

## **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 @ 3:30 PM

### **Call to Order**

Chairperson Ann Koepke

Members: AJ Ganim, Brian Stucky

3:30 PM

### **Items for Consideration:**

### **Roll Call**

Present: Ganim, Koepke, Stucky.

This Public Hearing was called to consider an upcoming improvements project for the Kids Quarters playground, located at the Community Center at 1 Community Drive, Brecksville OH 44141.

This meeting was attended by:

- Ann Koepke, Buildings & Grounds Chairperson
- AJ Ganim, Buildings & Grounds member
- Brian Stucky, Buildings & Grounds member
- Ron Weidig, Service Director
- Rachele Engle, Recreation Director
- Monica Jordan Bartkiewicz, Director of Planning & Community Development
- Kathleen Jankowski, Planning Consultant from Knight & Stolar, Inc.

Attendees toured Kids Quarters and discussed:

It was noted:

- Kids Quarters is 28 years old (Koepke).
- learning gardens will be added to the Community Gardens on Stadium Drive (Weidig), leaving to question whether gardens are needed at Kids Quarters.
- all playgrounds in the City were surveyed and assessed by Snider, including Blossom and Central (Weidig).
- the Director of Planning plans to seek a grant to help with playground upgrades. The application is due 11/14/22. She will need a rough budget and plan. The grant can include plans to upgrade the playground for ADA, the ADA access does not need to currently be in place.
- that parts are no longer available for the existing two large play structures should they be needed for repairs or additions (confirmed by Stucky, Weidig and Jankowski).
- Drainage is a situation at this location (Stucky)
- Age range for the playground is Toddler – 12 yrs. There should be two distinct areas; one for toddlers and one geared towards the 5-12 age group.

### 1. Tasks:

- Mr. Weidig will provide any CAD, Survey, grading and utility documents available to Ms. Jankowski for review. The review should be completed within 30 days and then a study will be performed to see the actual build vs. what is on paper.
- Ms. Jankowski will perform a Playground Assessment, which will take about two weeks.
- All in attendance: think of how to bring the community together to work on this project.

### 2. Goals from this Meeting:

- Plan for 20-25 years (Jankowski)
  - Everything must be sustainable, durable
  - Seek products from companies that have long track records for quality structures and surfaces
- Submit a grant application to help fund the project (Bartkiewicz)
- Create a plan to collect community input for the project (Koepe and Engle)
  - A communication seeking feedback from the public was placed in the Fall 2022 Bulletin
  - Possibly a future survey
  - Ms. Jankowski suggested having a public meeting with concept boards and providing sticky notes for people to add feedback

### 3. Product materials and project layout:

- Ms. Jankowski cautioned against the use of wood for structures at the playground as it tends to attract stinging insects.
- Surfacing will be very important. Discussion included the following comments:
  - Woodchips are hard for accessibility
  - Several parents comment that they prefer a soft rubberized surface
  - Wood fibers (woodchips) are easier to maintain, but must be done so properly, not by just adding new material over the old
  - Rubberized surfacing has a life expectancy of 10-15 years and during that time it will need to be patched. Patching is not always easy to blend. They do offer a carpet-square type product that does somewhat help with this. (Jankowski)
  - Some playgrounds offer multiple ground surfaces, with rubber under the equipment but not over the entirety of the playground
- It was suggested by Councilperson Koepe that the group look at other locations within the city to relocate and possibly expand the Bocce Courts. This would allow more space to expand Kids Quarters and provide upgraded services to those that utilize the Bocce Courts. Location suggestions include Stadium Drive and Blossom Hill. At this time it was also mentioned that the City might also consider adding a sand volleyball court to one of these locations. Mr. Weidig mentioned, and Ms. Engle concurred that there is interest in having a third Bocce Court and providing a cover over the courts.
- Suggestions to incorporate nature into the character of the playground included:
  - Utilizing and reworking the existing tunnel and slide area
  - Discussion on whether to keep some garden element

- Allowing for open space for unstructured play
- A Storybook Trail was suggested, and Ms. Bartkiewicz said she will look into a possible grant for this.
- Copies of magazine pages showing sample play structures were distributed.
- Elements that Stay:
  - In Current State:
    - Pavilion and Bathrooms
    - Porch Swing Structure
  - Stay but may be modified or modernized:
    - Basketball court (needs sprucing up)
    - Walking path around the playground
    - Two separated play sections: toddler and 5-12
    - Swing elements (may not be in same location)
    - Slides of some variety
    - Dedication stones/monuments—will remain but be redesigned
    - Park Entrance—can include stairs but requires a ramp
    - Fencing
- Consider removing/changing-modifying/keeping as-is:
  - Existing Equipment due to age and lack of available parts
  - Waterfall Feature
  - Smaller interior pavilion and seating
  - Locations of garbage containers
  - Bocce Courts

#### 4. Project Access and Safety:

- Ms. Jankowski will incorporate:
  - fencing and landscaping in her plans to aid in safety
  - good sight lines throughout the playground for parents with kids of various ages
  - ADA access to the playground. She has been given a ramp design created by the City Engineer.
- Pedestrian Access Points:
  - Council person Koepke requested the addition of a crosswalk from the Community Center outdoor pool entrance and Mr. Weidig suggesting placing it between the curbstops through parking lot to the curb near the church and crossing at the stop sign. The path would continue onto a sidewalk to the new ADA ramp access where existing stairs are located.
  - Council person Koepke requested that the group consider extending the sidewalk on the east side of 21 from the library drive to the Community Center Drive, giving access to the playground from the street without having to go down the library drive, up the hill and around to the playground.
  - The City engineer's ADA ramp drawing keeps the existing playground entrance from the parking lot but redesign the stairs and adds the ramp

- Plans should keep the entrance path to the playground that comes in from the library/Community Center drive

5. A timeline for the project:

Once the documents provided by the city to the consultant are received, reviewed and a playground assessment has been performed, another work session will be organized. No date was discussed for a follow-up work session, but a rough timeline provided by Ms. Jankowski suggests a meeting in or around November.

It was suggested by Councilmember Koepke that the group consider a two-year project completion goal so that the opening of the redesigned playground could take place on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kids Quarters in 2024.

Point Person for communications with the consultant and the Buildings & Grounds chair is Recreation Director Engle.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM