

City Center Skatepark Planning Workshop #2 Summary Report

Date/Time:	Tuesday February 3 rd , 2009; 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Location:	Campbell Center, 155 High Street, Eugene
Facilitators:	Emily Proudfoot, City of Eugene Parks and Open Space; Bob Chandler, Skaters for Eugene SkateParks
Other Staff:	Carrie Peterson, Roger Bailey, Collette Ramirez, two additional Skateboard instructors from Recreation Services

BACKGROUND

City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Planning staff hosted the second of several planning workshops to discuss a proposed, regional skatepark in downtown Eugene. The project was put forward with strong public support during the recent city-wide master planning process for Eugene parks, and was adopted as a high priority by the Eugene City Council in 2006 through the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Project and Priority Plan. Proponents identified a preferred location in Washington/Jefferson Park under the I-105 Bridge between the railroad tracks and First Avenue because it met several key criteria, including full cover, lights, a central location, and easy access to promote use in all weather conditions, year round. The project is also seen by advocates as a way to improve the existing safety and culture of the park by bringing in more legitimate public use.

Key goals for the workshop were:

- Share information about the project to date
- Report back on the site selection process
- Answer questions, get feedback and engage attendees in discussion of progress to date
- Mobilize attendees into volunteer task groups to move project forward.

ADVERTISEMENT

The following advertisement was undertaken to notify the public of the event:

1,400 Postcards to neighbors within ½ mile radius – mailed January 20

Postcards to Mayor and Councilors – week of Jan 20

Council Newsletter article - week of Jan 26

News Release – Feb 2

RG & Weekly calendar listings

City of Eugene Online Calendar – Jan 9

Public Meetings Calendar submittal – week of Feb 9

Parks & Open Space website posting – Jan 9

100 postcards to Skaters for Eugene Skateparks interested parties – Distributed week of Jan 20

Posters at each of the four existing skateparks – Distributed Week of Jan 27th

InMotion Newsletter – Sent to Lindsay Selser Jan. 12

E-mail invitation to neighborhood leaders in the vicinity of W/J Park – Jan 12

Whiteaker

Far West

West Eugene

Downtown

River Road

Jefferson Westside

The event received extensive radio, television and newspaper coverage

PRESENTATION

About 70 neighbors and interested parties convened in the Campbell Center for the event. Following an overview of the workshop goals and agenda, a slide show presentation was given to provide background and context for the project, including planning framework, public input to date, criteria, goals, funding sources, time line and general project progress to date. A photo tour of the site was again presented along with the final site selection results of the May 6th, 2008 meeting. It was also explained that the property belongs to ODOT and that the City leases it from them (for free) and provides ongoing maintenance of the site. Any design work that we do must be bought off upon by ODOT officials and the City will be working closely between all agencies to ensure long term success.

The time line going forward was also presented which identified the following milestones:

Dec 08 Site Selection – DONE

Feb 09 – 2nd Public Workshop

Summer 2009 – Design/Build Process

Public Design Workshops

Spring/Summer/Fall 2009 – Fundraising

Events, Grants, Sponsors

Jan/Feb 2010 – Construction Begins

Fall 2010 – Grand Opening

A question and answer session followed the presentation, including the following questions and comments:

Q: The lighting at the site is currently a sodium type light that is unsafe for skating. Metal halide would be better and they are easy to change out. Is this a possibility?

A: Yes, it probably is and the City will check with ODOT on whose lights they are and who maintains them and we'll go from there. Please send City staff an email with any additional information you might have on the best way to get adequate and safe lighting at the Skate Park.

Q: What about future expansion? Can we design with a phase 2 in mind if we don't get enough money?

A: Absolutely and we'll make sure that this is incorporated into the RFP as a design requirement.

Q: What if we raise more money that we anticipate? Can we build more than we thought?

A: Definitely – depending upon the scale of money we're talking about, we can incorporate into a Phase one, or start a phase two, etc. etc. We'd have to cross that bridge when we come to it, but the idea is that all the money we raise will indeed go into construction of the SkatePark itself and not to other things.

Q: What if we want to expand beyond the initial area we've identified – say north to the horseshoe pits?

A: This is definitely a possibility in the future. The horseshoe pit user group is amenable to relocating to another are of the park if this was desired in the long run.

Q: What about park hours? Will it be open and/or lit 24/7?

A: Currently the park closes at 11:00 p.m. If there is a desire to have longer hours as we get closer to opening, we'll discuss this with parks operations staff and decide then – it is a possibility, we just have to vet it internally with City staff.

Q: What about rain and or drainage issues?

