

Givens Park Phase 1 – Community Engagement Notes

SHEET #2 - Playground Style

- ADA accessible play areas. See-saws or something disabled and able children can play together. Pavilion at Nature Play Area (Phase 2) for birthday parties separate from adult use zones. Covered Pavilion at historic picnic areas. Restrooms further north by rec center area
- Picnic table or seating around the play areas
- Maybe add arch swing somewhere
- Clean up the creek, check with watershed
- Likes the climbing style, monkey bar or ropes
- Shade option is nice
- Additional places to sit
- Some play for adult use or interaction

SHEET #3 – Stage, Gathering Areas and Seating

- Some play for adult use or interaction
- Shade is important
- Incorporate GSI. Seating around greenspace but no mosquitos
- Lighting to jog in at night/morning
- Shade for seating
- Seat wall because it has light inside
- Shade for stage
- Combo Stage for large and small space
- Trees as shade, Open plaza with shade
- Not covered, group seems bulky
- Trees in plaza to see current stage in background
- Shade is most important
- Grassy area NOT to be walked on / get muddy
- Space for kids to run but near parents at the table
- Clean food access. Open for gathering. Covered from elements
- Likes elevated stage but as backdrop for presence
- Likes seatwall as border around stage, delineates barrier, seating as well
- Likes character of current stage cover (Stands out)

SHEET #4 - Restroom

- Restroom closer to rec center
- Would like restroom near pool
- Like split face , for murals
- Shade for seating
- Called Gazebo at Givens Park

SHEET #5 – Tennis Court & Futsal a.k.a (Mini pitch soccer)

-Provide space for bike polo. Bumpers or skirting at fence to keep balls in. currently bring their own equipment to set up games at tennis court.

Feedback given to Lee Sherman of the Austin Watershed Department

I wanted to follow up with you after the public meeting. I wrote down the following items – some items were from citizens asking about the courts and others regarded the stormwater control measure we are proposing:

1. I forgot his name but I think you saw the gentleman who made a bee-line for me to discuss water quality. He expressed:
 - a. Strong desire for removable dividers (maybe 3' tall and easy to remove) between the sport courts to provide versatility. I understand there are safety issues with this but wanted to pass it along as he felt strongly about it.
 - b. He really liked the NBA regulation lines on the basketball courts and thought that would make them more desirable for play.
 - c. He expressed strong support for our water quality control and felt it would be good to have mostly turf grass that can be accessed for recreation and have maybe taller plants attracting butterflies and such on the perimeter.
2. Angela and Larry
 - a. Angela was one of the “five sisters” (but I don’t know that story – could you share?).
 - b. She said there was a large tree growing in the creek near the park entrance and she thought that might be blocking flows and causing flood issues. I expressed to her that WPD has some responsibility if this is indeed blocking

- conveyance and causing flood issues. I am planning to pass this along as a citizen concern to field ops.
- c. Generally Larry and Angela shared the concern about trees growing within the creek. They feel strongly about keeping the creek channel clean and maintained so that water flows freely. They said there used to be a park caretaker that took care of this in the past.
 - d. Larry thought it would be good to have a boardwalk that goes over the tall plants associated with our stormwater control measure. This would allow people to interact with the facility even with the tall plants and see the butterflies and maybe have a place for quiet time. I like this idea.
3. One gentleman was interested in building more of a community resource center as opposed to a purely recreational facility. We discussed whether stormwater might be used to irrigation a community garden. I talked with him about WQ standards for this type of use and I've heard from our water utility that stormwater runoff from streets and such is not sufficient for food gardens but that roof runoff is. I discussed with him that an existing rainwater harvesting system is connected to Givens and perhaps this could be an irrigation source for a community garden. I also encouraged him to consider planting perennial plants that produce food every year rather than annual crops that require lots of maintenance over time. WPD might be able to help with rehabbing or converting the rainwater harvesting system into something that would better serve this purpose.
4. Two ladies spoke with me and expressed strong support for the water quality control. One of them wanted something with shorter vegetation to make it accessible (at least a trail) and also due to safety concerns – she wants to be able to see and feel safe when she works out or walks with her dog in this area. The second lady desired tall plants only (rather than turf) because she felt there was lots of turf around and she really prioritized reconnecting people with nature. She liked the idea of the boardwalk that Larry had.

I spoke with several other people but don't have their names. Everybody was good with the water quality control and the majority expressed desire for sod and some taller plants with flowers that attracted butterflies. Perhaps we could add some shrubs and trees around the perimeter of the pond that provide this service – and maybe even some flowering plants that also produce food (thornless blackberries, Mexican Plum, pecan, loquat, etc.). Perhaps we could irrigate these with the existing (or improved) rainwater harvesting system associated with the rec center.