

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

December 10, 2007

CALL TO PODIUM:

Tim Smith
Mary Moore
Clark Wagner

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

Tim Smith
Michele McGleish

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proclamation/Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Discussion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:
Presentation of the Findings and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee for Skate Components Within City Parks

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:
<p>On September 7, 2007, the Mayor and City Council passed Resolution R-94-07, establishing the Ad Hoc Committee for Skate Components within City Parks. This Committee met in September and October, researching regional and national trends in skate parks. The presentation will recommend the size, scope and components of possible skate facilities within City parks.</p> <p>Attached you will find the PowerPoint presentation, a matrix of seven parks, the criteria used to evaluate each, and the results of the exercise.</p>

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Receive Presentation and Provide Guidance

Ad Hoc Committee for Skate Components Within City Parks
Sk8 Spots Grading Matrix

Safety/Security

Social Concerns

Potential Use

Parks	Visibility	Mixed-use	Activity	Proximity	Proximity	Citizen	Access	Amenities	Multi-use	Total Score
			Volume	w/ neighbors	w/other uses	Request			Location	
	<i>Near road</i>	<i>Ballfields</i>	<i>Passive Activity</i>	<i>Noise</i>	<i>Trails</i>		<i>Pedestrian</i>	<i>Sitting room</i>	<i>Park facilities</i>	
	<i>Lighting</i>	<i>Tennis Courts</i>	<i>Organized Activity</i>		<i>Playgrounds</i>		<i>oriented</i>	<i>Shade</i>		
		<i>Basketball</i>					<i>Proximity to users</i>			
City Hall	2.25	3.5	2	1	5	3	3	4.5	2	26.25
Diamond Farms	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	1	33
Green Park - A	1	2	3	2.5	5	1	2	4	1	21.5
Green Park - B	3	3	3	4	5	1	2	4	1	26
Kelley Park	3	5	3	4	5	3	5	3	3	34
Lakelands Park - A	5	5	5	3.5	5	5	5	3.5	3	40
Lakelands Park - B	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	3	3	39
Lakelands Park - C	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	37
Morris Park	1	4	4	1	5	1	3	4	3	26
Walder Park	5	2	2	2	2	1	4	4	2	24

Grading Scale 1-5 with 5 being the highest

- Green Park Site A In center of park
- Green Park Site B Closer to tennis courts and dog park

- Lakelands Park Site A Near restrooms
- Lakelands Park Site B Between soccer field and baseball field
- Lakelands Park Site C Along path behind baseball field near soccer field

Ad Hoc Committee for Skate Components Within City Parks



Report to Mayor & City Council

December 10, 2007

Project Chronology

- Citizens contacted City staff in January 2007, requesting that a skate facility be built at Lakelands Park
- Michele McGleish met with citizens at Lakelands Park in January and May
- Tim Smith met with the Lakelands Board to present possible designs on May 10
- Citizens proposed idea at annual Budget Forum held by the City Manager
- Citizens input was heard on proposed Lakelands skate facility idea at FY '08 Work Session before Mayor and City Council

Project Chronology

- \$40,000 was placed in the City's FY '08 CIP budget as a place holder for skate facility.
- In June 2007, the City Manager determined that an Ad Hoc Committee should be formed to research the project.
- A press release soliciting participation on Committee was issued to:
 - 35 media outlets on July 11
 - City website July 17 – August 14
 - Gaithersburg Alert e-mail
(approximately 1,100 subscribers)

Committee Charge

Research regional and national trends in skate parks, evaluating current facilities, recommending locations and the size, scope and components of possible skate facilities within City parks, evaluating safety and supervision issues, and making a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council.

Ad Hoc Committee Process

➤ On September 7th, Mayor & City Council adopted Resolution R-94-07 establishing the Ad Hoc Committee.

➤ Open meetings were held in September and October.

