

## Coquillard Park Community Meeting

There were 13 community members and John and Amy present

- Lu Ella started out the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves
- She then gave some background on the park and why the meeting was set up
- John apologized to the attendees. We at VPA dropped the ball on items that we had verbally promised and not delivered
- He then went on to explain what was going to be happening in the park
- The playground is in the process of being redone. It will be a handicap accessible playground
- John asked for the community members there to reiterate what they would like to see in the park
- Their first concern is the headstone in the park. They feel that it is inappropriate and that it being near the playground scares the children
- They asked what the options are and John said to please give him 30 days and he would see what VPA's options are to resolve the issue
- John also asked if any relatives are still in the area
- The group said that the family never lived in that area, that they were visiting when the tragedy happened and that the Aunt who used to live on the west side of town has passed away
- They would like a nicer Splash pad, John explained that to upgrade the current splash pad would be the same cost as installing a new one. Around \$150,000
- He said that we at VPA encourage them thinking bigger, but that for something like that to happen the Development team would have to identify a source to help fund such a large item
- Amy talked about the planting that the Forester is doing in the park and the landscaping that the Horticulturalist is helping the Notre Dame students put in this weekend.
- Two of the following species of trees are going into the park – [Sweetgum](#), [Tulip](#), [Black Gum](#), [Hophornbeam](#)
- They would like an additional pavilion, John explained that the cost of a new pavilion is around \$40,000 (included structure and cement pad). He did not say it couldn't happen, just that it wouldn't this year or probably next, and what the cost would be to make it happen
- The group would like to have 6 – 10 benches in the park and more than the 1 grill in the park
- John said he would be happy to meet in the park at any time and discuss what they feel would be the best placement and flow for those items
- The group expressed concern on the number of cars that drive in and through the park
- They feel that the SBPD do it more frequently than needed to get from one corner to the other
- John stated that he would upgrade the signage in the park, as far as the park rules, and the ones stating no motorized vehicles on the park grass
- The group also suggested that a long term solution would be to create some type of curbing on the Campeau street side of the park

- Amy suggested that they utilize the VPA Ambassadors when they have people driving on the grass or causing a disturbance – Their 24 hour # (574) 286-6827
- They can assist with problem people in the park and they can be the ones to call the SBPD if they feel the next step is warranted
- Marguerite talked about the NNRC (?) and how they were the group that gave the City \$50,000 many years ago to put in the splash pad and do the current walking trail that is around the park
- They expressed disappointment that a website and distribution of flyers that were promised last fall didn't happen
- Amy said she will research the options, and John suggested that minutes just like these could be posted as part of a website page
- Amy also stated that maybe they need a "friends of Coquillard" Facebook page. She will research and come back with the information
- Talked about the reunion and filling out the park usage form
- John suggested that they write any notes on the applications for their event about carts, trash cans, or any other things that would be specific for the reunion
- John then went over the NRPA report
- John talked about how the report can be used as a guide, but that it isn't the same as talking to the people who live within a ten minute walk
- They feel one court in the park, and John wanted the opinion of the group on the half court and full court option
- Marguerite talked about half court side didn't like the idea of a full court
- Two half courts back to back or split, or is the group more interested in a full court
- One of the community members brought up the potential of more problems by having a full court and people won't use it the way they're supposed to
- Lu talked about how the back to back courts are working well at Kelly Park and people are sharing well with all ages
- asked about how can we utilize the area around Perley school better and the equipment is already paid for by tax payers – Marguerite shared with the group that SBCSC is talking to Forever Learning about that organization potentially using Perley School –
- for the size of the community is one basketball court enough for the park and if so, could we make the court a true half court size and just have one
- Lu talked about the different people who are using Kelly because it is a newer court and they like it
- Marguerite asked about Brownfield park and John explained that we are putting a small Zipline in that park for kids
- They recommended playground equipment for 2-5 year olds rocking horse digger, and John confirmed that the new playground is accessible
- The group had metal picnic tables under their pavilion in previous years and they asked if they could have those instead of the green wooden ones.
- John is going to look into it and see what he can do for this summer
- The group asked if the pavilion could be power washed
- John said he could make that happen by the reunion
- John and Amy talked about bricks and the group thought that would be a great initial fund raiser

- Amy said she will share this with the Chief Development Officer and that this could be a good avenue, she will do the research on her end. She suggested that they reach out to her in a few days or whenever convenient and she will get the information they need
- One person brought up that the summer lunch program doesn't have any activities as part of the program
- Amy will talk to the Recreation team and share the concerns of the neighbors on the loss of the craft portion of the free summer lunch program
- This person also expressed concern on the trash in the park on Mondays due to what is happening on Sunday
  
- 30 days on memorial stone
  
- no vehicle signs up
  
- power wash pavilion
  
- metal picnic tables please
  
- check on electrical, try before August on finding out what it was for - potentially put in SBCSC for extra classroom
  
- upgrade signage, More trash cans please, currently 4 in the park

Meet to walk the park Wednesday May 22 in Coquillard at 6 pm at the pavilion

On a side note:

One of the citizens asked about Fredrickson Park - there is no access point and currently the trails are poorly maintained. Understands that the planting in that park needs to have a shallow root system but would like to see wildflowers and “prettier” grasses. They are also concerned about the pond, no seating, and no benches.