



MEMORANDUM

Public Works Department Interim Public Works Director/City Engineer

DATE: December 5, 2014

TO: City Council
City Administrator

FROM: Brian Erickson, P.E., Interim Public Works Director/City Engineer

RE: Meadows Park Update

Mayor Graham and City Councilors and Administrator Haggenmiller,

As you are aware on Wednesday evening, November 19, there was a Community Meeting for the Meadows Park Master Plan. This meeting was intended to provide an opportunity to gather community input from neighbors as well as the community as a whole. This meeting was noticed on the City website, mentioned at the Council meeting by Councilor DeLong, posted by the Northfield News and KYMN radio and letters were sent to neighbors within 350' of the park.

There were approximately 15 people there not counting councilors, board & commission members, city staff and consultants. The attendees represented, primarily, the neighborhood around Meadows Park. The meeting started out with the consultants providing an overview of the planning process and then discussed opportunities and constraints for the park. The presentation was very similar to the one provided to the City Council on October 28th with the exception of showing some optional alignments for Ford Street east to Hall Avenue. Following the presentation the attendees were broken up into three small groups for a brainstorming session to discuss three questions:

1. What other parks have you enjoyed visiting and what did you like about them?
2. What types of park programming and amenities would you like to see accommodated at Meadows Park?
3. Are there any park activities or amenities you feel would not be appropriate for Meadows Park?

During the small group discussion the attendees who were primarily neighborhood residents expressed a desire to enhance the area with natural amenities. Active uses, particularly formal

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athletic fields were not preferred. There was also discussion regarding the road extensions, particularly Ford Street, which also was not preferred by the neighbors. Staff took the time to explain the need as shown in the *Transportation Plan Update*, which helped with their understanding. One final concern expressed by the neighbors was the potential for additional housing being constructed in the area. After the small group discussion the attendees shared the ideas with entire group. A summary of the ideas is attached.

Meadows Park was also discussed the following evening at the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) on November 20 at their regular meeting. During the open comment period of the meeting there was one comment from the public asking for a dog park within Meadows Park. The presentation from the Community Meeting was provided for the PRAB members who were unable to attend that meeting. The members then had a discussion on whether active or passive uses would be preferred in the park. At the end of the discussion the PRAB passed the following motion:

Develop Meadows Park as an active community wide park to encompass a broad spectrum of age groups and year round activities. The motion passed unanimously.

At this point the consultants have now gathered input from several sources and will be developing three conceptual plans for the park which will be presented in early 2015 for comments. Staff anticipates returning to City Council for comment in January or early February after meeting with the PRAB (January 15) and the community (January 21). SRF/PMDI will then refine the preferred alternative and begin preparing cost estimates. The master plan process is still on schedule for presenting the final plan to the City Council for approval in April.