A: The proposed site is under the bridge, so mostly dry. However, there are leaky bridge joints that have resulted in wet areas at the south end of the basketball court. ODOT recently did some repair on the joint, but it didn't entirely solve the problem. There are also stormwater drainage issues around the site – pipes that need replacing, etc. So, the drainage system will be looked at as a whole along with other key utility components as we take a look at siting and constructing the skate park in more detail.

After the question and answer session, participants divided into four groups to discuss volunteer efforts to get the project moving further forward. The four groups were focused on Events, Fundraising, Design and then a Steering Committee. Contact information was exchanged by many to coordinate volunteer efforts into the future.

FINDINGS

Given the scope of notice and level of participation, the group offered a good representation of community interest regarding the construction of a City Center Skate Park in Washington Jefferson Park. Overall, the group that was there was very supportive of the project and excited about the prospect of such a facility in

Eugene. There were no objections to the site selection made within Washington/Jefferson Park, however, there were definitely concerns about how bicyclists could be accommodated by the design and one person wondered if it was even worth building an outdoor public facility in an area that isn't particularly safe. There were some suggestions that pursuing an indoor venue would be more economically feasible and manageable long term.

Volunteer coordination efforts among participants proved fruitful and were a good start to the broader community engagement component of the project.

In summary, the participant group at this event was pleased with the project progress so far and was eager to help get the project moving forward.

CLOSING

Participants were thanked for their attention and valuable feedback. Next steps in the process were described, including hiring of a consultant to design and build the project, and following up on outstanding questions and concerns. Given the high level of consensus and absence of significant concerns at this event, additional public meetings would likely not be needed regarding location of the skatepark.

Many participants again expressed strong interest in broad public involvement for the design phase of the project, and were assured that this is the intent. An estimated three to six public meetings will likely be held during the design phase, possibly including a design charrette, one or more focus groups, and questionnaires.

PARTICIPANTS

The following people participated in the event:

Ammon Henrikson	Deanna and Tyler Southworth	Nathaniel Brauderick
Richard Cribbs	Joanne Ferrero	Ben Sprague
Matt Koehler	Matt Patton	Mark Scott
Erika Winters	Mark Evans and Tita Santini	Eric Myers
Janet Brown	Farren Brown	Rodney Butler
Christine Puetz	Sally Blankenship-Ziegler	Tobias Nelson
Michael J. Cheyne	Todd O. Cheyne	Cherga Jackson
Carmela Sciarnetta	Kelan McFarlane	Tyler Cobb
Michael Gannon	Shalako Lee	Kimberly Knowles
Sashka Warner	Spencer Ponor	Kyle Millan
Meg Herran	Kara Penniman	Rick Jackson
Tarita Scanlan	Zach Bird	Kevin Noblirt
Deirell Ritter	Katy Crosslin	Anthony Russell
Eric Purdy	CharlesD.	Graig Anderson
Geoff Keeney	Jim Lynch	Tyler McFarlane
Dharmika Henshel	Jaron Henshel-Adams	Ben McCormick
Andrea Ortiz	Joel Davis	Taimare Peo
Kari Johnson	Annie Loe	Alex Cribbs
Austin Arrowood	Lina HippsColette Ramirez	Jeff Saracsi

APPENDIX A: Written Comments

The following comments were recorded on comment sheets distributed at the workshop and turned in to City staff at the end of the event:

1. What do you feel are the **most important issues** to consider regarding skatepark design? Please be specific if you have ideas about skatepark design components.
 - Water
 - Areas for all levels and ages
 - Good design by experience builder/designer. It should also have a good mix of Street and vert.
 - The existing playground is suitable for many ages of children. It would be good for the new playground to also appeal to various ages.
 - The basketball hoops are in fine shape. They just need some maintenance.
 - I feel it is important to encourage girls and women to be/feel included in sports that are typically male. Extra effort in that area will really be effective.
 - Paintings of skaters on highway pillars include girls on skateboards, girls on skateboards on publicity materials, keeping gender pro-nouns neutral or both genders.
 - A good bowl, good concrete.
 - As big as possible, regional, room for everyone, seating for viewing, smooth, clean, no sand, gravel, or bark.
 - Ensure that the "covered" actually means covered, know that wind can blow rain and also can run into the skatepark. Reach all experience levels.
 - Designator beginner terrain. Multi use judging area. On site storage.
 - Flat ground, beginner terrain for our classes. Multi-use judges panel with electrical power access (multi uses include parent viewing area, concert area). On site storage. That it is under cover good so water won't get in
 - We need stairs and ledges with metal coping. A quarter pipe thats pretty tall with metal coping at the top. Fun boxes and manual pads.
 - No wasted concrete (don't build stuff that won't be skated) Medium to large transitions 6-15 ft and lights.
 - Deeper bowls that connect with other smaller bowls. For example Battleground, WA; Woodland, WA; Newberg , OR 10ft
 - Help keep the park bowls from becoming over crowded. 18,000 square feet isn't a lot of space. I am worried it would become one of those skate parks that have a lot but are real crowded.
 - We need a deep bowl with pool coping and stairs. Incorporate both street and transition/park styles.
 - Creative design, something that will provide interest for all skill levels. It's important that this does not become dated in a few years.
 - Accommodate multiple levels of ability. Seating/observation/rest are
2. Does the proposed **concept site plan meet the project goals** in your mind? If not, please state your concerns or thoughts about what might be different than what's been shown to date.