Those who had signed a petition against a skate facility at Lakelands Park were directly invited to the October 25th Committee meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee Process

- A Skater Work Session was held on September 28th to obtain feedback from the skaters to determine size and design preferences.
 - 29 skaters attended
- Committee members conducted site visits to seven prospective parks, collecting data.

Skateboarding Facts

Why Does Skateboarding Matter?

- Skateboarding is now the 3rd most participated sport in the United States
- Between \$750 - \$800 million is spent each year on skateboard products in the United States
- NEISS – A division of the Consumer Protection Safety Council, ranked the number of reported injuries per 100,000 participants:
 - Basketball - 223.5
 - Baseball - 115.7
 - Soccer - 62.0
 - Skateboarding - 20.2

Skateboarding Facts

Why Does Skateboarding Matter?

- Provides healthy social interaction with multi-generational peer group
- The average skater is 12 – 14 years of age
- Promotes physical fitness through exercise; fights childhood obesity
- Promotes self-confidence through personal ability/skill level advancement

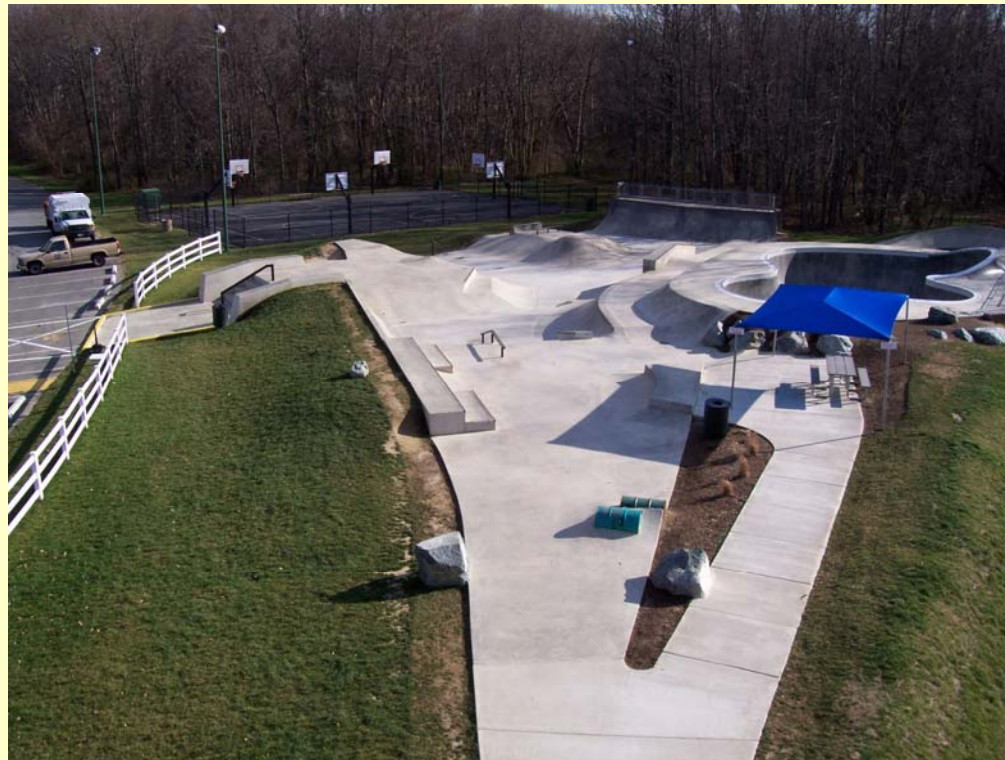
Regional Municipal Skate Parks

- Gaithersburg
(12,000 sq. ft.)
- Rockville
- Bowie
- Frederick
- Greenbelt
- Olney



National Trends in Skating

- Unsupervised Parks
 - ie. City of Bowie and City of Greenbelt



National Trends in Skating

- Growth of street skating or urban skating
- 78% of skaters now identify themselves as “street skaters”
- To meet this need, municipalities have begun to build skate plazas and skate spots.



