
Hatley Park

From Tony Stein [REDACTED]

Date Thu 11/13/2025 1:34 PM

To Makayla Rodriguez <mrodriguez@rollingwoodtx.gov>

Hi Makayla - I'd like my email to be shared with Council, RCDC and the Parks commission.

It's come to my understanding that the city is considering spending upwards of \$500,000 for improvements to the park, including adding an improved parking lot in the back, new sod and irrigation for the baseball fields that are also used as a dog park. I would love to see more outward community engagement before such a significant expenditure is commenced. Perhaps we could have a special open info session for the community to provide input (similar to ones that have been done in the past for the master plan, logo redesign, etc) and maybe a community survey to collect input on how best to utilize that area going forward, as well as some other underutilized areas in the city.

While I think there is strong consensus around having an area for off leash dogs, there are definitely differing opinions about the current dual use setup with dogs and baseball players sharing the same space. I personally think the dog area is far too large right now (dogs often roaming very far away from their people and defecating out of sight from their owners) and would love to see a smaller dog only park with some play equipment and perhaps artificial turf which is much easier to clean and maintain; it also drains far better than natural turf (totally pervious) which would help prevent dogs damaging wet natural turf after rains, etc. I do not think it is a good use of money to resod the park based on observing how the dogs use the space as well as the quantity of dogs. While adding more permanent parking is appealing on some level, it also likely invites more use from those outside of our community, most of which likely walk to the dog park, as our family does.

Perhaps after more community engagement we will decide the current proposal is the best to move forward with but perhaps the community can come up with a better way to allocate the space to create distinct and dedicated uses that better serve all stakeholders. I know there was also an idea floating around about dog registration that might possibly help trim the usage of nonresidents. When my wife and I go to the dog park now we often see more non residents than we do residents - that's ok but I'd prefer a dedicated and more appropriate space just for dogs if we may continue to see growing usage from non residents.

The bottom line is that if we spend \$500k+ on the current arrangement there will be no ability to fully vet and potentially adjust the current usage plan to something that may be more optimal for all stakeholders.

Thanks for your consideration.

Tony

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