

# **Park Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

May 26, 2021

Minutes of the May 26, 2021 Park Advisory Committee, held at 6:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room at Syracuse City Hall, 1979 W. 1900 S.

- BMX Track and Pump Track
  - o Zach Randall presented the BMX Track Concept that was presented to City Council
  - o Reaction of the committee was largely favorable to the idea.
  - o Cost to the City:
    - BMX Track (Club owned and operated)
      - Land would be leased from the city (\$TBD)
      - Using the existing infrastructure, the BMX Club would pay to build the track and run the races (they would raise about 300k to build the track which they said they could easily manage)
      - If authorized, the track could be operational in time for the next season in May (~12 mos. build)
      - A fee would be charged to use the track which would go back into maintenance and upgrades to the track
      - Races, heats, and practices would bring a lot of business into the city especially on the weekends.
    - Pump Track (City owned and operated)
      - There are various options from dirt to concrete with the preferred option being a Prefab composite track.
        - o A prefab composite track with the associated landscaping would be about 150k
      - This was requested by the city to be added next to the BMX Track to create a common environment and give a free option for just playing around on a bike.
  - o Potential locations would be Syracuse Equestrian Park (preferred due to do existing infrastructure), Regional Park (replace a soccer field), or in the undeveloped land near the end of gentile.
    - Their cost to build the track would increase if not allowed to go into the equestrian area and said they may have start a little smaller and improve over time at the other locations but they would still be happy to have it.
    - We may need to move the road base pile next to the public works building to accommodate the parking and the pump track if that site is selected.
    - Committee asked what the utilization of equestrian park is:

- Rentals: 4H uses it on Tuesdays and the Posse uses it occasionally as well
    - it is sporadically used by other citizens but not with any regularity
  - Comments were focused around the fact the equestrian park services a very small part of the community given our current demographic
  - Option was brought up to move the equestrian park to the land at the end of Gentile and put the track where the equestrian park is
    - Most felt that relocating the equestrian park wasn't needed and were ok discontinuing the service.
  - Parking could be expanded to the east as UDOT offloads any excess land after the highway is completed.
- Update on Regional Park
  - With the failure of the park bond we obviously are required to re-evaluate our approach.
  - JUB has been authorized to start the engineering of the park to help with an actual cost and look at a phasing plan.
  - It was asked what the max the city could pay to build it all at once and if the city could just ask JUB, "what can we get for 15 million?". We responded we would ask the council what they thought of the idea.
- Future park space
  - Based on our current estimation we are about 18 acres short of the total land needed to meet our parkland goal.
  - If you bring in passive vs. active space we are about 50 acres short of Active park space.
  - Our desired Active to Passive Park space is 70% Active and 30% Passive. We are currently 60/40.
  - Converting existing passive to active could help us in the immediacy but would not really solve the problem.
  - Completing the regional park will bring us into compliance for the Active space for a few years but with our current level of growth, by 2024 we will need to look at adding additional space beyond the regional park.
  - Discussed that the city has recently completed some land sales that included requiring the city to sell off undeveloped park land near the cemetery and Fremont park and have potential funds to acquire additional land if possible.
    - Request was made that if any of the committee knows of any land coming available that they keep the city in mind.
- Future Meetings
  - Meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month starting at 6:30 in the large conference room.
- A discussion was held as the meeting ended about the condition of weeds outside of our easement along the trails and associated trail maintenance. Even though it is county land, when the citizens call the county, they tell them it is Syracuse's responsibility.

**Date of approval: July 21, 2021**