



**Public Meeting of the Park Commission
Lewis Park Final Master Plan
City of University City
Tuesday, August 13, 2013
Heman Park Community Center, 975 Olive Boulevard**

President, Ed Mass called the Public Meeting on Lewis Park to order at 6:30 pm. Members present were:

William Field
Steve Goldstein
Kim Jones
Ed Mass
Linda Peoples
Kathy Standley

Rich Wilson, Director of Public Works and Parks
Lynda Euell-Taylor, Deputy Director of Recreation
Megan Fuhler, Project Manager
Sandy Bradford, Executive Secretary
General Public

Other's present: Mr. Patrick Worzer, Gateway Design Studio, Inc.
Excused Absence: Alberta Garth

Citizens' Comments

Tonight's meeting is about listening to the public's feedback and comments and revisit and provide more information as to how the design elements and the standards of the park will be developed from the last meeting about the Lewis Park Master Plan and to help the City provide a great park in University City.

Mr. Wilson stated the City will remove the use of shredded tires from all the playgrounds. The City produces wood chips so that will be used as it is cheaper. However, if there is any playground equipment replaced in the future there will have to be ADA requirements, and in order for that to happen, wood chips will not be acceptable. There is a poured rubber that can be used that will allow people in wheelchairs to be able to access the playground equipment.

Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Patrick Worzer, Gateway Design Studio Inc., to present the changes of the Lewis Park Final Master Plan.

- Jen Jensen, 706 Pennsylvania – Great to participate as a resident. She is concerned about the handicap parking spot on Vassar. The Trustees of University Park I Subdivision does not feel that a handicap spot at the north entrance is needed. She is also worried about Park Signage at the north entrance. She feels that is the entrance to Lewis Park. She would like to see a nice sign that says "Welcome to Lewis Park" hang there. A monumental sign along with an informational sign is scheduled to be put there in the future.
- William Chilton, 7141 Delmar – Would like the City to consider pervious pavement for the walkways.
- Daniel Giammar, 6924 Amherst – Appreciates the comments to remove the rubber mulch from the park design. Would like to reiterate wanting the use of natural materials and not synthetic materials for the flooring of the playground structures. Expressed concern about overall environmental issues as it relates to all the materials used in the playground area.
- Dean Smith, 6934 Dartmouth – After listening to the kids that spoke at the last public meeting of the Lewis Park Masterplan and their need for the park which inspired him to develop and present his own plan of the park, which included, i.e., playground equipment, pavements, walkways, trees and amphitheater area.

- Kate Pichon, 752 Radcliffe – She is the Board President of University Height #1 Subdivision and on their behalf she stated they are very happy with the many changes suggested of the Lewis Park Improvements. Expressed thanks to the Park Commission for hearing their concerns. Concerned about the use of any rubber product used on the playground. University Heights Board is strongly asking this Commission that there be NO rubber products of any sort be used in the Lewis Park Improvements. Greener paving choices would be nice to be considered for the park. Adjust the height of playground structures and adjust the equipment that is used in the playground. Would like to see Lewis Park be an example for other parks as being a greener safer park.
- Don Fitz, 720 Harvard – Discussed the psychological aspects of using rubber products. The long term effects of people being exposed to rubber products and other toxins are overwhelming and should be considered during deciding on playground materials.
- Suzanne Schoomer, 7 Princeton – Likes the idea of having the whole entrance from Yale over to the park itself paved. An Amphitheatre would be a great addition to the park as well.
- Jim Patterson, 6935 Cornell – The water gardens are located right on the edge of large open spaces which people can go right through them and the water gardens would never have a change to get established. Would like the City to consider putting them somewhere else or where the park presently has water problems.
- Judy Baernstein, 793 Yale – Concerned about the rubber matting on the playground.
- Terry Kippenberger, 7150 Princeton – Concerned about adding rubber products to the environment. The vegetation on the north side of the upper park is rather deep and is thinking if there room for a woodland circle type of path coming off of Yale.
- Clair Hyman, 739 Harvard – Wants Lewis Park to be the park that sets the standard for a greener safer park. Wants nice shade trees planted in park. Does not want tire mulch or any other type of rubber put in playground area.

Mr. Mass asked the public for input to the following questions:

- Q: Is two picnic areas enough in Lewis Park?
 - Yes
 - Two is plenty, some residents like picnic blankets on the ground.
- Q: Is there certain playground equipment that residents prefer over other equipment?
 - Resident's like the equipment at Lewis Park.
 - Like climbing walls, bridges, two handle diggers in the sand and the spider web to crawl on that is made out of rope.
- Q: Are there any materials that have not been mentioned for playground that might be better environmentally?
 - Avoid coco mulch, it has chocolate in it and is bad for dogs.
 - Bark would be a good alternative it's non-toxic.
 - Pea Gravel

All Park Commission and public comments are on-line and available to the general public. The Commission will approve a plan tonight. A new drawing will be designed and the application will be submitted to the Council the first meeting in September and will apply for funding. The winners of the funding will be announced in January 2014. The City will then hire the consultant to do the design and we will send notices to trustees but will not have another public meeting on this matter. You will get opportunities to see the final design and your additional comments will be welcome before it's completed.

Adjournment

Mr. Mass announced to the public that the Park Commission meeting would follow a 5 minute break and that they were welcome to stay and sit in. The meeting ended at 7:50 pm.