



MEMORANDUM

Public Works Department

DATE: September 11, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Rey S. Rodriguez, Senior Project Manager
Lisa Au, Principal Civil Engineer

SUBJECT: **South Whisman Park Conceptual Review and Recommendation, Project 17-34**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Review and comment on the recommended South Whisman Park Conceptual Plan and recommend approval of the Plan to the City Council.
2. Select at least two names for City Council consideration for the new park.

BACKGROUND

The proposed 2.76-acre park site located on 420 to 430 Ferguson Drive was dedicated to the City for park use by the developers of the Radius Development of the 100 and 420 to 430 Ferguson Drive projects. In early 2019, residents began occupying the new homes (see Figure 1).

ANALYSIS

Site Description

The site is bounded by the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) light rail line on the north and public streets on the south and east portions; residential townhomes are on the west separated by a private sidewalk; small-lot homes are located on the south and new apartments under construction are on the east.

The developer has installed new sidewalks and landscaping buffer along the streets. A public path with bollard lights parallel to the VTA line has been installed by the developer. The site is currently vacant and recently graded.

Figure 1: South Whisman Park Location



Community Meetings

At Community Meeting No. 1 held on April 25, 2019, with approximately 50 people attending, staff presented three possible layouts for the new park. All three layouts included soccer fields. The majority of attendees opposed the soccer fields due to the lack of parking, impacts to the residents, and because other, more favorable amenities would not be accommodated. Amenities included a dog park, barbecue area, walking paths, and a basketball court.

Community Meeting No. 2 was held on June 20, 2019. Sixty-five (65) attendees reviewed three concepts developed for the new park, which included features and amenities based on the comments obtained at the first meeting.

Following a presentation of each concept and voting on a favorite concept, attendees selected a preferred concept (see Figure 2) with specific modifications, such as a full basketball court instead of a half court, relocation of exercise equipment to allow picnic tables to be closer to the open-turf area, and picnic tables adjacent to the play areas (see Figure 3).

The following is a summary of the amenities featured in Revised Concept A to move forward as the staff-recommended concept:

- Off-leash dog area with shade and water fountain
- Open-turf area
- Exercise equipment
- Full-size basketball court
- Restroom building (two unisex restrooms)
- Public art (selection TBD)
- Benches throughout the site
- Trees
- Picnic tables and barbecue
- Two- to five-year-old play area
- Five- to 12-year-old play area

Some of the community members did not want a restroom as they were concerned it may create an attractive nuisance. City policy is to include restrooms for new parks three acres or larger. Since this park is close to three acres, staff recommends restrooms for the new park and locating the building on the perimeter of the park rather than the center. Exterior lighting will be installed on the building for security.

Figure 2: Concept A



Figure 3: Recommended Revised Concept A



Staff recommends an area with mounding for spectator viewing of the basketball court. This modification is considered an enhancement to provide some seating and an area for children to play. This feature was not presented at the second community meeting.

Following the second community meeting, staff received an e-mail from Whisman Station residents regarding the pet area and suggested a space with a fence on three sides, grass, and no fence to segregate pets. For safety purposes, staff recommends a fully enclosed space divided for large and small pets. The surface treatment will be decomposed granite (DG). Other amenities will include benches, tables, and drinking

fountains with a pet bowl, a pergola overhanging both large and small dog areas, and trees for shade.

Play areas for the two age groups will be post-and-platform and include climbers, swings, slides, shade canopy, and some type of sculpture climber.

There will be a public art component included in the park. Staff will follow City Council Policy K-5, which involves the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) to select the artist and art. Once the park concept is approved by City Council, the VAC will begin their process.

Park Naming

Staff initiated the park naming process at the Community Meeting on June 20, 2019 and solicited responses through September 6, 2019. Staff provided the criteria for naming a new park based on City Council Policy K-17 (see Attachment 1). The policy states that a park may be named for a school on which it is located, street it is adjacent to, a local landmark, or historical figure. Other park names will be considered only if one of the above criteria does not provide a name suitable for the park. The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) must submit at least two names to the City Council for consideration and final name selection.

Four responses were received by the deadline of September 6, 2019. Staff informed participants at the June 20, 2019 community meeting they could attend the PRC meeting and submit suggestions at the meeting. The following park names are options for the PRC’s consideration:

Table 1: Proposed Names

Suggested Park Name	Relevance
Dogwood Park	“Type of Tree/related to nearby Magnolia Park and the new park has a dog park”
Woof-man Park	
Ouroboros Park <i>Uroboros Park (variation)</i>	Ancient symbol depicting a serpent or dragon eating its own tail.
Seasons Park	“Because of the weather the park will have to go through every day”
<i>Pyramid Park*</i>	<i>Street Name</i>
<i>Infinity Park*</i>	<i>Street Name</i>

* Staff-provided names.

Research was conducted at the Mountain View Library History Center, and no information was located regarding any historical significance of the property. However, the site was occupied by the Sylvania Corporation in 1953 to develop microwave tubes and became GTE Sylvania in 1959. In the early 1960s, GTE Sylvania was the largest employer in Mountain View with 1,570 workers. The property was sold in the 1990s.

Staff includes two suggestions above because park names are often related to the street the park is located, and both Pyramid Way and Infinity Way are streets adjacent to the park site.

Staff will forward the PRC's recommendations to the City Council for approval of a park name.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the South Whisman Park Construction phase at \$4,680,000 is included in the current five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in Fiscal Year 2020-21. Project funding for Fiscal Year 2020-21 projects would not be officially approved by City Council until spring 2020. The current estimated total project cost is \$4,680,000 and is sufficient to design and construct Revised Concept Plan A.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The next step is to submit the PRC-recommended concept to City Council for final approval this fall. Following Council approval, the design consultants will prepare detailed plans to be completed by June 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICING

In addition to the standard agenda posting, property owners and residents within 750' of the park received notices of the PRC meeting. A notice was also placed on the City's website and e-mails sent to attendees of the past community meetings.

RSR-LA/6/PWK
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Attachment: 1. Council Policy K-17, Naming of City Parks and Other City Facilities