PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Public Hearing on Fulton Park Master Plan Amendment
Wednesday, December 1, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.
WebEx Meeting
MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Shannon Crouthers, Chair, Rick Eriksen, Marty Tessmer, Bryan Taylor, Angela Zbikowski, Mike Ely, Andre Hickman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bobbie McClure, Sydney Futrell

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Katie Thompson, Senior Landscape Architect; Tracy Young, Manager of PROS Planning, Design and Construction; Adriana Valles Morales, Spanish Translator; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

OTHERS ABSENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER: By Parks & Recreation Board Chair Crouthers at 5:05 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS: None

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The Agenda for the December 1, 2021 meeting was approved after a motion was made by Member Zbikowski and seconded by Member Tessmer.

IV. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES – The November 3, 2021 meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member Tessmer and seconded by Member Zbikowski.

V. PUBLIC HEARING: Fulton Park Master Plan Amendment
A. Katie Thompson, Senior Landscape Architect, Planning, Design & Construction, provided a slideshow presentation which included public process, site history, features and site plan.
   • Fulton park is a neighborhood park currently serving over 5,300 citizens. The land is owned by Aurora Public Schools and City of Aurora has a lease agreement to build and maintain a park on the land.
   • Fulton park was identified as a priority for renovations. The playground facilities were last updated in the 1980’s and the tennis and basketball courts last updated in the 1990’s.
   • The park was selected to include an inclusive playground. This will allow children of all abilities to play in the same place on the same equipment.
   • The proposed master plan amendment includes: A concrete loop walk around the perimeter of the park connecting all amenities; an accessible walkway to the baseball field; outdoor seating/classroom area with boulders and crusher fines around it; a buffer consisting of native grass turf conversion area running between the park and the alley; an inclusive playground and play structure to

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replace baseball field #2; accessible parking; conversion of tennis courts into 4 pickleball courts; and a fitness zone.

B. Follow-up Questions from Board
- Member Eriksen asked how many parking spaces will be provided. Katie responded 6 to 8 spaces.
- Member Tessmer asked if there will be any climbing equipment. Katie responded Fulton Elementary School has several climbers and the park playground is focused on inclusivity.
- Member Tessmer asked what the width of the walkways will be. Katie responded 10 feet for areas where maintenance vehicles need to access and 8 feet for all other areas.
- Member Eriksen asked if staff have thought of installing shade screens over play structures. Katie responded the playground will be partially shaded.
- Member Hickman asked if staff have given thought to a communication board for non-verbal children to communicate which equipment they would like to play on. Katie responded not at this time.
- Member Tessmer asked if staff anticipates the ballfield being programmed for league play. Katie responded staff does not anticipate programming the ballfield.
- Member Crouthers asked if there will be security lighting positioned within the park. Katie responded generally, lighting is installed near playgrounds and shade structures. There is existing lighting in the park as well as street lighting.
- Member Crouthers asked if the school wanted to keep the soccer field. Katie responded yes and there is sufficient room between the field and the playground for spectators.
- Member Crouthers asked when does staff anticipate breaking ground on the project. Katie responded spring of 2022 with park grand opening in fall of 2022.

C. Chairperson Crouthers Opened the Public Hearing
- Comments/Questions from the Public:
  a. Can a security call box be installed in the park? Call boxes are not installed in parks. Most park visitors carry cellphones which is a more efficient method to contact police authorities.
  b. Will there be lighting along the concrete path in the park? Budget constraints do not allow for path to be fully lighted however, there will be security lighting near the playground and shade structure.
  c. How many parking spots will be designated as handicapped? At least half of the new parking spaces will be accessible.
  d. Could a bench or two be installed along the perimeter path? Yes
  e. Will trees be planted for shade? Yes, additional trees will be planted around the playground.

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f. Can’t the fitness equipment be spaced along the perimeter path? Consideration will be given.
g. Can additional pet waste stations be installed in the park? Yes

Chairperson Crouthers announced the close of the Public Hearing.

D. Board Motion and Vote on Master Plan Amendment

Chairperson Crouthers requested a motion be made by board members to vote on the approval of the Amendment of Fulton Park Master Plan. Member Ericksen made first motion to approve and Member Ely seconded the motion. The motion was voted on by all board members and approved unanimously.

VI. PROS UPDATES – Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department

- Special Events and Marketing staff will be handing out free luminaries in various parks.
- Holiday Tree Lighting event is December 7th outside the Aurora Municipal Center.
- Supply chain issues continue to impact repair parts shipments. The zipline at Tierra park has been repaired. Brackets for tire swings in parks have been ordered and are supposed be delivered by end of next week. She asked members to continue to report maintenance and repair issues as they arise.

VII. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS

- Member Ericksen commended staff for keeping up on park maintenance and repair issues despite supply chain issues.
- Members Crouthers remarked she appreciates the smaller PROS pop-up events in various parks this year.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

A. January 5, 2022 - CANCELLED
B. February 2, 2022 - Webex

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Member Zbikowski made a motion to adjourn and Member Tessmer seconded. The motion passed at 6:22 p.m.

Shannon Crouthers, Chair;
Parks & Recreation Board

ADOPTED _____________________________