

# NOTES

## Farmington City Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan

### **Advisory Committee Meeting #1**

November 17, 2022, 6:00 pm, Farmington City Hall



### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jon Lowe	PRAT Committee Chair
Caroline Larson	PRAT Committee Member
Kenzie Barlow	PRAT Committee Member
Rebecca Mann	PRAT Committee Member
Sterling Jenson	PRAT Committee Member
Tracy McCoy	PRAT Committee Member
Scott Isaacson	City Council
Amy Shumway	City Council
Colby Thackeray	Parks & Rec Director
Sylvia Clark	Business/Pool Manager
Jae Horrocks	Parks Superintendent
Linda Weeks	Recreation/Gym Manager
Madison Merrill	Landmark Design
Lisa Benson	Landmark Design

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

#### **PARKS**

- Farmington's parks are too similar
  - Parks have few defining features
  - Amenities need to be updated
  - There is a lot of unprogrammed lawn areas
- Unique, destination amenities/parks are desired
  - Such as:
    - All-abilities park
    - Skate park (like West Valley's or Summit Park's)
    - Dog park
    - Older-kid play equipment
    - Amenities that appeal to all ages
    - Water feature/Ice skating (like Bountiful)
    - Event space (food trucks, farmers market, etc.)
  - The new Business Park is envisioned to be a destination park
    - Including:
      - Unique amenities
      - Art

- Quality aesthetic/design
  - The Park needs a strong vision
    - Public engagement is planned to be part of the design process
- Many parks are not recognizable by their name
  - There is interest in renaming some parks to give them a stronger identity
  - The Survey should include park addresses or a map of parks (not just park names)
- Many parks are underutilized, particularly the small parks
  - Eagle Mountain's pocket parks are a good example of specialized pocket parks that focus on specific users
  - Perhaps some small/underutilized parks should be sold or converted to open space
- Woodland Park is great but needs to be refreshed with new amenities and a more modern design
- Farmington's demographics are changing; there will be more young adults/seniors and less young families.
- Lighting is needed to feel safe in parks and on trails
  - The city should focus lighting on specific parks/trails so there are some facilities that still feel safe when it's dark outside
- Parks have minimal programming except during large City events
  - There is interest in having more programming
    - The Parks and Recreation Department came up with a list of programming ideas during COVID (such as a scavenger hunt, chalk art, movie in the park, etc.)

## RECREATION

- Farmington Gym
  - The gym was originally constructed to meet the demand for Jr. Jazz, but there is a demand for a greater variety of indoor recreation.
    - Pickleball is in highest demand
  - The 32,000 square foot gym expansion needs to be multi-use.
    - Desired additions include:
      - More pickleball courts
      - Bigger fitness classroom
      - Better space for childcare
      - Office space for Parks & Rec. Department
- Farmington Swimming Pool
  - A new outdoor pool is needed
    - Current pool is dated and undersized
    - It should accommodate both recreation and lap swimming, and there is possible desire for a lazy river
  - Farmington is known for its swimming lessons and demand is high.
- Sports Programs
  - Sports programs are well-run and organized.
  - Flag football, soccer, and Jr. Jazz are growing. Demand for baseball is declining

- Some desire more competitive sport programs that are a step down from joining a traveling competitive team

## ARTS

- Momentum for the arts in Farmington was lost during COVID
  - The City is planning to revive the arts sub-committee (same for parks, recreation and trails)
  - There is desire for more arts events and competitions
- There is a need for a better performing arts space
  - There are no concert hall in Davis County – perhaps Farmington can partner with the County and others to build one.
    - Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center in Taylorsville is a great example
  - Farmington cannot support a full-time theater – Center Point Theater meets regional theater needs
  - Farmington currently has an outdoor stage at Woodland park, but it only functions seasonally
- There is interest in murals and other more modern applications of art
  - Including:
    - A Mural in 600 North pedestrian tunnel
    - A music park
- Farmington has rich history that should be incorporated into the City’s public spaces
- There is currently no dedicated funding for the arts but there is interest in exploring potential funding opportunities.
  - What are other comparable cities doing to implement art in their communities?

## TRAILS

- Farmington has an expansive trail system both in-town and in the adjacent mountains
- Trail Maintenance is a weakness
  - Mountain trails are particularly unkempt
    - They are managed by the Forest Service and are maintained by volunteer only
  - The city lacks the organization and staff to adequately maintain its trails
  - The City needs a trail maintenance plan
  - There is interest in partnering with non-profits who support trail maintenance
- A well-maintained and moderately-sloped trail to the top of Farmington Peak is desired
- Some trail amenities are lacking (such as exercise equipment)
- East-west pedestrian connectivity is an issue
  - There is poor connections between trails
- There is a need for walking amenities and improvements along Main Street
  - Such as:
    - Benches
    - Lighting
    - Traffic calming

- New sidewalks
- Wayfinding and signage on trails is a high priority
  - Trails committee started a wayfinding master plan but lost momentum
  - Mountain trails must conform to Forest Service standards
- Few parks have perimeter trails
  - Woodland Park would be a good candidate to add one

## **GENERAL**

- Ideas for the plan's Focus Groups:
  - A group addressing each aspect of the plan (parks, recreation, arts, and trails)
  - Senior citizens
  - East-side vs. West-side