

City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
July 14, 2010

Members Present: Wanda Bennewitz, Matt Morris, Nicole Love, Randy Marcus, David Jones, Paula Bender, Luke Livingston

Guests: Mayor Nancy Harris, Jason Rogers, Danielle Toepfer, Kathy Marelle, Billy Jones

Danielle Toepfer from HDR presented the proposed park design for the Rogers Bridge Park. The design included 106 parking spaces with additional green space for overflow parking on the outside of the main parking areas. The plan included a tree allee which bisects the park to create a focal walkway to the river outlook and a dog park. The existing greenway is incorporated into the proposed walking trail, and a nature trail was placed in the wooded area. A new playground area was proposed further away from the river. Danielle also explained that the city would need to get a permit from the National Park Service which ranges from \$50,000 to 60,000. The estimated cost for the entire project was approximately \$3.5 million which included a crushed stone surface for the dog park and lighting for the main central park area.

Discussion:

Marelle shared that the City would see if the past environmental impact study done during an earlier survey could be included in the \$50,000 fee with the National Parks Service. She also asked the advisory committee to consider the proposed playground and the current playground area. Renovating the bridge is not included in the plan. This will require the coordination between 2 municipalities and Gwinnett and Fulton Counties.

The current playground is going to be farther away from the parking lot if it is not moved, plus it will be farther away from bathrooms. The bathrooms need to be more centrally located in the park to be accessible to everyone. It was requested that the pathway have mixed surfaces rather than all concrete.

The committee liked the tree allee, the different walking paths, and the overall design.

Motion :

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommends that we:

- Leave parking as it is but design spaces that can be converted to parking spaces later.
- Keep the existing playground at this time.
- Use safety lighting in the parking lot.
- Add a small satellite restroom near the dog park (Danielle explained that it is included in the cost but not on the current map).

The motion was seconded and passed.

The committee discussed how rentals would be handled at Rogers Bridge Park. The use of alcohol at the pavilion for parties was considered since this park is not a “child centered” park designed primarily for the use of children, as Bunten Road is. It was suggested that parties would be required to hire off duty policemen with larger crowds or if alcohol was used at the function.

Motion:

Allow alcohol use for event by permit with police presence in the park.

Motion was seconded and passed with one member voting against.

The usage agreement with the Atlanta Fire United Soccer Association was reviewed and updated for both Bunten Road Park and Scott Hudgens Park. Marelle, Rogers, and Billy Jones met with the soccer board to discuss the proposed changes that will include the usage of the bathrooms/ concession stands at Scott Hudgens, cleaning fee, utilities, and usage fees. It is also recommended that Bunten is restricted to youth play.

Motion:

Recommend that the Advisory committee accept the changes to the usage agreement as proposed and present to AFUSA.

The motion was seconded and was passed.

Next meeting will be August 11, 2010.