee Meeting #2 Action Minutes
C. Welcome and introductions
D. Meeting Agenda and Objective: Feedback on program recommendations
E. Public Comment Period A – Items not on the Agenda
   One speaker from the Audubon Society expressed concerns about recreational drone use in parks. She urged the City to address this with a policy.
F. Brief Recap of AC Meeting #2
G. Presentation: Overview of Programming Recommendations
   The project team presented a summary of the three programming recommendations:
   a. Recommendation #1: Programs to Enhance / Expand
   b. Recommendation #2: Programs to Maintain
   c. Recommendation #3: Programs to Monitor

   The Advisory Committee (AC) members asked a few clarifying questions during the presentation.

H. Public Comment Period B – Items on the Agenda
   No members of the public spoke at this time.
I. Discussion: Programming Recommendations

The project team facilitated a discussion with the AC regarding the programming recommendations presentation, and organized the discussion based on the following questions:

a. *Are the three Program Recommendations clear?*

The following items were clarified based on committee questions:

- All departmental programs are covered by the 3 categories of recommendations
- City staff regularly monitor and review whether any programs should be expanded or canceled using the cost recovery policy targets
- A clarification that most rooms at the facilities currently, and will continue to share programs and are multi-use, including most of the preschool rooms
- Each program or class is not synonymous with an equivalent space allocation in the facilities since most programs will share spaces. Thereforem the specific numbers of programs does not specifically impact the facility recommendations.
- The intent of the "Monitor" category is not a recommendation for program reductions

b. *Do you support the three Program Recommendations? Are the right program categories listed for each Program Recommendation?*

The following concerns were expressed by one or more committee members:

- There was a need to see facility recommendations before weighing in on program recommendations
- Some expected recommendations for reductions in programs, though others expressed that it was a testament to the success and quality of the programs that none were identified to be reduced
- A concern regarding the potential for specific user groups to influence community priorities for future programming. The project team reminded the committee of the broad outreach strategy that has been employed, including engagement tools such as the numerous Pop-up events, open house workshop, stakeholder meetings, and an online survey with 1200 participants intended to reach the entire community.
- A concern about planning for programs at new facilities when the programs are being monitored on a regular basis

The following clarifications or requests for additional information were sought by one or more members:

- A request for a list of programming trends to watch
- A request for an explanation of the process by which programs were assigned into the three recommendations of "Enhance", "Maintain" and "Monitor"
- It was agreed that recommendations for the Clarke Swim Center should be consistent with the 2017 City Council direction

J. Next Steps:
Advisory Committee Meeting #4- March 6, 2019

Date: March 6, 2019

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Location: City Hall, 3rd floor conference room

Project Background: The City has initiated a planning process to update the Civic Park & Heather Farm master plans and assess the future programming of Heather Farm Community Center, Clarke Swim Center, Civic Park Community Center and Shadelands Art Center. This may include the rebuilding and/or consolidation of the community centers and swim center. The purpose is to ensure that these parks, community facilities, and programs best serve the community 10 – 15 years into the future. Members of the Advisory Committee have been selected by the City Council.

Agenda Items:

A. Call to Order
B. Welcome and introductions
C. Meeting Agenda and Objective: Feedback on the facility scenarios for Civic Park, Heather Farm Park (including Clarke Swim Center), and Shadelands Art Center.
D. Public Comment (Items not on the Agenda)
   No members of the public spoke on this item.
E. Brief Recap of AC Meeting #3
F. Presentation of Facility Needs Analysis
G. Public Comment Period B (Items on the Agenda)

   A representative from Walnut Creek Aquatic Foundation and a member of the public both expressed their support for future aquatics at Heather Farm.

H. Discussion: Facility Needs Analysis
   The project team facilitated a discussion with the Advisory Committee (AC) members regarding the facilities at the three project sites.
   a. General Feedback
      i. Framework is clear
      ii. Like the three-scenario approach of: Optimized, hybrid, and status quo
      iii. Costs and design would ultimately influence opinions on the scenarios
      iv. Consolidation of buildings is preferred for efficiency, cost effectiveness and to maximize park green space
      v. Be sure to "right-size" the rooms and spaces in the future buildings
   b. Civic Park Feedback. The committee members generally agreed on the following:
      i. Preference for consolidating and moving the arts programs to Shadelands
      ii. Five of the seven committee members support the optimized scenario; one of those members also supported B; one member supported B because of a dislike

of the 2-story assumed in Scenario A, and another member supported an alternative to Scenario B where the Assembly Hall is rebuilt and only the Community Center is updated

   iii. Preference for 2-story buildings to maximize allocation of outdoor parkland (with exception of one member who had concerns regarding aesthetics of a 2-story building)

   iv. Support for flexible space in the buildings

c. Heather Farm Feedback. The committee members generally agreed on the following (except where noted):
   i. Like consolidation of the bathhouse and community center buildings
   ii. Support moving the arts programs to Shadelands
   iii. Heather Farm is highest priority of the three park sites
   iv. Support for the optimized scenario
   v. One member suggested an alternative sized pool (25m x 35yard) with more lanes
   vi. One member would like to see an indoor pool concept considered
   vii. One member expressed concern about the viability of consolidating Clarke Swim Center and the Community Center given the limitations on parking

d. Shadelands Feedback
   i. Support for consolidation of the industrial arts at Shadelands
   ii. Shadelands was considered to be the lowest priority of the three sites
   iii. Support for both Scenarios A and B, with consideration for a phased approach from B in nearer term to A in longer term

e. Programming follow-up. The committee members requested the project team bring a clear explanation of how the program categories were assigned to the three different recommendations of: "Enhance/expand", "Maintain" and "Monitor".

I. Next Steps:
   Advisory Committee Meeting #5- April 10, 2019