

Parks Advisory Board | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 6/15/2014 5:00 PM | Meeting location Community Center

Meeting called by	Chairman (Jessica Pelatt)	Attendees
Type of meeting	Parks Advisory Board	Jessica Pelatt, Jeff Warner, Linda Warner, Jane Vincent, Tom Serface
Facilitator	Jessica Pelatt	
Note taker	Tom Serface	Absent
		John O'Connell, Mark Murphy, No one from the public

AGENDA TOPICS

1. Visit from Danyel Scott (Dreamland Skateparks)
2. Schedule Next Meeting.

DISCUSSION

Public Forum

- No one from the public attended.

Discussion: Dreamland Skateparks

- Danyel presented her vision for skateparks in general (see transcription below)
- Tom presented Skate Park Issues, Factors, etc. from internet searches (see below)
- Next meeting is Tuesday, July 15th, 2014.

DREAMLAND SKATEPARKS

2150 se hwy 101

PMB 384

Lincoln City, OR 97367

Website: www.dreamlandskateparks.com

Email: Danyel@fastmail.com

June 19, 2014

Creswell Oregon

Population 5,068

Creswell Skatepark:

1. What should we be looking for in a potential local for a skate park?
Location – how close to town- is it easily accessible for kids? Previous use, water table issues.
2. How much land do we need considering the size of our city?
For a community the size of yours a 6,000-9,000 sq ft park would be good. Without knowing the

numbers of actual community members skate and/or bike it is hard to tell without meeting with you what your needs would be, but that would be a good start. We very commonly design/build parks in phases in small communities. Such as Lincoln City, Milton Freewater, Walla Wall, and Hood River.

3. What kind of budget should we be looking at? (Of course, we know you wouldn't have specific answers to these questions, but speaking generally.)

The average skatepark ranges about \$28-\$32 per sq ft. There is many ways this can vary, but a reasonable budget goal is about \$250,000.

4. Do you have any thoughts on resources we might be able to make use of to gain funding for a skate park? We have some ideas, but we would like to hear your perspective on what other towns have done. Who is working on this project? Is it the city? Or, a non-profit group? There are many grants out there thru the state that can be obtained. We don't do anything with grants, but we do help provide information for them and work with you to provide whatever is needed to obtain them- Designs, budgets, etc.

5. What are the most common mistakes you have seen other small towns make? What have they done right?

There are pros and cons to everything. We are familiar with small towns and the biggest thing is to involve the community as a whole and keep them involved in the process and productivity. A facebook page is always the best resource, good old social networking. Getting the city involved and active in what you are doing. There are a lot of different grants/funds that can be reached thru them such as Parks and Rec funds, Federal grants, public improvement grants, etc. Plus, they have the resou4ces in house. It can be exhausting for a very small group to try and do it all. Except all help from everyone – city, community, other non-profit groups such as Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.

6. Are there any other resources or people you can think of that might be helpful to us at this stage?
See above.
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SKATE PARK ISSUES

1. Uninspired cookie-cutter design or parks with dangerous flaws. Doesn't meet skater's needs. Needs may be diverse.

Solution: Use experienced designers that are respected in the skate boarding community.

2. The skate park may be a haven for questionable behavior.

Solution: The skate park should be placed where it has the best chance to succeed.

3. Underestimating the value (and not planning for) the skate park as a social place for local youth.

Solution: Treat the skate park like any other park and plan for it to be popular.

4. Underestimating the space skaters will need to use the park safely.

Solution: Avoid the temptation to fill the available space with structures. Broad, flat areas punctuated by professionally designed form are desirable.

5. Approaching skate park dominion as a struggle with skaters and not trusting that most skaters also want a clean, comfortable space to recreate.

Solution: Never post rules that are vague or unclear or behavior guidelines that you wouldn't feel comfortable putting at any other public facility.

6. Receiving skate park advice from someone in sales.

Solution: Seek objective advice for your decisions.

7. Underfunding the facility that is expected to meet the needs of the entire local community.

Solution: Consider a network of skate parks for the area so that your skateboarding youth have access and opportunity to use the parks. Also look at programs at the skate parks, such as skateboarding lessons, "Skate Like A Girl" session, special trick workshops, and demos.

8. Thinking that small equates to a beginner.

Solution: Use experienced skate park designers to factor in areas for beginners.

9. Viewing the skate park process as a problem.

Solution: Make planning for the skate park success a priority rather than mitigating failure.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

1. Qualified contractors?
2. Maintenance? Who takes care of wear and tear? Who cleans? Who monitors?
3. Amenities and necessities. If the park is boring it won't be used, but if it is too elaborate it will be too expensive to build. Build with growth and change in mind.
4. Audience? Who are we serving? Age? Skill level? Main hours of use?
5. Permanence? Will we want to move it in the future?
6. Location? Must be available and convenient. Proper drainage? Room for spectators?
7. Noise? Will neighbors mind? Most skateboard noise comes from spectators rather than from skateboarders. Sometimes people think skateboards are noisy because they are used to hearing them on the cracks of sidewalks. Parks are less noisy, but attract spectators.
8. Graffiti? This can be a persistent problem with any park structure. Skateboarders are rarely responsible for tagging. Painting over graffiti causes unsafe skating surfaces so other graffiti removal techniques are needed.
9. Consider closing the park during bad weather. Anything that makes the surface slippery can be a danger to skaters, but they sometimes will try to use it anyway. This should be monitored.

SKATE PARK BENEFITS

1. Community gathering places help build social skills
2. Skateboarding has positive effects on mental health because it combines extreme physical exertion with precise muscle coordination and balance.
3. Skateboarding promotes healthy and active lifestyles
4. Skate parks reduce criminal behavior. They are often perceived as negative environments when, in fact, they can be successful at giving youth a way to occupy their time.
5. Skate parks attract tourism. They provide one more thing for visitors to do.

SKATE PARK MYTHS

1. Skate parks are dangerous. If the skate park is designed right it can be a very safe recreational facility. Statistically, skateboarding is safer than playing basketball.

2. Skateboarders are delinquents. Skaters come in all shapes and sizes. It is not uncommon to see a 50-year old moms and dads riding with their sons and daughters at a skate park. The majority of skaters are athletes with a passion for their sport.
3. Skateboarders are a small minority. Skateboarding is one of the nation's fastest growing and most enduring sports. It now rivals football and basketball in many communities. Skateboarding has been around since the 50's and is clearly not a "fad".
4. Skate parks attract illicit behavior. This is no truer for skate parks than it is for any unsupervised park or private area. A skate park provides a real activity rather than just a place to hang out.
5. Skate parks are noisy. A professionally designed concrete park is no louder than any other type of recreationally facility. All parks generate some noise.
6. Skate parks are messy. Like any other park, equipping the area with trash cans and a drinking fountain will encourage good stewardship.
7. Skate parks are expensive. A world class skate park averages around \$40/sqft. They are typically built of concrete and even with full capacity use they will show very little wear over time.
8. Skate parks are intimidating and uninviting. Skate parks can be successful gathering places for all ages and can be a venue used for events, lessons, and other community events.