Hanscom Park: Public Meeting

Green Infrastructure & Proposed Park Plans

October 13, 2015

* =Comment from public (person’s name if known)
  + =Response from Pat/Kim/Jim/John
* There is no parking for the amphitheater.
  + Parking on park avenue, near a bus line… join a group to continue the conversation and make comments or improvements. (Pat/Kim)
* Maintenance Issues: (Carl)
  + Budget cuts have decreased personnel. Residents have a place to provide cleanup.
* Cement pathways or asphalt?
  + We don’t do asphalt. Will be concrete, 6’ wide. Asphalt will be replaced. (Pat)
* We should reach out to council person: Chris Jerram (present) and Mayor about funding maintenance.
  + If you are passionate about the parks, come to the budget meeting (Chris). In July. Next summer testify for priorities. Years before the forestry department was cut, no equipment. Easy target for budget cuts. The library activists were very vocal, so if this is something you want to see improved, you need to testify. No one testified on behalf of park maintenance.
* Do you have an estimate of how many trees and sizes of trees to be removed? What’s the environmental impact?
  + We won’t need to take out any healthy trees. Some are malformed, end of lives, some trimmed by OPPD. Will be planting more than are removed. (Pat)
* Applause for taking out one of the unused tennis courts and putting in a basketball court.
* Cost. How much would be needed for the ideal park?
  + Anything beyond the playground and some of the new walkways will be need to be fundraised for. May be able to do the grading for the amphitheater. Will need to prioritize even the smallest changes. (Pat)
* Going to spend this money to do the park, but then there are maintenance issues, why not include the maintenance in the park?
  + The general budget pays for maintenance, salaries, and equipment. (Pat)
  + Park improvement funds, which can be spent on things that will last 15 years. (Pat)
* Are there any things that we can do to do maintenance?
  + Absolutely. Join the HPRteam and we will be put together with the maintenance. Perhaps not power tools. Volunteer coordinator can help organize days to clear up underbrush. (Pat)
* Why would I help with the park when I don’t see things for myself?
  + I hope that there is something here that you would use. (Pat)
  + Don’t complain about what we’re not getting and be grateful for what we ARE getting.
  + We are doing what we can with a small amount of money. (Pat)
* Dog Parks. We see people from all over the city and the communities come to spend their time and their money.

Green Infrastructure

* Who needs to manage the drain?
  + Automated with connections to NWS
* Could the lagoon be a cascade?
  + Needs to be about 100-150 feet apart (John)
* Is this federally funded, how much is city mandated? How is this fitting in?
  + (Jim) The federal mandate is the 2 billion dollar program. We did a study a couple years ago to verify this program. This was identified as a place for green infrastructure. We have set aside 2 million dollars for the park, to move water to the park, build the system, etc. Due to construction boom with under budgeted projects… (Jim)
* How will priorities be made on each of these programs? Is there an opinion on which would be most beneficial?
  + Would run the benefit from the CSO program and identify if Hanscom Park would be a priority for the city. There is flexibility for the program. Will work with the Park to identify the priorities. (Jim)
* No early best guess as to what would be created?
  + We do not have any costs plans (john)
* The reason not to do it would come down to dollars and cents?
  + The 2 billion dollar budget must be evaluated as a whole.(Jim)
* What is the agreement with the future plans of the CSO projects, what is the deal with the Parks program? Can we use those spaces?
  + Go to Elmwood Park. Parks used to mow every 5-7 days, with no walkers due to high grass, next to golf course, etc. Now, longer grass, rain gardens, visually it is more attractive and saves money on maintenance. (John)
* What is the CSO’s legal agreement?
  + We do not see this as an agreement. It is a capital improvement program. We are building a facility there to serve its purpose (Jim)
  + Nothing scary will be done to dissuade you from experiencing the park. Oldest park, designed by most famous landscape architects, we won’t do anything wrong in this project? (John)
* Will the water be cleaner in the lagoon?
  + Well it won’t be any worse. It will have the same storm water that is getting cleaned up before it gets there. (Steve?)
* How does this jive with the other public parks?
  + This project is faster. Spring lake has been a project for 3 years, but much simpler than Sprint Lake. (John)