

Parks Public Forum Resident Requests

Community Park, July 8, 2013

Manley Olson

Manley Olson has lived in Falcon Heights for over 30 years. He is an avid park walker. He walks the park daily and is a huge bird watcher. He asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to figure out what the park is supposed to be. What is the purpose? There should be a guiding theme, a lay out, principles that should help guide the commission.

Manley's two complaints:

1. Where's the pond? The pond is the biggest attraction to birds and now cattails and willows are encroaching everywhere. Why does the city not burn the prairie? Why doesn't have city cut down the small trees?
2. We need low hoops for kids to play basketball. He constantly seems these poor kids trying to make the basket but the hoops are far too tall.

Curtiss Field, August 12, 2013

Jane and Bill Frische	1512 California
Denise	1530 W. Iowa
Jim	1540 W. Iowa
Mary McGuire	1529 W. Iowa
James and Deb Wiswell	1543 W. Iowa
Nancy	1537 W. Iowa
Mary Z	1536 W. Idaho
Shawn Hurbert	1525 W. Iowa
Carol and Jim Kilbright	1522 W. Idaho
Kari	1534 W. Iowa

Denise- There used to be trees boarding Snelling Avenue that helped sound proof Snelling Ave. There should be a fence around the pond.

Bill Frische- What is pond supposed to do? It has always flooded.

Deb Wiswell- There should be a fence around Curtiss Field pond, it's a liability with small kids

Kara- Why was the back stop taken out. Kids used to be able to play tball but now they can't. My 13 year old is unable to come down to the park if there are too many kids unsupervised. We've seen drugs and alcohol down here.

Deb Wiswell- The City should consider the space of the park and the noise it creates for neighbors.

Shawn- There should be more green space per ratio of units. It's too small of foot print. The City should think about the impact and use of the park. We should consider people per park.

Kari- This should be considered a toddler park, why is there a basketball court.

Deb Wiswell- Kids are coming down here unsupervised.

Jim- It's hard to back out of my driveway because of the increased traffic and kids.

Nancy- It would be hard to eliminate the basketball court, hockey rink and playground. This park is ever changing and its different from how it used to be. I used to be on the Parks and Rec Commission 20 years ago as the chair. We thought a basketball court was a good idea at the time. We used to have Job Corp issues but since we complained Job Corp stepped up and fixed the issues. The park should be closed earlier except with the exception of hockey.

Deb W- The City should be responsible like Job Corp has been.

Mary Z- We should have a backstop and soccer goals at the park.

Denise- The basketball hoop should be lower and then the hoops should be locked up after a certain hour.

Shawn- We have seven kids under the ages of 10 on W. Iowa Ave. The playground should be a toddler park.

Kari- Supervision is needed during prime hours, after school. Like hockey attendants. Also, the police should be here more. There is drug and alcohol use. There should be street lights on Snelling.

Shawn- Can we have more signage?

Deb Wiswell- Cars have their stereos blasting. I called police and they said kids like to have fun. What is the parks purpose? Kids can do whatever they want. Garbage is sitting next to garbage cans. What are the rules. What is the city noise ordinance.

Kari- We should have structured activities. An attendant should be up here to help. This population is completely unsupervised. They don't know how to behave in the park.

Deb Wiswell- Is this a rec center (like Chelsea Heights) or a park. It should be supervised like a rec center.

Jim- There is severe mixed uses. Is this park urban recreation or a toddler park? Hermes should be required to have public space. Why did the city not give notice to residents about Hermes? The city should have required public spacing when the land was purchased.

Mary M.- There should be basketball in the SW apartment parking lot.

Mary Z.- Gardens are important. They should be kept visually appealing. We want the backstop back.

Deb Wiswell- I see there was a big cleaning just before the park forum tonight. The gazebo was a waste of money

John- BBQ needs to be moved. There are flames hitting the tree branches.

Gordon Strom (PRC)- Design landscaping could help influence the surroundings.

Nancy- Where are the parking lot spaces? When are they stripping? Who decides how many spaces the parking lot should have? There should be a curfew. Motion detector lighting.

Shawn- Why have a parking lot at all, why can't we add more green space. We're okay with cars parking on the streets.

Deb Wiswell- Park is hopping at 7pm and they stay late

John- Its too dark behind the building we need more street lights.

Carol- I don't like walking at night on the paths because of how dark it is by the pine trees. Can we put lights?

Deb Wiswell- That's where they graffiti.

Group Consensus- Top Priorities

- Meeting with Watershed and neighborhood
- Meeting with Apartment Manager to help with communication
- More dialog is required by the City. There shouldn't be decisions made on the park without a public forum.

Grove Park, September 9th

Jo Eberle 2255 Folwell

Kari Lee 2179 Folwell

Jo Eberle has three children between the ages of 4 and 8 years old. Jo loves this park. She thinks the equipment is in good condition. Jo would like to see the rink be returned to the park and also a bench to sit on to put on skates. She would be okay if the picnic tables were moved to the rink. Jo would like to have #1 a hockey rink with boards and pleasure rink but would settle for a pleasure rink. She would like to see more swings at the park and the backstop returned. She appreciates that the benches were fixed and the swing lowered.

Kari Lee has three children between the ages of 6-10 years old. Her main concern is that the city brings back the rink and the backstop. She loves the park and thinks it's well maintained. Kari said the park is used all the time by preschoolers at Luther school, university students, Coffman residents and grove residents. People play basketball, t-ball, set up volleyball nets and skate all the time. The ice was groomed by a grove resident so it might not look like it was used but there were always skaters. The demographics in the last 4-5 years have changed in the neighborhood and there are now about 30 kids under the ages of 12.

Since there is no park shelter to reserve through the Parks and Rec Department Michelle Tesser does not know when the park is being used by large groups. Kari will communicate with Michelle regarding park users such as large group parties and what activities they are doing at the park.