Definitions

- Skate Parks
 - Often have larger components such as quarter pipes, half pipes or bowls



Definitions

➤ Skate Plazas

- Include elements such as stairs and rails
- Vary in size from 5,000 – 25,000 sq/ft

➤ Skate Spots

- Similar to skate plazas and vary from 1,500 – 4,999 sq/ft
- Includes obstacles such as stairs, benches, ledges, curbs and rails

Skate Plaza



Kettering, Ohio

Skate Spot

Skate plazas and skate spots are being built in an effort to make parks suitable for skating.

This eliminates the need for municipalities to build new skate parks.



Chula Vista - CA

Skate Spot



Winnipeg, MB Canada

Skate Spot



Strathcona, BC, Canada

Goals of Skate Spots

- Provide a legal place for skaters.
- Provide a skate area that is more accessible than the Skate Park at Bohrer Park.
- Provide an off street environment for urban street skating.
- Integrate skating with the recreational culture and activity of our neighborhoods.

Considerations

- Skaters' needs:
 - A place to skate closer to home
 - A legal place to skate
 - Street skating elements
- Community concerns:
 - Provide safe neighborhood location for kids to skate
 - Noise
 - Number of skaters
 - Loitering
 - Vandalism/Trash

Considerations

➤ Safety:

- Drawing skaters into the safety of a park
- Skate spot provides a “safe haven”
- Skaters are not playing in traffic
- Other park users provide “unofficial supervision”

Committee Recommendations

- Start with a visible, accessible site (front of park as opposed to rear)
- Provide a variety of entry points, connectivity
- Approximate size of 1,500 – 2,000 sq/ft
- Components less than 2 feet in height for insurance purposes.

Committee Recommendations

- Skate at own risk facility
- No fencing around skate spot
- Use durable, authentic materials
- Integrate the Skate Spot into the landscaping
- Skate board and Inline Skating only facility

Committee Recommendations

- Strapped helmets required, elbow and knee pads optional
- Skating hours are the same as Park Ordinance - sunrise to sunset
- Skate spots should be located in multi-use parks with amenities and other park users

