



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gig Harbor Public Works Committee

FROM: Gig Harbor Parks Commission

DATE: March 4, 2015

SUBJECT: Harbor Hill Park Findings and Recommendation

Background

In spring 2013, the City Council authorized a contract with David Evans and Associates to conduct a visioning process for the recently acquired Harbor Hill Park. The intent of the process was to develop a shared vision for the use of the property. With select stakeholders, a draft master plan was created and ultimately the Council requested that staff revisit the project and expand the public outreach component to include additional stakeholders and community members. In the late fall of 2014 City staff re-started the visioning process with the expanded stakeholders list and community members.

2014 Stakeholders Process

Approximately 30 stakeholders met for a meeting in November to discuss future uses for the park. Following the stakeholders meeting an open house was held and approximately 50 community members attended and provided additional feedback via a survey. The open house also showcased the stakeholders' findings.

The final findings and recommendations from the stakeholders and open house meetings focus on a multi-use park that is accessible to various user groups. In no particular order, the following top five active and passive uses were identified in the meetings and open house:

Active:

- Lighted Multi-use Synthetic Turf Sports Field
- Hard Surface Sports Court
- Accessible Playground
- Splash Pad/Spray Park
- Sand Volleyball Courts

Passive:

- Tables/Seating/Picnic Areas (Covered)
- Trails (Connection to Surrounding Trails)
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Open Space Natural Play Areas

In addition to the identified active and passive uses, the stakeholder and community members identified a list of facilities necessary for basic operational functions of the park. This list of facilities is attached to this memo along with the following documents for reference:

- Harbor Hill Park Master Plan, David Evans and Associates – February 2014
- Stakeholders Meeting Charts – November 5, 2014
- Open House Use Spreadsheet – November 19, 2014

Parks Commission Recommendation

The Parks Commission recognizes the importance of establishing a multi-use park facility at the City's future Harbor Hill Park that optimizes the use of the space based on the community's need. The Commission also recommends there be a high level of community involvement when the final design of the park is taking place. The Commission recommends that the Harbor Hill Park include a lighted multi-use synthetic turf field(s) based on the input received from the stakeholders and public. The Parks Commission recognizes that the lighted synthetic turf field(s) is a very important need of the public; however, the future design must respect the surrounding uses and provide a balance throughout the site by preserving at least 50% of the site for the uses listed in no particular order below.

- Multi-use Sports Court (Basketball & Pickleball)
- Accessible Playground
- Splash Pad/Spray Park
- Sand Volleyball Courts
- Tables/Seating/Picnic Areas (Covered)
- Trails (Connection to surrounding trails)
- Open space natural play areas

Infrastructure to be provided in the future to accommodate these uses should include:

- Restrooms
- Parking

Furthermore, the Commission believes it is important to combine efforts with adjacent property owners to maximize recreational opportunities for the community. Such a regional facility that complements each individual property will benefit everyone involved. These property owners include Gig Harbor Little League, The Sportsman's Club, Harbor Hill LLC. and the Tom Taylor Family YMCA.