

PIONEER PARK LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

EVENT:	PUBLIC MEETING ON IMPROVEMENTS AT PIONEER PARK
DATE:	6/20/24
TIME:	6:00-7:30
LOCATION:	OLATHE COMMUNITY CENTER (1205 E KANSAS CITY ROAD, OLATHE, KS)

PRESENTATION:

The city presented the recommended park improvements for Pioneer Park and the proposed phasing plan. The anticipated schedule of deliverables was also discussed.

The Pioneer Park Open House was well attended. The first half of the gathering was a presentation facilitated by David Ashby, Project Manager and John Brockus, Superintendent of Parks. David talked through the design pointing out that the project will be divided into two phases and the park will initially have a small parking lot, a picnic shelter, a walking trail and a one-acre fishing pond.

The first phase park drive, when finished, will not connect to the Woodland Manor neighborhood. However, there is going to be a pedestrian connection. David explained to the audience the specific sustainability goals of the project and the amenities the City of Olathe wish to provide patrons at this location based on the needs outlined in the Olathe Parks and Recreation Master Plan. John addressed the on-going paving, aquatic and landscape maintenance.

Citizens from Olathe, Kansas, mostly from the surrounding neighborhoods, attended the meeting and asked a variety of questions. Most of the attendees were pleased that a neighborhood park was being built in this part of the City.

Public comments:

- Playground delay: several residents expressed disappointment that the playground is not included in the first phase of improvements.
- Neighborhood playground access: concerns were raised about public use of the neighborhood association playground.
- Fire station property: clarification was requested regarding the future use of the fire station property. Visitors were curious about the proposed Fire Station No. 9 and asked many questions about the

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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architecture and traffic. Some questions about the fire station were deferred to the public meeting for the proposed fire station facility.

- Stormwater management: residents expressed further understanding and clarification about stormwater management on the site.
- Park road alignment: the alignment of the park road relative to the neighborhood caused significant discussion, with concerns about increased vehicular traffic.
- Specific requests:
 - The Hoff family inquired about relocating fish from their pond to the park pond.
 - A representative from the city's historical preservation board sought information on relevant historical data.
 - Park hours and safety concerns were discussed, including late-night unsupervised activity.

Note: David Ashby and city staff engaged in additional one-on-one conversations not captured.

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