

City of Hillsboro Parks and Recreation Parks System Planning Project Community Advisory Committee: Meeting 3 - Visioning November 20, 2023

Notes compiled by Jamie Stamberger

ATTENDEES:

- 10 CAC members: Alma, Michael, Trang, Krishna, Lev, Elizaveta, Shan, Tina, Yasameen/Izzy, Nezar
- Ryan Stee (City of Hillsboro) – Presenter, White Board support
- Ping Khaw (PKS International/CELS) – Observer
- HK Cheng (PKS International/CELS) – Zoom technical operations and support
- Deb Meihoff (Communitas) – Observer, White Board support, City of Hillsboro Team
- Jamie Stamberger (Stamberger Outreach Consulting) – Meeting Facilitator

SUMMARY:

This was the third meeting of the group. This session included a short presentation by Jamie Stamberger on high-level results from the community survey and some of the focus groups and time for feedback from the CAC on the results. Quite a few CAC members felt the results matched their own experiences. The Hillsboro team will share the detailed survey and focus group results with the CAC and will post them to the city's website. The remainder of the session included a visioning exercise in which CAC members developed short-term (15 years), medium term, and long-term (50+ years) vision statements for Hillsboro Parks and Recreation based on what we've heard from engagement and their own experiences. This activity included time to work alone to craft statements, discussion in groups of two, and sharing out statements either through the chat or aloud. Deb and Ryan placed the vision statements into a Zoom white board and sorted them into themes. The white board was saved and is included in the notes for this session. Quite a few in the group appreciated this exercise. The meeting concluded with an update on overall project next steps from Ryan, including an invitation to attend the Community Open House, which will be held in January, details forthcoming. The next CAC meeting is likely to be scheduled for January 2024.

GROUP AGREEMENTS: Group still agreed to the agreements used in prior meetings. Ryan reiterated the importance of the CAC members' perspectives and that it's OK if the perspectives don't agree.

AGENDA AND NOTES:

5:40-5:45: Presentation: Reminder summary of what parks provides

5:45-5:55: Presentation: High-level results of survey and focus groups

5:55-6:10: Discussion

- Do these results match your experience? What is surprising? What is not surprising?

Feedback from CAC members:

Tina – Similar with what was discussed in Vietnamese meeting, appreciate that all concerns and voices have been captured, all we have been talking about and looking forward, more classes for kids and seniors, and security concerns.

Alma - Does match with my experience if you qualify for the discount to access one of the parks and recreation programs close to my home, you can go and do exercises and use the facility, but if you don't qualify for that program, it gets to be super expensive, and a family, or at least my family, we are not able to afford those prices. Yes, lately I've been seeing a little bit more houseless people around the parks.

Note from Ryan on listening session with houseless residents – We have reached out to project homeless connect, had listening session last week to get their perspective on things and I do think there's some understanding, so we're going to look at that and think about: how do we create spaces and rectify those issues? We don't know yet. Just to let you know that's a session we've done and not included in this [today's presentation]. There is a definite understanding that there is discomfort within the community and discussion of ways to mitigate that.

Yasameen – I'm so happy to hear our voices and to respond our dreams. I'm one of the families I'd like to have the indoor activities especially in Oregon, and always raining, and also for the families parties and religion parties very respectable and makes us [feel] that we are welcome in this country, and we are very important to come here, so thank you for these headlines.

Note from Ryan about lighting in parks – Lighting parks after dark is not common practice, but Hillsboro is considering it due to a lot of requests and realizing it will increase access to parks to have them available after dark.

Trang - Pretty consistent. There has been a lot of homeless and drug use issues in Portland and I am hoping they will not spread down here (Krishna agreed)

Lev and Elizaveta – agree about need and requests for covered spaces

Krishna – requests an indoor track

6:10-6:15: Break (5 minutes)

6:15-6:25 Instructions for group visioning session

Over the rest of the meeting, we'd like to ask each of you to create two vision statements for Hillsboro Parks and Recreation (we'll give examples):

1. A short-term vision statement (15 years/our generation)
 2. A long-term vision statement (50+ years/future generations).
- Individual work for 10 minutes
 - In pairs to discuss for 10 minutes (break out rooms)
 - Individual work for another 10 minutes
 - Share with group, Deb will add to a white board and sort (30 minutes)

As you work on your vision statements, please consider these questions:

- What services and amenities will parks provide?
- What role will parks and recreation (and the parks department) play in the community?
- What is the vision for equity in Parks and recreation in Hillsboro?]

These vision statements will be used to help guide the city team and consultants as they craft vision statements to include in the Parks and Recreation System Plan.

6:25-7:00: Visioning activity

7:00-7:15: White board sorting, reflections on activity and themes

- What do you see as the themes as we look at this white board?
- What else would you like to say about the short term and long-term vision for Hillsboro Parks and recreation?
- What was this activity like for you?

Some themes:

- *using parks after hours*
- *equal access for access to safety to pedestrians, amenities, local parks, people of different incomes needing better access*Nezar – especially the seniors, the seniors need more attention in the parks, special places, maybe provide them meals, medication, this is very important, maybe we can put special tracks for moving for them in the parks for those how cannot walk, because I am a senior I feel that.

Yasameen – [in our breakout group] we talked about seniors, future, parks and I talked about every time I take my boys to the park, I can smell the weed everywhere, so it's, for me, it's scary because the weed makes you a different person sometimes, so I'm not against the smoking [cigarettes], but the weed or drugs it's not popular with the kids and the parents, not make you safe. I'm not feeling safe if I smell these things, because I don't know who's smoking and what he's going to do, maybe out of his mind. The other thing we talked about indoor activities because this is my dreams and boys' dreams because every time, they like to play soccer when

it's raining, they are going to play soccer in the garage and this is a big problem for me, so I like to have something indoor. There is one in Beaverton, we went and we rennet, this is our dream and hopefully it's going to come true, and they are going to think about it especially in Oregon. We talked about seniors, we need more [for seniors] because they work hard for a long time so they need to be spoiled, of course. They are special for everything, free meals or something, special treatment they need to be treated like they are special, their own building or park for them, they like to communicate with the same age same ideas, same songs.

Elizaveta – I'm 25 years old. I am really excited about the facilities at Hidden Creek. I wanted so much to climb and use it as a child [would], so I think more playgrounds for adults will be so useful.

Lev – I can see that there really are many in short-term about classes classes, availability and their prices, everyhing that is really important to people.

7:30: THANK, ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETING, ADJOURN