- The existing park is scary for kids and parents. Perfect covered area for year around skateboarding
 - My concern is that an old, well made playground that appeals to various age ranges and is often used is slated for destruction, while a horseshoe toss area that I've seen used twice in the last 15 years I have lived nearby is given priority to remain.
 - Play with scale of bridge, make it a piece of art, sculpture materials could be a fun way to give it character and originality
 - Yes
 - Keep rain water out. No drip or run off, no fences around park, lots of benches, good lighting.
 - Yes, I am concerned about the cover though, the rain or condensation still seems to show up. This can also prevent more injuries.
3. Do you have other **questions or concerns** that haven't been answered to date? Please list them here.
- I think that they should not paint over spray paint, it makes it more colorful.
 - I'm concerned that maintenance on the basketball court (a heavily used area) might be neglected in the year of planning. All the court needs is the solid sheet metal back boards be sanded and re painted and drainage worked on.
 - Nothing that comes to mind, just curious.
 - When will it be done?
 - How much more money is needed? Maybe 2 or 3 separated areas, according to skill level.
 - Just making sure it is going to be a "skate" park and not a "bike" park.
 - Our policy on BMX's, Inclusion?
4. Do you have ideas about raising awareness and **publicity** around this project? Do you have ideas about how to get **volunteers** to work on the project? Do you have good **fundraising** ideas? Please share them here.
- Garage Sale/Swap, Dance for Skate Park, Art Show for Skate Park, Music concert, Spring break event, Skate Jams.
 - People involved in actual construction. Skate contest at local areas. Raffle of commemorative shwag and boards shirts,
- No
 - Sure. It all looks good.
 - Maybe on the side throw in a mini ramp or half pipe, set aside from the park, that would be real nice.
 - Not really. We have a couple basic parks already. We need bigger everything, deeper bowls and bigger stairs.
 - The site is good. The area is currently an eye sore for the city.
 - Mostly. Plan for surrounding areas (sloped? bleachers?) for observers. This place could be a popular competition site with many fans watching.
 - Are bikes and scooters going to be allowed in the park? Helmet required?
 - Needs to be a good quality skatepark. Amazon, Trainsong, Emerald are all good examples of bad quality parks. A smaller park of better quality is better than a big waste of money.
 - No
 - No
 - Is there enough nearby parking when organized events take place?

- A sign in the park saying "Future home of a skate park" etc. Include bikers, roller derby, etc.
- Hold events, have design build charrettes with designers, public skaters, family, artists. Bike races
- Put stickers everywhere, sell beer at Ducks games
- Cover seating area for viewers, cover from sun and rain. Safe for skaters and viewers.
- Send the jail's road crew, for the unprofessional work that needs done.
- Eugene Celebration, compete for cash prize in parade.
- The City of Eugene Outdoor Program all ready holds skate jams and camps and it would be great to coordinate with other partners and possibly use these as fundraisers.
- Maybe a competition held at another skate park with an entry fee for participants. We need to go to the other parks to let the other skaters know about this new park.
- Ask Phil Knight for a donation. Spread the fundraising into the local school districts
- Do some short awareness clinics/short speeches at college campuses and high schools?
- Post at the skate parks, on the fences.
- Advertising, radio, TV, public service. Make the public aware of the project and the need for funds.
- Videos, made by skateboarders, urging funding/contributions, put on TV - hopefully free

5. How would you define yourself in relation to this project – please check all that apply:

Skateboarder - 10

Parent - 6

Park Neighbor - 3

Community Member – 7

Other : Landscape Architect, supporter of Tactics BoardSports; Skateboard instructor at City of Eugene Outdoor Program at River House; Outdoor School Coordinator – coordinate skate classes at City of Eugene Outdoor Program at River House.

END