

Citizen Participation Report for North Center Sports Fields Case # ZON21-00191

Date of Report: April 6, 2021

Overview:

The purpose of this Citizen Participation Report is to provide the City of Mesa staff with updated information regarding the efforts made by the City of Mesa to inform citizens and property owners in the vicinity, for the North Center Sports Fields project. This site is located within the 2200 block of North Center Street (westside), and is an application for the rezoning of 5.6 acres from AG and LI to PS for a public park facility. This report provides evidence that citizens, neighbors, public agencies, and interested persons have had adequate opportunity to learn about, and comment on the proposed plans and actions addressed in the application. Comments, sign-in lists, petitions, letters, summary sheets, and other materials are attached.

Contact Information:

Valerie Ah Yong
Landscape Architect
City of Mesa – Engineering Department
20 E. Main Street, Suite 500, PO Box 1466
480.644.3805 (office)
Email: valerie.ahyong@mesaaz.gov

Curt Albright
Public Relations Supervisor
City of Mesa – Engineering Department
20 E. Main Street, Suite 500, PO Box 1466
480.644.5488 (office)
Email: curt.albright@mesaaz.gov

Actions Taken:

In order to provide effective citizen participation, the following public meetings and events were facilitated to provide opportunities to understand and address and real or perceived impacts the development may have with the members of the community.

- 2018 General Obligation Bond
 - Voter approved program, which approved and funded this project.
- February 25, 2020, 6-7PM – General Public Meeting #1 – In Person
 - Flyers mailed: 1 mile long x 0.75 miles wide
 - 1,050 Flyers were printed and mailed to the area shown on the attached map
 - Engineering posted Public Meeting notifications twice on Nextdoor to all of Council District 1 and had received 2,314 impressions (views) collectively
 - Public meeting was posted on Vic-Mayor Freeman's Social pages
 - Engineering posted with Peach Jar - This service sends an email to everyone registered at both Whitman and Kerr Elementary School zones.
 - Engineering hand delivered flyers to approx. 90 homes directly surrounding the propose site
 - Engineering Hand delivered invitation flyers to the property management groups and business directly surrounding the site. Including businesses north of the 202 accessed from Center Street
 - Meeting was published November 8th and November 15th in the Mesa Tribune
 - Meeting notice posted on the PRCF Planning and Projects Page
<https://www.mesaparks.com/parks-facilities/planning-and-development-projects>
 - PRCF posted reminders of the public meeting twice on their Facebook page
 - PRCF reached out through their athletic division to gain impute from their various sports groups

- March 2020 – Lehi Community Focus Group Meeting – Virtual (CM Freeman, Kari, COM Engineering, COM Transportation & PRCF Directors)
 - This meeting was initially to be in person at Mesa City Plaza and was switched to a virtual meeting due to the COVID pandemic.
 - Lehi community concerns regarding park location and features.
 - Virtual presentation provided to a small group representation from Lehi.
 - Items of concern were addressed through additional funding provided by Transportation to provide a rural aesthetic and added ROW amenities along Center Street.
 - Concerns regarding traffic – City later conducted a traffic study and reviewed past studies.
- June 8, 2020 – Lehi Community Driveway Meeting (Dept Directors and CM Freeman)
 - On site meeting within Lehi sub area.
 - I will need to request details from Katie, CM Freeman’s assistant.
 - Comments from Lehi were vocalized during the meeting with some additional email follow up.
- September 2020 – Lehi Equestrian Focus Group Meeting (Beth and Kari)
 - Kari and Beth met with a small group that were interested in revising the park site to an equestrian center.
 - The request was denied due to the commitment of the bond program, however other sites and amenities for consideration were discussed. Currently no funding or sites within the City are available to facilitate this request.
- November 17, 2020, 6-7PM – General Public Meeting #2 – Virtual
 - Notification distance varied from 0.5miles to 2.5mile = 2.5square miles in total, see attached map.
 - 3,034 Flyers were printed and mailed to the area shown on the attached map
 - 150 Flyers were hand delivered to area shown on the attached map
 - Engineering posted Public Meeting notifications twice on Nextdoor & Twitter to all of Council District 1
 - Public meeting was posted on Vic-Mayor Freeman’s Social pages
 - Engineering posted notification on Mesa’s En Espanol 11/6, 11/9, 11/13 and 11/16
 - Meeting was published Sunday, February 16th and Sunday February 23rd in the Mesa Tribune
 - Meeting notice posted on the PRCF Planning and Projects Page <https://www.mesaparks.com/parks-facilities/planning-and-development-projects>
 - PRCF posted reminders of the public meeting on their Facebook page 11/3, 11/4, 11/10, 11/16
 - PRCF reached out through their athletic division to gain impute from their various sports groups
- Additional outreach/coordination efforts beyond noted above:
 - Councilmember Freeman has had a handful of outreach efforts directly with the Lehi Community residents.
 - Direct Lehi Community and adjacent neighborhood coordination and inquiries throughout period noted above and to date via CM Freeman, Transportation, Engineering, and/or PRCF.
 - Various emails have come through the City regarding general concerns and requests. Those items have been addressed directly through our COM Public Relations Group or via Councilmember Freeman and Katie directly.
 - COM Engineering/ PR direct communication with adjacent property owners and ADOT to coordinate various site/design items such as fencing, site impacts, etc.

- Coordination with developer for Pasadena Estates, directly across the street from the park site, for coordination with offsite improvements.
- Coordination with ADOT on possible maintenance agreement for ADOT basin due east of site for a future equestrian use site (still in progress)
- Utility coordination with outside agencies such as SRP, CenturyLink, and other utility companies associated with site improvements.
- Direct coordination with developer of Pasadena Estates, directly east of North Center, across the street from North Center Sports Fields project regarding ROW/Street improvements.

Summary of Concerns, Issues, and Problems, and Resolutions:

Comments have been a variation between the following items:

- Mixed group of users within the Lehi Community who are either opposed or in favor of the project. No action change as this project is an approved 2018 General Obligation Bond project. This has been a constant reminder and message at all meetings noted above.
- Comments regarding safety, traffic; those items have been addressed with revisions to site design, signage, pork chop, etc. Site is by reservation only and gated when not in use, so security and general use not the same in comparison to other park sites. An additional traffic count was conducted after the public meeting to understand safety concerns. Report found no evidence of heavy traffic during the study.
- Comments regarding equestrian aesthetic/feel to match with Lehi community; funding added to provide additional site upgrades such as detached sidewalk, landscaping, vinyl white fencing along Center in front of the park, and a decomposed pathway along Center Street on the east side.
- Adjacent neighbors concerned about views, fencing, landscaping; items have been addressed as part of the design.
- Questions and comments regarding park use, reservations, programming, features, amenities, etc; comments were addressed during public meetings and items that were relevant from an amenity standpoint, that also fit within program intent and budget, were addressed.

Attached Exhibits:

1. 2018 General Obligation Bond Program Information Guide
2. Site Plan posted on the City of Mesa's Parks, Recs, and Facilities website
3. Map of Notification Area from February 2020 Public Meeting 1
4. Mailing List for Public Meeting 1
5. Presentation Board Graphics from Public Meeting 1
6. Lehi Community Focus Group Presentation (March 2020)
7. Lehi Community Meeting Memo/Packet (June 2020)
8. Map of Notification Area from November 2020 Public Meeting 2
9. Mailing List for Public Meeting 2
10. Public Meeting Presentation from Public Meeting 2