

Battle Bend Neighborhood Park Improvements
Saturday, April 4, 2015
Meeting #2

The second Battle Bend meeting was held on Saturday, April 4, 2015, at the South Austin Recreation Center with 6 residents, City Council Member, District 2, Sabino "Pio" Renteria and 4 staff members from the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) attending. The meeting began with Marty Stump and John McKennis reviewing the information from the first meeting to ensure that all the new attendees were up to date on what was previously discussed. (For the complete meeting minutes from Meeting #1 please visit the [Battle Bend Neighborhood Park Project page](#).)

- Conceptual Vision image was provided of the park (will be uploaded the week of April 6th)
- Playground
 - Is funded (bond and park land dedication fees)
- Community Shelter
- Trail/Path
- Connecting pathways through park that are ADA accessible
- Picnic tables
- Future play field
- Basketball Court
- Handicap parking lot near basketball court

New Discussion:

- Open space
 - For flying kites, throwing Frisbees and playing in general
- Pathway
 - For walkers, joggers and runners
 - Mileage markers along path to show how far residents have walked
 - Concrete path was highly favored
 - Consensus was that until the concrete path was available to the park (different phase of improvements), the residents would like to see if a gravel path could be put around the park
 - PARC will check into the cost of a gravel path and put that as an option in Phase I for the residents to consider
- ADA Accessibility
 - Highly favored, along with handicapped parking near the basketball courts
 - John McKennis will speak with transportation for details on viability of new handicapped parking
- Lighting
 - The corners of the park are too dark for residents to feel safe walking after dark
 - John McKennis to discuss with Austin Energy and see what options there are
 - Would like to ensure that "dark sky" lighting is put into the park if new lighting goes in
- Benches
 - Random benches facing away from the streets
 - Under trees for shade

- Along path
- Poop-Scoop Bags
 - Add an additional station on the other side of the park along with a trash can
- Skate spot in corner away from homes/behind businesses
- Playscape
 - Residents would like both a toddler area (ages 2-5) and an older kids area (ages 5 – 12)
 - Would like these sections to be separated enough that the younger children can't get onto the older kids play features
 - Physical Activity
 - Anything for the kids to get physical activity such as climbing, hanging, swinging, running, pulling and sliding
 - Climbing net was a popular idea
 - GaGa Ball (future potential)
- Parks Build Communities \$20,000 Grant Contest
 - Idea to place signs in the park to alert people to vote
 - PARD advised it would look into signage/costs
 - Council Member Renteria advised that if PARD could not afford the signs to have the residents order them and send his office the invoice
 - Shelley Parks advised that she would send information on the contest to all attendees on Monday

Discussed Priorities (in order of importance for the attendees of meeting #2):

- Playscape
- Trail
- Fitness
 - Children
 - Adults
- Pavilion / Community Shelter
 - Ziola Vega mentioned at the first meeting that she was interested in applying for a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation for the pavilion
 - Lighting at the pavilion was discussed
 - Concerns regarding use of the pavilion if lighted throughout the night (after park curfew hours) was brought up by residents and staff
 - Options will be considered

Next Steps:

Create plans (2-3 month process) - PARD

Make final selection on amenities – Residents & PARD

Permitting - PARD

Installation - PARD

Goal: To have Phase I completed by end of summer 2015