

Beaver Lake Master Plan

Public Meeting #2 Summary

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Public Meeting #2, held at the Beaver Lodge was attended by about 70 citizens. This meeting had been preceded by two Stakeholder Meetings and one public meeting. The purpose of the second public meeting was to seek comments on three schemes of Master Plan Alternates that were presented. Attendees were divided into ten groups to discuss the elements of each scheme that appealed to them. Due to the large number of participants, each group was asked to present 3-5 points of consensus and 2 'hot topics' that the group could not achieve consensus on. The following is a summary of the salient points raised by each of the ten groups:

Consensus Items:

General:

- Safe access to the park, park entries and connector streets with improved pedestrian access along 244th and 24th was a priority for many groups.
- The groups were divided in their vote for the proposed on-street parking.
- Preserving the natural character of the park and saving as many of the existing trees as possible, particularly in the 'woods' was also a consensus item for many groups.
- Two groups said that they did not want Beaver Lake Park to be a destination park for sports clubs. They felt that no addition of activities/attractions is needed. There are enough people coming to the park from outside the City.
- They advised that program elements requiring enforcement or administration should not be added.
- One group said that with any changes to the park, increased parking to accommodate those changes must be addressed, with a ban on parking on 244th Ave SE and SE 24th.
- One group asked to see better park signage throughout the park.

Lakeside:

- Three groups agreed that a new entrance to the park alongside the maintenance facility is a good idea because it creates a nice loop around the parking.
- One group requested a buffer between the beach and the neighboring house to the north (a berm with trees).
- Two groups supported the separation of the lodge and the lakeside pavilion. They asked to improve the usage of the lodge with privacy berms and gardens to make the lodge more attractive.
- While a separation of fishing and swimming was desired by most groups, they were clearly divided on whether a formal approach with a swim beach and dock was needed. Here are the range of comments received:
 1. 'Scheme P' has the best layout for the 'lakeside.' Swimming and fishing have the least amount of disturbance in this scheme and the pier is less obtrusive around the point.
 2. Swimming beach as in 'Scheme B' is preferred, but try and keep as many existing trees as possible.
 3. A swimming beach with a lifeguard and a separate fishing dock (angled, rather than jutting straight out into the lake).

4. Do not place the dock at the point. Consider an L-shaped dock that might be less obtrusive.
5. No formal swimming. No dock.
6. Separation of fishing and swimming.
7. No formal separation of fishing and swimming.
8. Outdoor restroom/shower near the lake is a good idea.
9. Decrease the number of proposed uses at the lakeside.
10. Provide an area to slip a small boat into the water, probably closest to the neighbor, since this would be a quiet activity.

Woods:

- A majority of the groups wanted to preserve the 'woods' as they are with minimal tree removal.
- One group wanted to ensure that sensitivity to habitats was factored in to the location and width of proposed trails.
- Plant identification was suggested along the trails.
- A desire was expressed to keep the rustic trail (the east trail that kind of runs along the water) as-is. However, addition of a loop trail as shown on one plan and a viewing platform would be nice. The main trail (running parallel to 24th) needs improvement to the surface/drainage.
- Two groups raised concerns about paving the main trail (over the sewer easement) as it will end up being used by people on bikes. If the main trail was to be paved, the widths should accommodate the horse trails alongside the paving.
- One group asked to provide parking on SE 24th, a lot just east of the power lines, buffered from the street by trees.

Westside:

- Four groups voted to move the dog park to 244th Avenue SE and to restore the meadow under power lines.
- Three groups wanted to keep the dog park where it is; fix the drainage and improve the surface. They felt the area under the power lines was relatively flat and least disruptive. One group asked to provide closer parking (on 24th, just above the dog park).
- Three groups ruled out the parking at the intersection of 244th Ave SE and SE 24th Street.
- One group felt that additional parking should be accommodated next to the fields with additional cut-back into southwest corner (like the old library).
- The preference was to keep the northwest corner with trails.
- One group liked the path on the gas easement and wanted something similar down the power line easement.
- The comments on the sports fields were varied:
 1. Two groups voted that 'Scheme B' has the best layout for the 'westside.'
 2. Two groups did not like 'Scheme P' with the most intense development of the fields.
 3. Two groups felt that artificial turf is fine but had no agreement on lights.
 4. Two groups were clear that they did not want lights for the ball fields.
 5. The development will be bad for baseball.

Hot Topics:

- Lighting for the sports fields was a hot topic for five of the groups. Most agreed that they don't want lights.
- One of the groups added their reservations against PA systems. They asked that alternative locations such as Sammamish State Park, be investigated.
- One of the groups did not want lights, not because of the lights themselves, but because of the additional hours of noise and traffic. One member in this group represented the lacrosse community and wanted lights with a commitment to shut them off at 8PM.
- Artificial turf for the ball fields was a hot topic for one group.
- One group did not want an overlay of soccer fields in the park.
- Two groups identified saving as many existing trees as possible to be a hot topic.
- Preserving the lodge, the historic tribute to totem poles & original intention of honoring nature was a hot topic for one group.
- Preserving the dog park in its current location was a hot topic for one group.
- One of the groups did not want to see a designated swimming use at Beaver Lake Park.

Moving forward, the master plan consultants, the Berger Partnership will compile the input received at this public meeting with comments received from City Council, the Parks Commission and City staff as well as their own ideas and recommendations to get us closer to the final preferred master plan. Additional studies and data will be gathered on the hot topics to be discussed further at Public Meeting #3 to be held at the lodge at Beaver Lake Park on September 3, 2009.