



Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan Update

**Notes from November 14, 2007 Recreation and Parks
Commission Kickoff meeting
Presentation by Nancy Kaiser, Senior Project Manager
with Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc.
“MIG”**

PRESENTATION

Nancy Kaiser provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan Update (see website for a copy of the PowerPoint). Highlights of the presentation included:

Davis residents believe strongly that parks, greenbelts and recreation experiences are very important to a high quality of life.

The update process will include:

- Collecting and analyzing data
- Assessing community needs
- Community involvement in many ways
- Updating the Plan
- Implementing the Plan

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Beckman asked the consultant how the plan addresses all the community needs not just the most vocal members of the community.

MIG- the comments of the most vocal are cross referenced to the statistically valid survey, national statistics and trends so the Commission has the ability to discern how the comments relate to the whole community.

Commissioner Russell asked if survey respondents taking the web survey can take the survey more than once?

MIG – yes they can so it will be important to compare the responses with the statistically valid survey if necessary.

Commissioner Russell asked if the previous plan, statistics and background are being taken into consideration?

MIG – yes the information is being used as a basis since this project is an update of that information.

Commissioner Russell and Slaton asked if the process only involved sports groups or other groups?

MIG and city staff responded that the process should include a broad range of citizens and groups that use any fields or facilities, public or private. Additionally the process should include anyone who participates in recreational programs. If there are names and groups missing from the list we are asking for the public's assistance in identifying them and adding



them to our notification list and hopefully get them engaged. Names should be sent to Anne Brunette at 23 Russell Blvd or abrunette@cityofdavis.org or phone 757-5626.

Commissioner Bartolic asked if access to programs/facilities will be addressed especially as it relates to private providers.

MIG stated that private providers will be taken into account.

Councilmember Heystek asked how open space and habitat access will be addressed?

MIG noted that the survey results clearly show that Davis strongly values open space. These opinions will be matched up with existing policies and if necessary new policies might be developed. For example, the new policies might address what open space areas should or should not be accessible to the public to protect the natural resources.

Councilmember Heystek asked how we get teens involved in this process?

MIG stated that we will look at mechanisms to include their opinions.

Commissioner Sabatier asked for a clarification on if the plan only addresses outdoor spaces or buildings as well?

MIG clarified that the update is comprehensive and will include building facilities.

Commissioner Sabatier asked if the process could include a survey of teens or focus groups with teens that gets to the question of “you say you’re bored, what do you want?”

MIG will work with staff to see how this could be addressed.

Commissioner Sabatier wanted to know if the feed back regarding biking delineated between commuters vs. recreation users? She wanted to make sure the bike commuter needs did not overshadow park and facilities needs as part of this process. Bike commuter needs are more transportation driven. She suggested adding the Davis Bike Club to the notification list.

MIG indicated that the surveys should be able to separate commuters from recreation.

Commissioner Sabatier asked if part of the input included asking users what they like and why?

MIG indicated that the intercept surveys were asking this question.

Commissioner Sabatier asked if there would be more input before a draft plan was presented to the Commission?

MIG stated that there would be more input.

Commissioners Bartolic and Sabatier asked about how the commission, public and user groups could be more involved especially in the prioritizing and development of options/recommendations. They would like to see an opportunity for the various user groups to try to match up all the community needs in an open forum.

MIG/Staff – MIG and staff will get together and develop some options for involvement that could be more inclusive. MIG mentioned another city where Commissioners were trained and conducted intercept surveys as an example.

PUBLIC COMMENTS



Kemble Pope stated that he is on the Open Space Commission but is not officially representing the Commission at this meeting. He would like to see open space opportunities integrated into the plan. Many open space opportunities are not currently accessible for the public. He mentioned that city GIS staff has mapped the resources for on line use. He felt that it was important for the Commission to be involved in the philosophical discussion. He felt that there should be a goal of getting more people taking advantage of open space opportunities. He would also like to see those that are not currently using parks and open space get more involved in the process so we can understand why and address their needs.

Regina Patton was at the meeting representing D-Dog. She would like to see the update address more than youth sports and see other user needs being met. She wondered how financing would be factored into the update so we don't just end up with a plan filled with fluff that's not implemented.

Greg Stoner asked what groups have been identified so far and how many residents received the phone survey?

MIG/Staff – the user group listing is in the staff report and we realize that there are many groups missing. We are asking for everyone's help in identifying those groups and bring them into the process. The phone survey was conducted by a professional survey firm and included 400 random dial phone calls.

Bruce Zenner with Davis Little League suggested that maybe we could use newspaper articles to get other groups involved.

Rex Berry asked what mechanism would be used to contact the groups and when will that happen?

MIG/Staff said that contacts would be via mail, phone and possibly meeting. If the group has not heard from someone by the first week in January contact Anne Brunette.

Bruce Zenner with Davis Little League supported Commissioner Sabatier's comments that all the data be shared in open meetings and engage everyone in developing the recommendations. He asked what the relationship of this project was to the sports park and cosponsorship process. He noted that Davis Little League needs space for practices and have outgrown their facility. He suggested that maybe there could be coordination of facilities use with the schools.

Staff explained that the Council directed staff to talk to property owners closer to the city limits to see if there could be viable options to the Howat sport complex location. Staff intends to report back to Council in early January.

Ira Bray would like to see the update include a focus on developing policies regarding the construction of new or expansion of existing buildings on park land. He would like the policy to consider the impact of buildings on parks and purchase new land for buildings rather than take away park space. He would like the plan to address the needs for parks in new neighborhood and higher density areas which seem underserved.

Jamie Wright wanted to know how UC Davis would be factored into the report. He suggested that there may be opportunities to work with UC Davis to access facilities and relieve pressure

on city facilities. He would like to see the plan create seamless connections between the city and UC Davis like the Arboretum that all community members and visitors can enjoy.

Staff will be contacting UC Davis to talk about involving them in the process.

Heidi Holmblad representing Aqua Starz said they need space for practices and shows. As a south Davis resident she suggested that south Davis could be a focus group.

COMMISSIONER WRAP UP

Councilmember Heystek remarked that the Council respects and trust the recommendations of the Commission. He would like to see more community involvement and more youth involvement. He wants to know why youth don't use the city facilities and programs and feels high density areas are underserved.

Commissioner Bartolic was encouraged with the diversity and number of groups that will be involved.

Commissioner Russell noted that from the previous Master Plan a Community Center was lacking and he is interested to see how this fits into the discussion of needs. He will be interested in identifying the missing user groups and any other groups.

Commissioner Sabatier wondered how we incorporate UC Davis in our work. She will be interested in seeing the financial constraints.

Commissioners suggested that fly fishermen, Child Development Centers (CDC), girl scouts, boy scouts and Aeromodelers be added to the list.