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Council Study Session – Notes **DRAFT** Orting Main Parks Master Plan

9/21/2022

Upcoming events for community input:

- Red Hat Days on October 1 (MacLeod Reckord will attend)
- Pumpkin Fest on October 8
- Home for the Holidays (crafts, food, etc.) on December 3

Question (Connie Reckord):

What is working well? What is important?

Councilmember Comments

Williams

- Main Park blocks are in good shape
- Open Space needs improvements for gatherings
- Charter Park is underdeveloped and has space for improvements, so focus on it
- Don't clutter up Main Park with equipment
- Make a multi-purpose space
- Many of the program items on the list should go in neighborhood parks, not Main Parks

Koenig

- Zipline belongs at Calistoga Park
- Remote control car area and drone park should go elsewhere

Hogan (Deputy Mayor)

- Trail safety should be improved (conflicts between kids and fast cyclists)
- Incorporate trail into park, but need to control speeds
- Pickleball/tennis courts are needed
- Don't crowd the Main Park blocks
- Don't lose open space in the Main Parks; keep supporting events, music, movies...year-round.
- The park is wet and soggy in the winter. Consider underdrainage?
- Splash Park/Pad is highly desired by the community, but maintenance is expensive
- Create additional parking along Washington? Possibly move wall?

Gunther

- Citizens want more fun (for kids)! Something to get kids off screens and out of the house.
- Leave green spaces open (in Main Park)
- Taller slide in Main Park
- Additional swing components(?)



- Look at “overseas” play equipment (i.e. not so sterile and boring). Rope stuff, more naturalistic, (e.g. Kompan, integrate with trees...ropes course? *DS addition*)

Moore

- Historic sandstone block walls could move to another location or be used for some other feature
- Washington State Historical Society, UW Special Collections, Orting History Facebook page are good sources for Orting history.
- Meeting and gathering places, including the Gazebo and Picnic Shelter are in high demand
- Consider a space for performing arts and movies
- Modular, flexible, multi-purpose space/stage that can be set up and taken down.

Tracy

- Consider upgrading existing restrooms and installing a second set of ADA/family restrooms, perhaps in Charter Park.
- Restroom surveillance to prevent vandalism?

Hogan and others...

- Improve ADA access between features
- Normalize the lives of people/kids with mobility challenges as much as possible.
- Choose play equipment that accommodates children of all ages and mobilities as much as possible.
- Parking becomes a problem only during large events, so could slightly reduce parking in the park (i.e. the gravel lots).
- The Foothills Trail follows the old Burlington Northern line
- Lots of railroad history:
- Orting was a hub town that supplied outlying areas
- The tracks were removed in 1992
- The trees in Main Park were there as of the early 1960’s and were over 100 years old when the 1993 windstorm hit.
- Park should accommodate kids of all ages and abilities.
- The basketball court need a new surface
- The public wants to pave the parking, but the city hasn’t had the funds to proceed.

Gunther

- Vendor access is important, so keep Bell Tower/Train Avenue

Larson

- Consider angled parking on Van Scoyoc in lieu of paving the gravel parking lots.
- Bell Tower/Train Avenue vacation?
- Create a performance space
- Look at a more efficient traffic plan?
- Look at use policy to ensure citizens are being compensated for use of the site
- Meetings and gathering places are in high demand now (Gazebo is from 1980s, BBQ/Shelter is from late 1970s).
- Could use a multiple-use space for shows, dance recitals. Maybe a modular system of canvas tents, poles, to be used year-round.

Bradshaw

- Maybe shut down Train Ave for events only
- Consider charging for parking? Parking meters in park? (boat launch example).

Moore

- Big J's has straight-in parking, which might work on Van Scoyoc.
- Parking is only an issue 4-5 days per year
- ADA/access compliance and paths for circulation are important
- Normalize life for less-abled people

Tracy

- Maybe Van Scoyoc can be one-way? Van Scoyoc was one-way in the past, but then reverted to two-way.
- Trail events one to two times per month generate a lot of parking demand. Consider alternatives with different degrees of parking (DS)
- Parking fills up sometimes (sees people parking and unloading bikes in front of the post office).

Gregg

- Doesn't like the idea of closing Train Avenue at the Bell Tower.
- Consider charging for parking