

Bolm District Park Community Values Meeting 10/12/23 Meeting Documentation

Meeting Date/Location:

Tues., Oct. 12, 2023 (5:30-7:00 p.m.) via Zoom

Objectives:

- Share information about process to develop a vision plan for the park.
- Gather community insights about what a park means to them and their needs/desires.
- Help identify issues to consider when planning and when doing engagement.
- Provide information on next steps.

Participants:

Project Team:

- Halff – Aaron Cooper, Brandon Hay
- Civic Collaboration – Diane Miller
- PARD – Charles Mabry, Adrienne O’Keefe, Rachel Morris

Stakeholders:

1. Neno December, Liberal Arts and Science Academy
2. Melissa Gaskill, Knollwood on the Colorado
3. Lance Ellisor, Knollwood on the Colorado
4. Ginny Chilton, Knollwood on the Colorado
5. Catalina Berry, East Austin Conservancy

Meeting Content:

Project team shared information regarding the following:

- Team Introductions / Project Roles
- Purpose of Project and of Community Values Meeting
- Overview details regarding Bolm District Park (context, history, site info) and Vision Planning Process and next steps
- Sought input from participants on following four questions:
 - 1) What is your favorite park memory?
 - 2) What draws you and your friends and family to a park?
 - 3) What kinds of benefits can a park bring to your community?
 - 4) What’s important for us to keep in mind when planning for Bolm Park?
- Shared information on community outreach and engagement methods and sought input on following three questions:
 1. Who else needs to be engaged?
 2. What are the best ways to reach people?
 3. Are there any locations that are best for tabling? Any events coming up?

Bolm District Park Community Values Meeting 10/12/23 Meeting Documentation

Participant Input:

1) What is your favorite park memory?

- Spent a lot of time in parks, easy access to green space
- Bringing 1-year old daughter to see her dad play soccer
- Go as a family for play and exercise
- Hike and kayak out our backdoor
- BBQ and sports
- Park in Beijing with people using park to be physically active, focus on health and social connection
- Watching sunrise and set; felt welcome; enjoyed nature
- After rain filling up creeks and rivers; Slaughter Creek was full; swam; ate wild green onions that were sweet and delicious

2) What draws you and your friends and family to a park? And What kinds of benefits can a park bring to your community?

- Physically active
- Health
- Sports and play
- Experience in natural landscape and what the area used to be like
- Freedom
- Connection to natural world
- Community
- Equity – Green space and nature trails that are available for all, especially in East Austin
- Grill, party, birthdays – come together to celebrate
- Families are gathering under bridge at 183
- Fishing on southeast corner near river where bridge used to be
- Allow people to have access to river in natural space not just concrete
- Play with other kids; playground
- Govalle has new play space and is upgraded; draws more people and feels safer
- Programming, activities draw enough people to feel safe (currently where people have raves)
- Well lit
- Opportunities for running (window is small because either too dark or too hot)
- Connect with nature
- Inspire curiosity
- Students at LASA have Planet Earth Course were they study ecology and biology; Bolm could be a place they could engage with park, both in science and volunteering

Bolm District Park Community Values Meeting 10/12/23 Meeting Documentation

3) What's important for us to keep in mind when planning for Bolm Park?

- Concerns about lighting being intrusive in homes nearby; pay attention to lightshed (particularly for Knollwood homes in new section)
- Noise (late night soccer games or parties)
- Don't want a lot of sports fields – focus should be on river
- Dark sky friendly lighting (well directed and shielded)
- Create a more natural experience
- River access, trails down to river – this and Guerrero will be two parks with access to river and Guerrero trails are difficult to get down to river
- Interacting and learning about the river, access to the river, should be central
- Opportunity between Guerrero, access point under bridge and Johnny Trevino for kayakers and tubers for in/out points. Would be good to partner with signage to indicate there is a take out and parking (had problems with people parking in neighborhood. Colorado River Trail.
- Water quality monitoring should be part of this because of water treatment plant
- Need to be aware of industrial sites across the river so that we're thinking contextually because you can walk across river there
- Outreach on maintenance facility has not been good; disappointed it will be at that location
- Perhaps maintenance facility could be more rectangular and take more of 183 frontage instead of going deeper into the park
- Difficult to get in and out of the neighborhood. People go so fast (75 mph) on frontage road and pulling in and out feels very dangerous. Unless there is another road to get in and out, maintenance vehicles will be turning in there and its dangerous
- Traffic is a big issue
- Bolm East and Bolm West developments are happening, separated by water treatment area. They will have 1300 units each and we'll have a ton more traffic
- Maybe there's a way to create a two lane road on Levander Loop
- Don't want large events like ACL at the park because of traffic
- Consider traffic mitigation so it's safe to get in and out of park
- Need a bus route (at least to where Bolm Road reaches 183)
- Unhoused issues, similar to seeing at Parque Zaragoza. How can that be managed while treating people with dignity. Big place for drug use. Unhoused being preyed upon
- Under bridge at 183; in woods there is a sizeable encampment. Have concerns about drug and sanitation issues

Community Outreach and Engagement

Suggestions for who else to engage and where to engage people:

Bolm District Park Community Values Meeting 10/12/23 Meeting Documentation

- Govalle Elementary and nearby high school
- Have materials in English and Spanish
- Concerts on the east side and Festival Gardens
- Pan American Park Hillside Concert Series
- Govalle Park (on weekend morning)
- Walnut Creek Trail
- East Community YMCA (soccer games on weekends) (Catalina is connected to Millennium League)
- Knollwood – there are park areas in neighborhood and sometimes have events
- Promote on next door
- Graystar/Laurel Apartments and Houndstooth Coffee (Ginny has contact)
- Apartment complex at SE corner MLK and 183
- Austin ISD workforce housing under development near animal shelter; Jeremy Striffler with AISD helping develop that (potential future residents)
- Shady Lane High Sign Brewery
- Churches