



Meeting Minutes

Project: James Park Playground Renovations

Meeting Date: July 30, 2025, 6 pm

Meeting Location: Levy Senior Center

Meeting Purpose: Neighborhood meeting to discuss new concepts and playground for future renovation possibilities.

Attendees: Lara Biggs, Public Works Bureau Chief – Capital Planning
Michael Callahan, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Stefanie Levine, Senior Project Manager
Kenon Boehm, Landscape Designer II
Parks and Recreation Board Members
Community Members

PRESENTATION:

Public Engagement meeting #2 was held at the Levy Senior Center.

Staff presented the planned presentation, detailing the project timeline, anticipated scope, existing conditions, and two concept plans. Also presented were three boards featuring playground equipment for breakout exercises. Staff explained that the main goal of this engagement was to refine the options down to a single concept for further development.

Following the presentation, staff opened the conversation for discussion and general Q&A. Attendees expressed concerns about Concept A, specifically regarding the design being bisected by the multi-use path and its proximity to the parking lot. There were no concerns about the sledding hill run-out area, as most agreed that it takes considerable speed to reach that distance.

Concept B was overall well received. Many attendees appreciated its central features and the overall “spoke” design. Participants also discussed a variety of topics, including hill re-wilding, specific playground elements, and the sledding hill. Common items raised are summarized below:

- Questions about the old ski/sledding hill were discussed and talked of how it would be great to restore the element back to the public. This element is currently not in the scope of this project, but discussions of funding campaigns came up in the crowd.



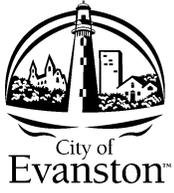
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- Discussion about width of multi-use path. Described to be 12' wide in all areas for the future
- Concerns over maintenance of re-wilding area as well as trees. This will need to be accommodated in construction pricing. Plant selection in this area will be key to making the space successful.
- Concerns over shade across play space. Staff to investigate temporary structures while trees grow.
- Concern over proximity to existing fields/use spaces. Staff to look at reducing playground space to minimize concerns
- Asks of accessibility on the site as well as swing elements. All of which will continue to be a program element moving forward in the design.

The meeting then moved into breakout activities where residents could provide additional feedback. Attendees were given post it notes and stickers to be utilized on (5) boards. Two of the boards featured the new concepts, asking the group to select their favorite. The other three boards featured playground elements to select their favorite items. Additional information and input during this time included the following:

- Unanimous selection of concept B as the favorite
- Shade structures as a possible bid alternate
- Bringing back Snow boarding/skiing
- More nature play
- Double facing benches for kid watching versatility
- Need for more input from teenagers and the other age groups

The meeting concluded with staff indicating that the next meeting would hopefully be held in October and all attendees were encouraged to attend to provide additional input. Public meeting #3 will have a refined final concept for review and input.



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Pre-comment Breakout Display



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Concept A



Concept B



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Playground Options 1



Playground Options 2



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Playground Options 3