

January 3, 2019
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City of Bel Aire

RE: New Gathering Place/Community Park – Public Input

Attachments: Attachment 'A' Spreadsheet
Attachment 'B' Open-House Boards
Attachment 'C' Online Survey Results
Attachment 'D' Paper Surveys

Park Master Planning – Summary of Public Input Survey

The following is a summary of the public input gathered during December 2018. The data was collected during one open house (Christmas Open House), paper survey and online (SurveyMonkey) survey. The data has been broken down by survey type on the attached spreadsheet Attachment 'A'. Pertinent data from 2017 WSU Community Survey and 2017 open house has also been included as a reference.

Public Open House – 2018

During the annual Christmas Open-House the team setup four boards which showed the two conceptual park layouts and options for park features/amenities. People were asked to place dots on their preferences. It should be noted that several people voting included their children in this exercise. Photos of these boards are included as Attachment 'B' to this document for reference. There was a lot of support and excitement from participants but there was also some concern voiced over how the park would be financed and if that would impact taxes in the community.

Community Survey - 2018

An online survey was used to gather community input and preferences. This Survey Monkey was made available during the month of December and was publicized via the open house, City of Bel Aire website and social media accounts. A simplified survey was also made available in paper form. The online survey resulted in 218 responses and the paper survey resulted in an additional two responses for a total of 220 responses. This represents 2.9% of the overall population (7,761). Since the majority of quantifiable data available was derived from the online survey, only that data is represented below.

- 61.4% support for a new community gathering place/park
- 62.9% support for community events at new park
- 62.8% support for a splash-pad fountain
- 50.6% support for a new playground
- 66.8% support for public restrooms
- 65.3% support for walking paths
- 69% support for shade structures
- 39% support for memorial walkway

Community Survey completed by Wichita State University -2017

The following is a summary of the relevant parks and recreation portion of the community survey for comparison to the more recent 2018 survey.

- 59% of respondents approve of investing in large community park.
- 51.8% approve of adding a splash pad fountain to the community park.
- 63.3% approve of walking/bike paths in the community park.
- 62.3% felt Bel Aire should develop a park adjacent to "Downtown".

Survey Observations

During the open house there was a lot of support voiced for the park and excitement about a splash-pad fountain and community events. Most respondents during the open house had children as the open house happened during the Christmas Open House Event which may explain some of the differences in specific preferences identified. Many individuals were curious when the park would be completed. There were a few individuals that did voice concerns regarding how the park would be financed and how this may impact their taxes. This concern was again voiced on a few online surveys. Of the 27 written responses, 10 were critical of the park project (See Attachment 'C').

Conclusions

Overall, most respondents and participants are supportive of the proposed park project. Typical to this type of project, concerns are rarely about the project itself but are directed at how the project will be financed and paid for. As the project moves ahead, it would be advisable to educate the public on how the project is to be financed and if this will impact them individually by taxes. Also, the public should be educated about the financial burden of the vacant ground that currently exists and how investment in the park can stimulate the sale of City-owned property around the park for private development while adding a quality of life amenity to the City of Bel Aire.

Specifically, it appears that the public are most interested in the splash-pad fountain, shade structures, restroom and walking trail. Support for the playground is just over 50% and support for the memorial walk was at 39% making both elements marginally desirable. There was also good support for events at the park with markets being most popular overall.

Respectfully Submitted;

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