

## DESIGNWORKSHOP

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## MEETING RECORD

To:

From:

Date:

Project Name: Van Buskirk Park Reuse

Project #:

Subject: Stakeholder Discussion

Meeting Date: 03/03/2021

Start/End: 3:30-4:30 pm

Meeting  Telephone  Conference Call

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### Meeting Attendees:

- Steve Noll-Design Workshop
- Madison Pong-Design Workshop
- Trevor Wilson -City of Stockton
- Carol Ornelas- Visionary Home Builders
- Pandora Crowder- Conway Homes Residential Council
- Barb Alberson- San Joaquin County Public Health Services
  - State playground safety management previous position

### General Questions and Comments:

- Pandora- Western Ranch (Neighborhood NW of Van Buskirk across I-5) doesn't have a community center they use the VB community Center; do we have a contact for someone in that neighborhood? No longer running homeowner's association, NAACP local representative lives there, this person may be a good contact for the Van Buskirk project. Pandora has contacts for several people that live in Western Ranch, Deidra and Jesus, Western ranch does have resident group, but now homeowner's association.
- Barb and Pandora were apart of Prop 68 stakeholder group.
- Carol- Need housing on the site to always keep eyes on it at all times, there is need for more housing in the area.
- Pandora- there were safety concerns expressed during the Prop 68 project, those need to continue to be addressed in the master plan process In response to Carol about housing, this space is for park uses only do to the rights in the deed of the property. Since the site is dormant it has more security issues right now, issues with homeless, fires. Unhoused populations using the site will continue to be an issue even after renovations because the site is so large.
- Steve- removal of trees will improve safety and make the park more open and safer. The city is invested in the project and is already improving the safety of the park with tree removal.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Please describe what future improvements to Van Buskirk Park would be most beneficial to your group.

- Carol- are the fields big enough for competitive team? need room for more fields for larger sporting events, lots of acreage this would be a good site for more fields.
  - Barb- Regional soccer complex at the site
  - Pandora- Conway has been evolved since early in the process, what would seniors and youth do on the site. A large sports complex on site would cause traffic issues in the surrounding neighborhoods.
  - Carol- is it possible to bring in more infrastructure, Dream fields as precedent, fields would bring revue to the area.
  - Pandora- Nancy St to Hawaii St are a part the Conway homes area, all streets are public streets in neighborhood, Nancy is a poor looking street, and it is the most direct access to the park. We need to get back into outdoor spaces and socialize. Nancy is dangerous street.
  - Carol- Infrastructure should be part of the project, new bathrooms, covered picnic areas.
  - Barb- Public works project, safe-ways to parks previous project would be assistive to this effort, could be funding/grant resource.
  - Carol- Santa Barbara example, Ventura sidewalk examples for multi modal methods, easier access, need innovative ideas for access to parks, Park should have an outdoor exercise component.
  - Pandora - Adult playground exercise equipment outdoor, low impact, PAR courses should be incorporated.
  - Barb- Universal play equipment should be added.
  - Pandora -Is bringing in revenue possible at Van Buskirk? What kind of revenue?
  - Trevor- Goal of the project, 40-acre project was the local community. Regional revenue generating park was outside of the of the of scope.
  - Pandora - Conway is a low-income neighborhood, too much revue generating features would detract local community from using the park.
  - Pandora - tennis courts are underutilized features; people use them for other uses.
  - Barb- there should be a dog park as part of the site, other parks are very busy, people are afraid of loose dogs on site.
  - Pandora - is there possibility for fishing facilities? Oak Regional park as an example. Can there be stocked ponds, add a disc golf park.
  - Barb- Maintenance for fishing is hard, park in Sacramento, Swanston park as an example, splash pad feature of the park would be good in this climate.
  - Barb- skatepark is a great feature for the site.
2. What specific facilities would you group like to see included in Van Buskirk Park?
3. What do you see as barriers that need to be addressed? (Including physical, regulatory, administrative, safety/security)
- Carol- long term operational budget
  - Pandora- how we will continue to maintain and keep the site security, after it was closed there was 6 months of security was not very effective. How will it stay maintained and have proper lighting to help with safety, issues with current patrolling
  - Carol- police needs to have some buy in on security measures.
  - Pandora - jobs plus program employment center that supports Conway community, could they work with the community to help with the security at the park. What is the security situation with community center currently?
  - Trevor- previously there was security services at community center, two tours a day, currently there are people there all the time during current tree service.
  - Barb- use materials that are graffiti resistant, use durable materials, blight is what shows that park is in poor condition this is almost worse than homeless people at the park.

- Carol- other sites have built a parks around schools to help fund the park projects, is this possible here?
  - Pandora- Kipp school will be using the site as play area and recess.
  - Barb- if the park is well used the park will not be affected by unsavory uses.
  - Carol- about 2000 people and 436 units in the surrounding neighborhoods
  - Pandora-the park is so big that it needs other communities to be stakeholders.
  - Carol- want other communities to be involved in the process to have buy in the process.
4. What would make Van Buskirk an iconic park that represents the diverse community of Stockton?
  5. Are there current conditions (COVID-19, mobility/accessibility, demographics, etc.) that might impact how your group uses Van Buskirk Park?
  6. Are there any example facilities in other places that we should use as a case study for Van Buskirk Park?
  7. Do you have any further comments related to Van Buskirk Park?