



MINUTES
Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting
February 9, 2021
6:00 p.m.

1. **Call To Order and Roll Call:** Meeting started at 6:01 p.m.

PRAC Members present: Dave Dobbs, Dru Alberti (left at 7:07 p.m.), Daniel Babcock, Ashley Fuller, Brady Hamilton (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Karl Kleinebreil, Michael Shirley (arrived at 6:03 p.m.), Marvin Smith, David Sobeck (arrived at 6:13 p.m.), and Sylvia Tarin (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)

PRAC Members absent: Adam NeVille

Council Liaisons present: Council Member Benning and Council Member Brown

Staff present: Adam Robinson-Recreation Manager, Alexis Ramirez-Recreation and Communication Analyst, and Rich Purcell-Parks Superintendent

Public attendees: Staff from J2 Engineering & Environmental Design - Jeff Holzmeister, Maria Maurer, Kurt Montei, and Jeffrey Velasquez

2. **Introductions:** None

3. **Public Comment:**

Staff read an emailed letter to PRAC from Dr. César E. Becerra concerning photography businesses utilizing the wash trails (attached).

4. **Items for Discussion:**

A. Consideration and possible approval of the October 13, 2020 meeting minutes

Motion to Approve: Dru Alberti

Second: Karl Kleinebreil

Vote: Approved; Unanimous

B. Discussion on a preferred master plan for the East Park site - Adam Robinson and Jeff Velasquez from J2

Adam provided an introduction of the East Park site stakeholder process. Jeff provided a review of the three master plan design concepts.

Discussion/Questions/Comments:

- There seems to be a lot of pickleball courts, 16 of them. Are that many needed? Could this space be better utilized for another use?
 - Pickleball is an up and coming sport that can be played by everyone from children to seniors.
- Did not see any cross training systems as it is very popular at the Gilbert park and are a hit with the young adult demographic. Cross training system in terms of walls you climb across, benches for step ups, planks, parkour
 - Cross training could be incorporated in the overall play space
- Small performance stage for festivals and other non-sport activities
 - Could be incorporated into the plan facing the multipurpose fields to hold the audience
- Would like to see artistic elements or large sculpture in middle of the park
 - This would be a item for the more detailed design further down
- Like the parking that wraps around the park, where you do not need to go out on major roadways
- Access warmup areas, 90-100 feet to throw
- Prefers the layout in concept #1 but parking could be difficult along Signal Butte
- 315 will limit players to 16 and under and limit high school age tournaments, 310 at corners and 360 in middle would be more ideal
- Larger fields are highly sought after and could provide an economic benefit to the Town as many leagues/clubs have to rent from high schools
- Pleased to see multigen center planned in the concepts
- Echo thoughts on large gathering/performance/amphitheater area for special events and activity space for teens and young adults
- Concept #1 is the winner, 2 of the 3 parking lots are connected
- Concerns over too many access points to the park, ingress and egress
- Would like to see more ramadas in high children family areas, playground/splash pad
- The second most requested park amenity is pickleball courts after a pool. Would like to see the amount of pickleball courts remain in the concepts
- Echo comments for larger ballfields to accommodate all age groups
- Likes concept #1 the best, layout seems to flow well
- Ballfield layout is concept #1 is preferred with the centered concession/bathrooms
- Do not like that the volleyball courts are removed from other sport courts in concept #3
- Discussed advanced drainage control options
- Not sure what the market is like for high school age ballplayers if only two fields are large enough, may need 3 or more
 - Even just 1 field will be rented like at Mansel Park for one day small tournaments, two would suffice but the more larger fields the better for larger tournaments
- Concept #1 the parking is a major pro as it provides proximity to many features of the park and like the 3x3 ball field layouts - leaning towards to this one
- Do any of these plans include concession stands near the multiuse fields, or only the baseball fields?
 - Will have to do a cost benefit analysis when we get to the full design
- Reason I don't care for concept #3 is that the little kids area is so separate from the ball/soccer-football fields - these are family activities and parents want to be near their older kid players but also close to the play area. I did like three for the lake a little bit quieter but can't get past the parking.
- On concept #1 the stadium field access was right next to a parking lot, good job all around
- Was upset to see that no concept had the playground and splash pad away from the lake as this was a major concern by parents with Mansel Park

- Echo the need for more ramadas near the playground and splash pad spaces
- Out of the three concepts, would select concept #1
- Minimize the channel in order to maximize the park - agree and seconded

