

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
MEMORANDUM 12-32**

**DATE:** November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor Joyce Downing and City Council Members  
**FROM:** William A. Simmons, City Manager *WAS*  
Brook Svoboda, Director of Planning and Development *BS*  
Amanda Peterson, Parks & Recreation Director *AP*  
Jim May, Police Chief  
**SUBJECT:** Findings and Recommendations for the Community Engagement for Skatepark

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**BACKGROUND**

Concerned residents approached City Council regarding ongoing concerns with the impacts that the Don Anema Memorial Skatepark was having in EB Rains Jr. Memorial Park and surrounding neighborhoods. The Police, Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments held three (3) Community Engagement Public Meetings.

The first meeting was well attended by the public. The meeting served as a “educate and listening” exercise, establishing a shared understanding of the impacts and concerns surrounding the skate park. The second and third meetings represented a smaller “breakout group” to develop recommendations to address the stated concerns from the first meeting. Public attendance at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings was less than hoped for, nonetheless, a list of findings and recommendations were drafted from these meetings, which are detailed below

**FINDINGS**

The following identify the key concerns raised at the first meeting:

- Criminal activity
  - Analysis shows there has not been a significant increased of criminal activity since the skate park opened; however, the concentration of this activity has increased around the area of the skatepark, creating more impact to the surrounding neighborhoods adjacent to the skatepark.
- Loitering After Hours - People are congregating around the skatepark after park hours and/or when the lighting is turned off at the skatepark
- Smoking, drinking, illegal drugs and fighting
  - People (many believed to be minors) are congregating around the eastern fences of Village Greens creating a general nuisance
- Eastern Parking Lot, Loitering
  - An increase in late night activity - people playing loud music and drinking.
- Use of skatepark outside of posted park hours
  - Late night and early morning

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

City staff and area residents held two additional meetings to discuss the challenges and solutions, developing a plan to mitigate the findings identified at the first meeting. The following recommendations are divided into three (3) phases based on a perceived benefit/cost analysis. Phase 1 would represent the least cost with the greatest potential benefit. Staff recommends an assessment of the effectiveness for the solutions implemented under each phase before initiating the next phase of improvements. Staff will prepare a detailed cost estimate for each measure Council would like to see move forward and bring back to Council for final approval before implementing.

**PHASE 1**

<b>Proposed Solution</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Concern(s) Addressed</b>
Increased Police Presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Police Department has increased foot patrols and general police presence in the park with an added emphasis towards the skatepark</li> </ul>	Criminal activity Loitering After Hours Smoking, Drinking, illegal drugs and fighting Eastern Parking Lot, Loitering Use of skatepark outside of posted park hours
Install Additional Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently there is one sign posted with the rules and regulations</li> <li>Place signs on light poles surrounding skatepark area depicting hours of operation and penalties</li> </ul>	Loitering After Hours Use of skatepark outside of posted park hours
Run Irrigation adjacent to Skatepark at night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Run irrigation immediately after closing of skatepark for short duration (entire area surrounding skatepark)</li> <li>Run irrigation again an hour later.</li> <li>Redirect sprinklers into skatepark area making use of park undesirable at night</li> </ul>	Reduce loitering after hours Use of skatepark outside of posted park hours
Parental Accountability Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt policy making parents equally accountable for criminal violations their minor children are charged with</li> </ul>	Criminal activity Loitering After Hours Smoking, Drinking, illegal drugs and fighting Eastern Parking Lot, Loitering
Close the skatepark/EB Rains @ 10:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has recommended closing all parks @ 10:00 PM</li> </ul>	Criminal activity Loitering After Hours Smoking, Drinking, illegal drugs and fighting Eastern Parking Lot, Loitering Use of skatepark outside of posted park hours

**PHASE 2**

<b>Proposed Solution</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Concern(s) Addressed</b>
Install thorny vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placement along both sides of Farmer’s Highline Canal</li> <li>• Placement along Village Greens Fence</li> <li>• Will reduce avenues of egress to area</li> <li>• Minimize the amount of egress for violators and assist the PD with containment</li> </ul>	Criminal activity Loitering After Hours Smoking, Drinking, illegal drugs and fighting
Install Gates at each end Village Greens 4 ft fence – Lincoln St Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be done in combination with vegetation</li> </ul>	Criminal activity Loitering After Hours Smoking, Drinking, illegal drugs and fighting

**PHASE 3**

<b>Proposed Solution</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Concern(s) Addressed</b>
Install Video Monitoring Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further research is required to determine costs for infrastructure (wired vs wireless system) and administrative operations requirements</li> </ul>	Criminal activity Loitering After Hours Smoking, Drinking, illegal drugs and fighting Eastern Parking Lot, Loitering Use of skatepark outside of posted park hours
Install lighting along Village Green Fence Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This could be done in lieu of or in combination with the vegetation and gates described in Phase 2</li> </ul>	Criminal activity Loitering After Hours Smoking, Drinking, illegal drugs and fighting
Install gate(s)/controlled access to eastern EB Rains Parking lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrict access after park hours</li> <li>• Install gate at entrance and one-way exit infrastructure.</li> <li>• Implementation would require staff time to open and close the gates every day.</li> </ul>	Criminal activity Loitering After Hours Eastern Parking Lot, Loitering Use of skatepark outside of posted park hours
Install gate on pedestrian Bridge to Parkview Townhomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would require an electronic mechanism on a timer that would activate at closing time - people could exit from the park but no longer enter after closing time</li> </ul>	Criminal activity Loitering After Hours Use of skatepark outside of posted park hours
Eliminate walkway behind Village Green Fence – Extend Residential Fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would eliminate existing walkway but may not deter loitering against fence</li> <li>• Would require installation of vegetation in combination with extended fence to be effective</li> </ul>	Criminal activity Loitering After Hours Smoking, Drinking, illegal drugs and fighting

**BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS:**

Based on Council direction Staff will prepare estimates for measures Council would like to see implemented.

**STAFF REFERENCE**

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