**Barrett Park Draft Master Improvements Plan**

**Review with Parks Maintenance Staff**

Prepared by Erin McKenna, Associate Planner

February 10, 2022

In attendance:

**Kevin Murray** Parks and Facilities Manager

**Paul Longo** Parks Foreman/Building Maintenance

**Ron Markey** Parks Foreman/Landscape Specialist

**Pete Stokes** Parks Foreman/Landscape Specialist

Notes:

* Kevin started by saying that there is currently no replacement **City electrician** for Joe Caruso who retired last year, and the **City plumber**, Tom Vecsey has been out for some months. He would like to have included Tom in this conversation.
* I told the staff that I saw lots of dissatisfaction about the **bathrooms** in the surveys, even though they were recently renovated. Did they have an insight into that? Ideally, the building would be replaced, as it is very old. They power wash/clean off the mold periodically and repaint, but the building is continually vandalized. All agreed that it would be helpful to plant a low maintenance hedge around it to prevent easy access with spray paint cans. Maybe **security lights for the bathrooms and the pavilion** (which is also often vandalized) would help?
* **Scoreboard** – if it is updated, Kevin suggested using LED lights.
* All agreed that the suggested **updates to the baseball field area** are sorely needed. In particular, Paul noted that it would be a significant upgrade to put a cement pad under new bleachers. Pete thought the segment of the suggested sidewalk addition, between 23 & 4, looks dangerously close to the field:



Kids could run on it with their cleats and trip. Also, people like to set up their lawn chairs along this section to watch the games.

* **Burdick Street** - A lot of foul balls are hit and could ding cars, so keep in mind as the parking is reconceived along the street. Ron mentioned that the large elm located at 15 has recently been removed, providing more flexibility in the traffic planning.
* The staff recommended not combining **pickle ball** with basketball, because the basketball court is so constantly used, and there is no enforcement in the park. Staff agreed with Recreations Services about this. While pickle ball is very popular, it wouldn’t work in this park unless a separate court was established.
* All agreed that a **dog area** is not a compatible use in this small park. If residents would support putting one in the parking lot as shown in Option 3, maybe that could work. Like the Recreation staff, they thought that the proximity of dogs to kids was potentially dangerous. What if a dog got loose? The noise of the kids could rile up the dogs. Kevin explained that it is very difficult to maintain grass in a small area like this. It requires closing it down and re-seeding on a regular basis. He predicts it would become a mud pit with sparse grass, like it has in the entry of the Courtland Dog Park.
* With regard to a **splash pad**, they recognize that it would be very popular. It might be tricky to maintain, and they suggested that it could make this side of the park wetter than it already is. I pointed out that poured-in-place rubber surfacing is porous and therefore has underdrainage that will connect to the sanitary sewer, removing water from the area, and the splash pad would have a drain as well. If we do eventually install a splash pad, it should not be located on the side of the path next to the baseball field as shown below, but on the other side. Balls get hit that far. Stamford High practices there, and both Stamford and Westhill have games there – in addition to adult games.



* **Adult fitness stations** – They noted that they are very popular in Scalzi and Cove Island Parks. If we do include them, they should be simple with no mechanical parts (low maintenance) like they are in Scalzi.
* The **southwestern access path** would be convenient.
* With regard to the **playground** options, Kevin wondered if the “Universal Access” playground option that includes the “Adventure Play” and “Unstructured Play” areas as well was realistic financially.
* **Barrett parking lot** – Jason Ouimet asked at the 2/11/22 traffic meeting if the City wanted to maintain an area for materials storage, like soil or mulch, as there are big piles there now. Kevin said that this was not necessary. Also, Jason noted that there was chain at the entrance, and asked if the City would prefer a lockable gate. Kevin said that yes, he would like that.