

May 9, 2019
Item 6

TITLE: REVIEW THE CONCEPT PLAN AND PUBLIC INPUT FOR THE VALLEY TRAILS TOT LOT AND PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY

The City of Pleasanton is planning to install a new tot lot (for 2 to 5 year-olds) at the Valley Trails Park. The tot lot will be located on the western side of the park adjacent to the proposed restroom and existing playground for 5 to 12 years-olds. Public outreach to gather the community's input was conducted on Saturday March 2, 2019 at the site. The public comments received during the outreach process are included in this report. Staff is requesting a recommendation to proceed with the proposed tot lot design in the new location.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Review the concept plans
2. Receive the staff presentation and public comments
3. Provide a recommendation on the design of the tot lot

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There is no direct financial impact resulting from a Parks and Recreation Commission action. Funding for the project has been provided by Ponderosa as a Condition of Approval for their Sycamore at Valley Trails development currently under construction.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, Ponderosa Homes submitted an application to develop single-family homes on a 9-acre site located within the Valley Trails neighborhood at 6900 Valley Trails Drive (Sycamore at Valley Trails). The Planning Division provided comments regarding the proposal and encouraged Ponderosa to meet with the residents of the Valley Trails neighborhood. Upon completing the outreach, Ponderosa submitted a revised development application, which included proposed improvements to Valley Trails Park. Ponderosa agreed to perform landscape improvements to implement water conservation measures (i.e., turf removal and replacement with groundcover at specified locations) in Valley Trails Park. Ponderosa also agreed to provide funding to install a new tot lot within the park.

During the public outreach process, which included the Parks and Recreation Commission review of the proposal on September 8, 2016, it was determined that the tot lot would be located within the eastern half of the park between the cul-de-sac ends of Carlsbad Court and Harpers Ferry Court (see Attachment 1).

Subsequently, after approval of the development project and upon receiving payment for the park improvements, staff reached out to Ross Recreation, who was selected through a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) process, to design the tot lot. In late 2018 staff met with Ross Recreation at the site and obtained a design for the tot lot at the cul-de-sac ends of Carlsbad Court and Harpers Ferry Court (see Attachment 2). On Saturday March 2, 2019, these plans were presented to the neighborhood at a public outreach meeting on-site. Community meetings as playground equipment is designed is a normal part of the process.

Advertising for the outreach event included:

- Sending notifications to all residents within 1,000-feet of the park on February 20, 2019.
- Posting one sign at the main park entrance, one at the proposed playground location, and one at the existing playground location on February 22, 2019.
- Posting the outreach meeting on NextDoor, Facebook, and Twitter a week before the outreach meeting.

The outreach event was for a two-hour time period from 1:00-3:00 pm on Saturday March 2, 2019. Approximately 15-20 people attended the outreach event.

DISCUSSION

The primary comments received from the residents at the outreach event were about the location of the tot lot. The residents preferred that the tot lot be located in closer proximity to the proposed restroom and playground for 5 to 12-year olds. They indicated that this location would allow parents to keep an eye on both the younger children (2 to 5 years-old) playing at the tot lot and the older children (5 to 12 year-olds) playing at the existing playground. It would also allow for quicker and more convenient access to the restroom. Residents also requested shade on the tot lot (see Attachment 3 for summary of comments).

In response to the public input received at the meeting, the City is proposing to relocate the tot lot in closer proximity to the existing playground and proposed restroom, as well as add shade to the tot lot play structure (see Attachment 4 for revised location and design). The City is requesting that the Parks and Recreation Commission review the revised tot lot design and alternative location and make a recommendation regarding the design and location. The change in location and design revisions are approximately equivalent to the improvements initially proposed and there is sufficient budget to construct the revised design in the alternative location.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Gruber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Gruber
Landscape Architect

Attachments:

1. Conceptual Improvement Plan for Valley Trails Park improvements
2. Conceptual playground design and location presented to public on 3/2/2019
3. Public outreach meeting summary
4. Revised playground design and location per public input