C. Department Updates

- Splash Pad at Mansel Park warranty work is ongoing.
- Sonoqui Wash Trail update - 2 mile trail to Crimson is at 90% design
- Cupid's Quest is currently ongoing through Feb. 14
 - Kudos to Karl for his family's participation
- Spring virtual events include:
 - QC Bunny Bound will run from Mar. 8 to Apr. 4 with businesses around Town decorating and displaying 4-foot work bunny cutouts.
 - Got Peeps is a virtual contest open from Mar. 15 to Apr. 11. The community will be encouraged to create scenes using marshmallow Peeps!
 - The Great EggScape is a story walk based on the book 'The Great EggScape' and will take place on the trail right behind Desert Mountain Park.
- PGF Softball Tournament at Desert Mountain Park (DMP) this weekend, Friday to Monday.
- Both QC Heat Softball and QC Little League Baseball are in the early stages of practices at both DMP and Mansel Park.
- AZ Soccer is in the middle of their soccer season at Mansel Park. Saturday games and weeknight practices.
- STYFL has spring season practices right now at DMP with games beginning Feb. 20.
- Spring Break - 2 PGF Softball tournaments at DMP and 2 Triple Crown Baseball at MCP.

F. Next PRAC meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2021.

5. **Announcements:** None
6. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.
Motion to adjourn: Dan Babcock
Second: Brady Hamilton
Vote: Approved; Unanimous

PREPARED BY: Alexis Ramirez on February 9, 2021

PASSED AND APPROVED: March 2, 2021

David W. Dobbs

David W. Dobbs (Mar 2, 2021 19:16 MST)

Dave Dobbs, PRAC Chair

PUBLIC COMMENT

January 26, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I have been a proud resident of Queen Creek for the last 15 years. Those 15 years coincide with my full adult life. I have lived in my current home in Sossaman Estates for the last 10 years and they have been the most amazing years of my life watching my three boys grow into men while my wife and I provide them with the best possible life in one of the best possible places to raise children in the country. Those years have been marked with happiness and peace until about two years ago.

We chose our home because of the isolation that came from being close to QC wash, along with the beautiful view of nature that it provided on a regular basis. We did not take that for granted. We realized early on that other people did not take it for granted either because in the first years we were here we would periodically see people taking pictures in the wash for a wedding, graduation, baby shower, or any other special occasion. It was always nice to see that because it was a special moment for them and it was validation that we did in fact live in a beautiful neighborhood. We thought nothing negative of it then, but today things are much different.

Over the years, those periodic visitors have become much more consistent. This past holiday season, our neighborhood has had to endure cars full of strangers coming in and out of our community consistently, on most days and throughout the day because a few photographers have decided that their business ventures in a public space are more important than the peace and safety of the residents that live in a community. This past November and December, you could see anywhere from 8-12 cars parked along the street next to the wash anytime between 10-6pm to take family pictures.

My concerns are many and I will list them for brevity:

1. Safety: I do not feel safe letting my kids go to the neighborhood park that is 100 yards away because doing so would mean walking by 8-12 cars of strangers that I have no idea what they may be capable of. In this day and age, one can never be comfortable with strangers and children. The safety concern is also heightened because of the higher than normal speed and higher than normal volume of traffic that is being brought into our community that again puts people in danger.
2. Health: During the pandemic, when we were specifically asked not to congregate in large groups and to stay with our family units as much as possible, the wash has been a "party" for photographers and various families simultaneously taking pictures in the wash. No social distancing (Obviously) and no mask either since they are taking pictures. These meetings have been essentially super spreader events that have gone on literally in our backyard and without us being able to do anything about it.
3. Litter: Whenever large amounts of people gather there will be litter and trash. The wash is a public space but it is not a park. It does not have trash cans because it is not a playground. It is a place meant to be enjoyed for walks and sightseeing but not to host large groups of people. In short, the litter in our community has increased and the beauty of our wash has decreased.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Water bottles, soda cans, and fast food wrappers and cups do not add to the beauty of the wash.

In conclusion, I strongly feel that our rights as residents of Sossaman Estates are being violated by a few photographers that have chosen to exploit a public space for their own personal benefit. These photographers are well aware of the traffic and chaos that they are bringing to our community on a regular basis. Just last week, I was cut off by 3 cars at high speed just before I entered my community. Each of those cars turned into my community, parked along the wash, and got out to take pictures. That could have very easily been an accident. While I realize that people have a right to take pictures in a public space, I strongly believe that the rights of the residents of that community to live in peace and safety are far more important. I also realize that this problem cannot be eliminated but I am humbly asking you to take steps and measures to regulate the activity in the wash. We live in a residential area, not a business zone and I feel that it is not fair that some "strangers" to our community have decided to treat it as the latter.

I would like the opportunity to speak to the committee on this issue soon and hope that we can arrive at a compromised resolution. I am not exactly sure how we will get there but what I do know for sure is that something needs to change...and soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. César E. Becerra

QC Resident-15 years






PRAC Minutes 02.09.21

Final Audit Report

2021-03-03

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