

Western Springs Park District Open Space Master Plan

WESTERN SPRINGS PARK DISTRICT OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN CHAPTER IV PUBLIC INPUT

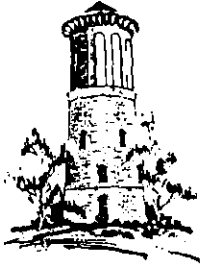
A. FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

In an attempt to obtain the best starting point for public input regarding the direction of the Western Springs Park District it was suggested to start with input from small community discussion groups. Small groups which roughly represented each of the neighborhoods served, active recreation groups, and local schools met in small sessions. In February and March of 1997 seven individual meetings averaging six residents (excluding commissioners) were held. These smaller forums allowed for uninhibited discussions and provided the park commissioners with very valuable input. From these meetings a "project consideration list" (see Reference Chapter VII H.) was created in order to obtain more structure at subsequent public meetings.

B. PUBLIC MEETINGS

Three public meetings were held at the Western Springs Village Hall to discuss the items included on the "project consideration list" and elicit public input.

A morning meeting and an afternoon meeting on Saturday, March 15, 1997, were held to discuss the ten smaller satellite parks in Western Springs. Parks



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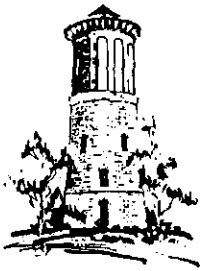
north of the Burlington Northern railroad tracks were discussed in the morning and parks south of the tracks were discussed in the afternoon.

A third meeting was held on Monday evening, April 7, 1997, to discuss considerations for Spring Rock Park, our community park.

As an exit survey from these meetings the "project consideration list" was utilized to elicit the attendees opinions. The only new idea brought up during the public meetings which was not on the "project consideration list" was the possible need for a public dog run. In general the public concern in Western Springs is focused on the lack of quality athletic facilities for our burgeoning recreation programs. Soccer, baseball, and football fields are near the maximum use density. The condition of these fields is poor due to overuse and generally poor drainage. The lack of in-line skating facilities within the Village was also identified as an area of serious concern. Finally, the residents expressed a desire for enhanced maintenance of all the parks. Based upon comments in the three public meetings and general comments over the last year we have interpreted the development of additional and better playing fields at Spring Rock as our top improvement priority. Beyond that the consensus for other improvements in our parks is less clear.

C. MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

The development of a Park District Master Plan has been a standing agenda item for the last eight months. Discussions during those meetings have



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resulted in further refinement of the goals and objectives contained in this master plan.

D. COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Western Springs Park District intends to develop a community wide survey. This survey hopefully to be circulated in late 1997 will reach the Village households. With an historic 30% to 40% response rate to other surveys we anticipate a statistically significant response to help guide our future efforts.