



CITY OF WICHITA  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE  
PLANNING PROCESS

PROS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #2  
MAY 17, 2007  
MEETING SUMMARY

PROS Advisory Committee members met on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> in City Hall to discuss issues related to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Planning Process. The meeting was led by Lauren Schmitt, of MIG, Inc, who began by updating the Committee on work to date. Ms. Schmitt's introduction included a presentation of major findings regarding the planning context and the existing conditions of the Wichita parks, recreation, and open space system.

In thinking of ways to position parks and recreation in Wichita, the Committee identified a number of problems that parks and recreation can help solve, including:

- Environmental issues, such as water and air quality and flooding
- Space and design issues
- Neighborhood deterioration
- Youth issues
- Chronic disease and other health concerns
- Poverty and lack of access to opportunities
- Lack of community

The discussion of the Park and Recreation Department's role in park and recreation service provision centered largely on the tension between providing something for everyone and focusing the approach. During the course of the meeting, Committee members identified numerous roles for the Department:

- Coordinator of programming and facilities
- Provider for low-income families
- Provider for youth
- Planner
- Mediator between different user groups
- Revenue generator
- Developer of community
- Continuous monitor of maintenance issues, user groups, and public needs
- Provider for built out areas
- Provider of neighborhood-based services.

A number of overarching issues surfaced during the meeting, including the following:

- Identifying needs and defining the extent of stakeholder groups
- Equity and mediating between the needs of different stakeholder groups
- Maintaining and building relationships as populations and user groups change
- Access for people without transportation and low-income communities
- Developing new funding mechanisms
- Planning, building, and paying for maintenance

**PROS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
MAY 17, 2007

**PROBLEMS TO SOLVE**

- FLOODING
- WATER + AIR QUALITY
- ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
- SPACE/DESIGN ISSUES
- NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION
- YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- CHRONIC DISEASE/HEALTH ISSUES
- WALKABILITY/TRANSP.
- ACCESS!
- LACK OF COMMUNITY
- LACK OF SIDEWALKS



**ROLE IN PROGRAMS**

- IMP. FOR LOW INCOME COMM.
- BE STRATEGIC
- YOUTH!
- STAFF ON GROUND?
- PROBLEM SOLVER/COORD.
- WHAT IS GOAL?
- MATCH DEMAND + SUPPLY!

**POLICIES FOR USER GROUPS**

- GUIDELINES BY TYPE
- IDENTIFY/DEFINE EXTENT OF GROUPS
- ALREADY BUILDING/MAINTAINING??
- FEES?
- GROUPS VARY! WIDELY!
- EQUITY IS HUGE ISSUE!
- LONGEVITY ISSUE
- ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS

**APPROACH TO PARKS**

- COMMUNITY FORMATION!
- VARIETY IN LANDSCAPE/BEAUTIFICATION
- MAINTENANCE-FRIENDLY
- WEATHER-CONSCIOUS DESIGN
- COORDINATED SHARING OF PRIVATE FACILITIES
- PROVIDING FOR BUILT UP AREAS!

**MAINTENANCE**

- FUNDING FOR ADDED ACRES
- FOCUSED APPROACH
- LANDSCAPE/DESIGN FOR IT!
- VOLUNTEERS?

**POOLS/REC. CTRS.**

- WALKING ACCESS?
- PROGRAMMING NOT CR-DEPENDENT
- BIKE ACCESS!
- PROVIDE H<sub>2</sub>O SAFETY IN TARGET AREAS
- HEAVY USE IN CERTAIN NH.
- FOCUS ON YOUTH
- WATER PARKS
- HOURS ISSUE!
- MINISA POOL + NORTH H.S.

**OTHER IDEAS**

- LOOK AT STORMWATER OPPORTUNITIES!
- KEEP DEVELOPING HIGH QUALITY FACILITIES
- ADDRESS SMART GROWTH?
- LOOK @ OTHER COMM. FUNDING!
- P.F.s??

Wall graphic from 5/17/07 PROS Advisory Committee meeting