



CITY OF WICHITA

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE
PLANNING PROCESS

PROS TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)
MEETING #4
APRIL 28, 2008
MEETING SUMMARY

The PROS Technical Advisory Group met on April 28th, 2008 for an update on the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Planning Process. The meeting was led by Lauren Schmitt and Sally McIntyre, of MIG, Inc, who began by updating TAG members on the planning process and project work to date, including an overview of the results of the Community Resources and Needs Assessment.

During the presentation, TAG members discussed results and asked clarifying and explanatory questions. TAG member comments included the following, organized by topic area:

Basic Amenity Access

TAG members discussed whether any additional amenities should be considered to be part of the “basic amenities” of a park in Wichita. Lighting was mentioned as potentially needed for safety, but it was noted that lighting can be intrusive and may not be appropriate in some cases. Drinking fountains were also raised as a user amenity that is often requested.

Skate Parks

Members discussed how skate parks should be provided in Wichita, including whether these features should be provided across the city. When asked about how far is reasonable to travel, members discussed 5 miles as being reasonable, and others felt that 2 miles might be a better distance. TAG members appeared to agree that other providers, including the YMCA, should be considered, and that a strategy of providing skate parks of various sizes (large central and smaller) might be a good idea.

Game Fields

TAG members discussed game fields, including whether the policy of assigning a complex to a particular league should be continued or clarified. TAG members seemed to feel that more definition was needed, but that the overall policy of turning a complex over was an acceptable use of facilities. One TAG member noted that there

seems to be a shortage of practice fields for baseball, and that soccer teams seem to be able to practice anywhere there is grass.

Major Natural Areas

Members emphasized the need for natural areas with trail connections in Wichita, as well as a need to restore natural areas and add facilities to them.

Transportation

Members discussed the importance of sidewalk access to Wichita's parks, as well as trail connections and bicycle routes.

Programs

TAG members discussed possible nature programs the City could provide, including the following:

- Urban fishing
- Provide transportation to larger natural areas
- Urban camping
- Small scale nature opportunities (using kits)
- Volunteer coordinator

At the close of the meeting, TAG members were asked to review parts I and II of the Community Resources and Natural Resources Assessment, and to provide comments to Scott Wadle within two weeks.