Committee Recommendations

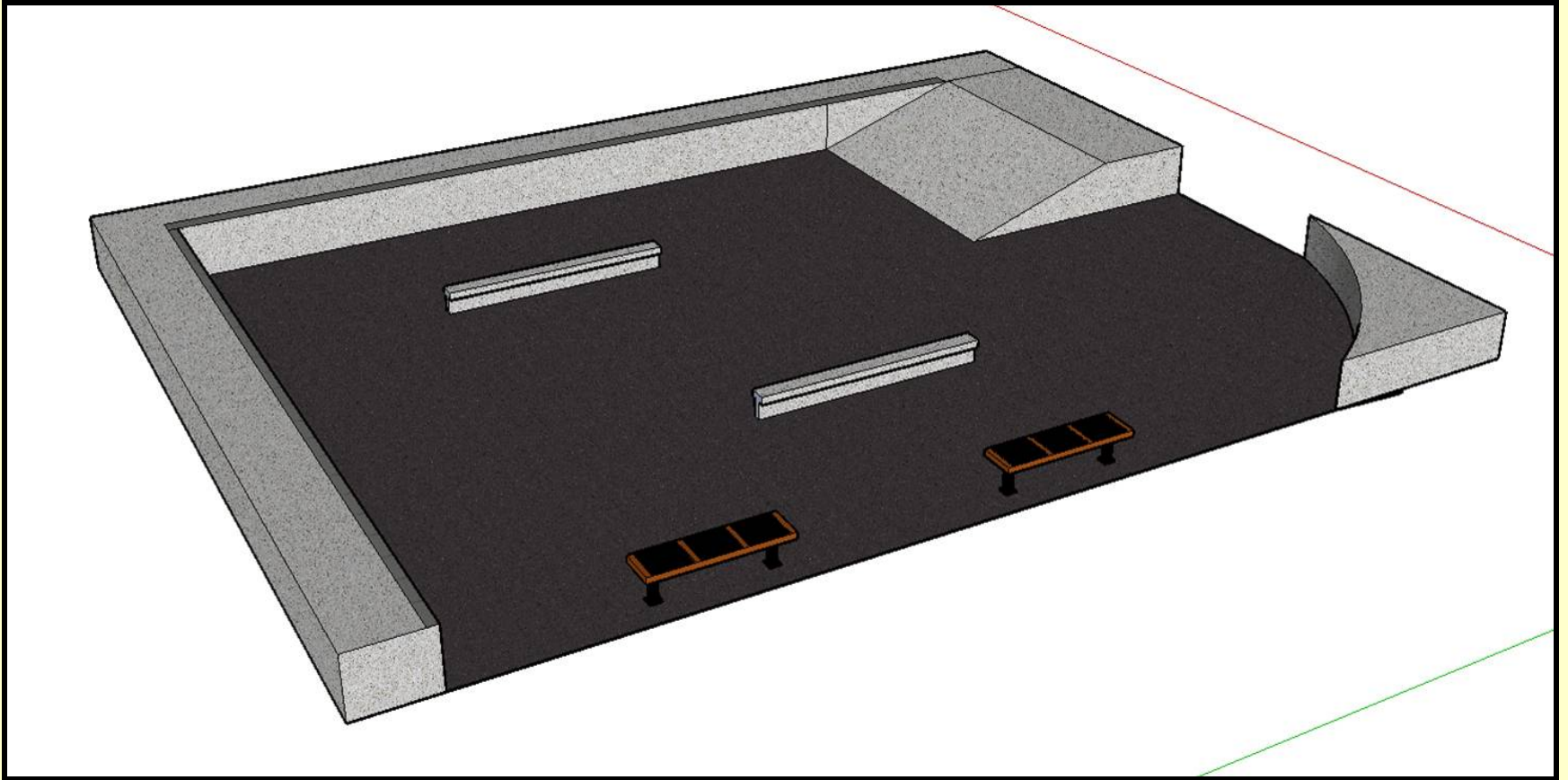
- Community Policing Enforcement
 - City Police patrol through area
 - County Police patrol through area
 - Staff is working on addendum to Security contract for park enforcement from 5PM to 12AM, seven days per week

- Community “Policing” Efforts
 - Periodic City Staff/Facility Supervisors at park
 - Organized games/other adults at park
 - Animal Control Officers patrol through area

Committee Recommendations

- Traffic mitigation should be considered
- Sites should have multiple entry points with safe access.
- Rules to be posted using Character Counts!
Use positive statements not a list of DOs and DON'Ts.

Sample Design



7 Parks Considered

- Civic Center Park/City Hall
- Diamond Farms
- Green
- Kelley
- Lakelands
- Morris
- Walder

Skate Spot Matrix Criteria

- Safety and Security
 - Visibility
 - Mixed-use facility
 - Activity volume

- Social Concerns
 - Proximity with neighbors
 - Proximity with other users
 - Citizen request

- Potential Use
 - Access
 - Amenities
 - Multi-use location

Skate Spot Matrix Results

- Lakelands Park scored highest
- Diamond Farms scored second
- Kelley Park scored third
 - Kelley is not recommended at this time due to its proximity to the Skate Park at Bohrer Park

Lakelands Sites



Diamond Farms



Committee Recommendation

- Proceed with design of a skate spot at Lakelands Park at site A
- Proceed with design of two skate spots, if funds allow, with one at Lakelands Park and a second at Diamond Farms Park
 - This would allow greater use by more communities!

Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Dan Gerendasy
- Beth Kennington
- Mary Moore
- Grant Norwood
- Sharon Nystrom
- Carlos Osorio
- Bettina Thompson
- Lori Turley
- Peter Turley
- Clark Wagner