

August 12, 2021
Item 4

**TITLE: REVIEW THE KEN MERCER SKATEPARK CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS
PRESENTATION AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK**

SUMMARY

The 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified the need for an additional skatepark, at least 1/2 acre in size, to meet current community demand (in 2013) and projected that an additional 1-acre skatepark would be required to meet community needs once the City's population reached 78,000 people. At the February 14, 2019, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission identified a new skatepark as their number two priority for the City Council 2019-2020 Two-Year Work Plan Prioritization Process. The City Council adopted the skatepark as a priority for their 2019-2023 workplan with \$400,000 in funding for design services.

The City secured the design services of RRM Design Group in March 2021 through a Request for Qualifications process and immediately initiated community outreach processes, which included three stakeholder meetings, a virtual community outreach meeting and a community-wide survey.

Two conceptual designs were created based on the input received. Upon review by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the designs will be shared with the Youth Commission and several other community outreach meetings will be held. Ultimately one conceptual design will be created and presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission as part of the Ken Mercer Skatepark Plan for their consideration and recommendation to the City Council for final approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Review the Ken Mercer Skatepark concept designs presentation and provide feedback.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There is no direct financial impact resulting from a Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation. Currently there is \$400,000 budgeted for design work for this project in the Capital Improvement Program budget.

BACKGROUND

The 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified skateparks as being one of the City of Pleasanton's more significant deficiencies. The plan identified that the City was currently (in 2013) short on skate facilities by 1/2 acre and that an additional 1 acre skatepark would be necessary once the City reached 78,000, the projected build-out of the City at the time. To meet the demands of the community, the master plan recommended adding another skate park at Ken Mercer Sports Park adjacent to the existing skatepark. The plan also recognized that skateboarding was the sport with the most growth in popularity.

At the February 14, 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission identified a new skatepark as their number two priority and the City Council adopted the skatepark as a priority for their 2019-2023 workplan with funding for design services slated for 2020/21.

Following the decision by City Council, the recreation, parks, and landscape architecture divisions proceeded to research and visit various skateparks throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. This research included meeting with Fremont, Milpitas, and Newark staff to discuss their skateparks and glean more information regarding their experience with the skateparks.

Utilizing the information collected from the site visits, conversations with local advocates, and research, staff compiled a checklist of site attributes necessary for a successful skatepark and identified City properties that met the criteria.

On November 10, 2020, staff presented the top location options (Ken Mercer Sports Park and Bernal Community Park) to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend that City Council explore an additional skatepark at Ken Mercer Sports Park.

On December 1, 2020, staff presented the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation for the skatepark project to City Council to obtain direction to begin the design process. City Council directed staff to proceed with the design of a 1-acre skatepark with lighting based on the input received from the public.

Following the direction provided by City Council, staff advertised a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) and determined RRM Design Group to be the most qualified firm to work on the project. City Council approved the contract with RRM on March 16, 2021.

Together with RRM Design Group the City has held three stakeholder meetings (one with local skateboarders, one with sport group users, and one with Hopyard Village Businesses); one virtual community outreach meeting and conducted one community-wide survey. Two conceptual designs were created based on the initial feedback received from those meetings.

DISCUSSION

The designer and City staff are currently working with the skate community to design the specific skate features and flow in the skate envelope (the colored area on the plans) and the features surrounding the skatepark (picnic, hang out, view, and event areas, etc.). The two designs are meant to be interchangeable so that items in option one can be placed in option two and vice versa.

Skatepark Draft Concept 1 Design Features:

- 34,000 square feet (0.78 acres) of new skateable area
- Picnic, hang out, view, and event areas
- Traditional shade structures
- Retention of the majority of the existing trees
- Drop-off and arrival area at the main (north) parking lot
- 20 additional parking stalls in northern parking lot

Skatepark Draft Concept 2 Design Features:

- 38,000 square feet (0.87 acres) of new skateable area
- Picnic, hang out, view, and event areas
- Modern fabric shade structures
- Removal of the trees with low suitability of preservation (per the arborist report)
- Additional drop-off area/access point in south parking lot
- 18 additional parking stalls in northern parking lot

Both concepts contain beginner, intermediate, and advanced areas for skaters and retain the existing skatepark with some minor modifications to improve accessibility. Additionally, both concepts contain spaces for skate classes and workshops, landscaped buffers with shade trees at the exterior of the skatepark, and access from both parking lots. Lighting for the skatepark can be added to either design and would likely be no more than 35-feet tall with over-spill guards to significantly reduce lighting from bleeding into other areas (for reference – the softball field lights are 70-feet tall).

The Parks and Recreation Commission is considered the key stakeholder for this project. Staff is looking for the commission to:

1. Review the two conceptual designs and provide input regarding the design prior to the upcoming community engagement, Youth Commission, and City Council meetings.
2. Provide recommendations on locations/events that the conceptual designs could be displayed, and feedback could be garnered.

Once the concept plans are updated, staff and RRM will hold at least one community outreach meeting in Ken Mercer Sports Park, attend at least one Farmers Market to engage with the community regarding the design, present the designs and receive feedback at the September Youth Commission meeting, conduct another community wide survey with the updated concepts, and present the concepts and input to City Council.

At completion of the community wide engagements a final conceptual design will be created, incorporated into the draft Ken Mercer Skatepark Plan, and presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for feedback and recommendation to the City Council for final approval by the end of 2021.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

Any action determined by the commission.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele Crose".

Michele Crose
Assistant Director, Library and Recreation

Attachment:

1. Ken Mercer Skatepark Draft Concept 1
2. Ken Mercer Skatepark Draft Concept 2