



## Memo

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12/2/15

The purpose of the public hearing on Saturday, December 12, 2015, is to gather public input regarding amending the Parks Master Plan to include a non-construction, conceptual design for the expansion of Virgil Gibbons Heritage Park.

By way of explanation:

An ad-hoc committee was formed to explore preliminary ideas regarding the development the Virgil Gibbons Heritage Park expansion. On March 19, 2015, the City Council authorized the purchase of 20 acres of property west of Virgil Gibbons Park. The purchase was made as part of a land and grant funds swap with Cache County. As part of that land swap, the City entered into an agreement with the County on December 4, 2014, which required the City to adopt a concept design for the park. That concept was referred to at the time as the Nibley SunriseNatural\_Passiveconcept, and is attached to this memo.

The property was purchased for \$440,000. Pursuant to the city's agreement with the County, the County will reimburse these funds to the City after the County's North Logan park property is sold. This is expected to occur within the next few years.

In addition to that reimbursement, the County has agreed to reimburse the City for 50% of the cost to develop the park. The County will use RAPZ funds to reimburse the city. It is estimated that the County will contribute more than \$600,000 in RAPZ funds to the City to assist with the development costs. The City must match those funds dollar for dollar.

The ad-hoc committee consisted of:

- Councilmember Hellstern (retired science educator and coach)
- Nate Norman (professional wetland specialist)
- Becky Yeager (professional wildlife biologist)
- Rob Davis (graphic designer)

The committee visited the property at different times of the day, to observe soils, flora & fauna and water sources. The committee also collected data on observable wildlife species, both rare and common. The committee consulted with entomologists at BYU and ornithologists at Cornell University regarding the various insect and bird populations present on the property.

The committee provided the City Council with the following concepts, which are attached:

Alternative 1:

- A highly active sports complex with four athletic fields, a pavilion, and playgrounds

Alternative 2:

- A mixed-use option which includes an athletic field, horseshoe pits, volleyball, a trail, and playground area

Alternative 3:

- A nature park with a trail, improved wetland, observation deck, educational kiosk, and shaded benches for board games/reading.

Additionally, the City, as referenced earlier in this memo, was required to adopt a conceptual design for the property, as part of the funding acquisition. That concept is attached to this memo.

It should be noted that the selection of a concept for the design of the park is not a final decision on the construction design of the park. The City wishes to include a concept in the Parks Master Plan at this time because it is the intent to amend that Master Plan in 2016 and the City would like to see the inclusion of this park expansion as the highest priority in that Master Plan update.

# FIREFLY PARK ALTERNATIVE 1



# FIREFLY PARK ALTERNATIVE 2



# FIREFLY PARK ALTERNATIVE 3





2200 SOUTH

800 WEST



**NIBLEY PARK-PASSIVE RECREATION CONCEPT**

November 5, 2014

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