



General Services Department, Park Division
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Agenda Prepared: 4/9/2014
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Prior to: 5:00 p.m.

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Agenda
April 17, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Center - 421 Main Street, Conference Room 2

Materials related to an item on this Agenda are available for public inspection in the Park Division Office on the second floor at 411 Main Street during normal business hours or online at <http://www.chico.ca.us/>.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **REGULAR AGENDA**

2.1. **INTRODUCTION TO THE CAPER ACRES RENOVATION AND MASTER PLAN**

Due to aging infrastructure and the need for renovation, the BPPC included the renovation of Caper Acres in its 2013-2014 Work Plan. This is the third in a series of public meetings that will allow opportunities for public input on the Design guidelines, Site Analysis, and Preliminary Conceptual Design. Next phases will include development a refined design, and a list of priorities and costs.
Recommendation: *Collect Public and Committee input on concepts developed to date.*

3. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Members of the public may address the Committee at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda, comments are limited to three minutes. The Committee cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn to the next regular meeting on May 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room 2 of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).



Please contact the Park Division Office at (530) 896-7800 if you require an agenda in an alternative format or if you need to request a disability-related modification or accommodation. This request should be received at least three working days prior to the meeting.



Natural Resources Committee Report

Meeting Date 04/17/14

DATE: April 10, 2014
TO: Natural Resources Committee (NRC)
FROM: Dan Efseaff, Parks and Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: Introduction to the Caper Acres Renovation and Master Plan

Report in Brief

Due to aging infrastructure and the need for renovation, the BPPC included the renovation of Caper Acres in its 2013-2014 Work Plan. This is the third in a series of public meetings that will allow opportunities for public input on the Design guidelines, Site Analysis, and Preliminary Conceptual Design. Next phases will include development a refined design, and a list of priorities and costs. **Recommendation:** *Staff seeks public and Committee input on concepts developed to date.*

Background

The Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) included the renovation of Caper Acres in its 2013-2014 Work Plan. In recent years, Park Division maintenance staff has devoted considerable time for repairs and daily cleanup of Caper Acres aging infrastructure. At the October 10, 2013 Meeting, the Natural Resource Committee Caper Acres kicked off the planning effort for the Caper Acres Renovation and Master Plan. The November 14, 2013 meeting was conducted at Caper Acres to inspect the site and collect public input.

Discussion

At previous meetings, staff laid out the overall process and began collecting public input. Public input has been an important component of the project, and in addition to the public meetings, Staff, the consultant (Melton Design Group), and a CSUC class have collected information from Park visitors (including outreach to elementary school classrooms). The information gathered will be used to develop a list of priorities, needs, and costs. The plan will address improvements that lessen the maintenance load, improve safety, and retain the unique character of the site. The identified priorities and costs will be used as part of a capital campaign (and seeking other funding sources) to improve the facility. Staff anticipates several NRC meetings and additional community meetings to consider the various elements of the renovation plan and to receive public input.

For this meeting, Staff and the Consultant will provide the Natural Resource Committee with an update including:

1. Intro and goals (Task 1 - The Plan will address improvements that lessen the maintenance load and costs, improve safety, and retain the unique character of the Site);
2. Recap of public input efforts
3. Present Site Analysis (Opportunities and constraints) and Photo Inventory
4. Review of Design guidelines and Present Preliminary Concept Plan
5. Next steps:
 - a. Refine Conceptual Design and Plan (Task 2 - Develop a phased renovation plan that identifies all proposed improvements);
 - b. List Priorities and develop costs (Task 3 - Prioritize, provide costs, and suggested phases for improvements and repairs identified and selected in the process of developing the Plan); and
 - c. Develop Master Renovation Plan and Booklet.

Attachments:

Draft Design Principals and Guidelines
Draft Site Analysis

Distribution:

BPPC Members
BPPC and NRC Meeting Distribution Lists

CAPER ACRES - Design Principals and Guidelines

These principals and guidelines were developed to aid in the design and renovation of Caper Acres.

1. Blend park into its surroundings and create a design that is unique and special. A concept that carries the historic nature of “Caper Acres” and captures the essence of children and generations.
2. Theme oriented design - additional and existing themes to blend and be compatible with existing site in regards to native plantings and play equipment.
 - a. Historic value - Local folklore recognition capturing our unique Chico sense of place
 - b. Fairytale and local folk lore or fictional characters that are compatible
 - c. Create a great and exciting sense of arrival as you approach and enter the park
3. Balance play levels and recognize use patterns and needs of active and passive users.
 - a. Provide play for all age groups including the 5-23 month old children
 - b. Provide active and passive play areas
 - c. Blend play levels with age groups
 - d. Provide seating and views for parents and watchers.
 - e. Provide accessibility opportunities throughout site: making Caper Acres friendlier and adding to the opportunity of accessibility.
 - f. Consider multi-sensory play experiences
4. Develop Educational and Interpretive elements that will bring additional twist
 - a. Provide opportunities to learn about natural and native flora and fauna
 - b. Provide interpretive panels that tell the story of the elements
 - i. Rhymes, Fairytales, ad folklore
 - ii. Local landmarks and culture
 - c. Interactive elements that stimulate minds, young and old
 - i. Incorporate the senses into design and interaction
 - ii. Develop social areas that stimulate and produce interaction with children and adults.
5. Design a plan with reduced maintenance and operating costs and improves safety.
 - a. Control circulation pathways
 - b. Select durable low maintenance materials
 - c. Minimize irrigation (water use) and turf (ongoing repair) and improve drainage
 - d. Improve visibility and reduce areas where people can hide or cause damage undetected
 - e. Install features with modern playground standards per (ASTM guidelines)
6. Provide a recognition opportunities for donors
 - a. Monument representing people involved
 - b. Events providing recognition
 - c. Guidelines on future donors and recognition

