

# **CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC MEETING**

January 10, 2007

Wa-Ka Hatchee Recreation Center

## **PUBLIC INPUT / CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PRESENTATION**

Re-Categorized for Interpretation and Continued Program Development

### **PRESENTATION OF CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FORMS & PRIORITIZATIONS**

- General Agreement on Priorities. Priorities as Presented:
  1. Provide improved Bike & Pedestrian Access as soon as possible.
  2. Provide Security and Park Access Controls.
  3. Provide Improved Beach Head and Re-Organized Parking
  4. Provide improved Beach, Parking, other Access (i.e. Kayak) Facilitation.
  5. Provide Traffic Calming, Trail Head Points and Improved Access to other Park Features (i.e. Trails, Boardwalks, View Points, Etc.)
- Public expressed desire to see finished designs and County committed to present again.

### **PARK ENTRY CONTROL AND SECURITY**

- Strong desire to have Controlled Access (Dawn to Dusk).
- Strong desire to have access through sunset (30 minutes past sundown). Many users enjoy the facility to view sunsets.
- Limitation to Control noted that vacation of the public road would be necessary. Favorable response to proceed.
- Round-a-bout with Parking & Trail Head noted as most favorable concept.
- Comment to provide a Traffic Signal at the intersection of John Morris Road and Summerlin was noted as a safety & access concern.
- Night time security concerns were repeated numerous times leading to further the conclusion of a need for a controlled entry.

## **BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS - IMPROVEMENTS**

- Strong desire to see and agreement to facilitate immediate bike and pedestrian access improvements to the existing road.
- County Representatives noted that LDOT may help facilitate improved shoulders as a quick fix and temporary solution to immediately increase safety and access while design and permitting was underway. Very favorable response noted.
- No particular opinions were noted as to whether a single sided path or doubles sided path was favorable so long as a provided path was adequate for users traveling in both directions.
- Re-affirmation by some in attendance that Bike and Pedestrian Access should be separated from the road.
- General favor expressed to provide some access into the preserve for viewing and a variety of experience along the route to the beach.
- Favorable responses were noted with each of the proposed Traffic Calming concepts. A combination of these concepts could and would seemingly satisfy all users.

## **PARKING**

- Mixed signals on desire to have parking separated from the beach or added to it.
- Mixed signals on whether more parking was necessary. Some in attendance were vocal about keeping things the way they "were." General feeling seemed to be that improvements were both needed and necessary so long as the pristine nature of the park was maintained.
- Minimal discussion and response to proposed parking was noted. Most favorable to location and additional access ideas (kayak launch, trail heads, etc.).
- Carrying Capacity issues were raised in a number of ways with respect to providing too much parking. A generalization of this viewpoint could suggest that minimal parking could be provided at the beach upon completion of the new parking facility.
- Mixed signals on whether to reorganize the parking or to leave access as currently facilitated. General mood clearly indicated agreement that an improvement was necessary so long as those improvements did not adversely affect the historic nature of the beach head.

## **BEACH HEAD AND FACILITIES**

- Some vehicular access to the beach was vocalized and was a general theme. Users enjoy watching the sunset from their vehicles.
- The ability to access the beach head as a drop off was paramount throughout.
- Mixed signals on location of Restrooms.
- Tram ideas were discussed and seemingly discounted for cost issues.
- VERY STRONG concern about fees was noted. Users are concerned that fees will be assessed to use the facility and many wanted no fees at all to be assessed. Final Designs should consider improvements that mandate minimal fee assessments.

## **CONCLUDING PARADIGMS**

- The following words were asked and offered to define the users impressions of the facility:

UNFETTERED ACCESS

ONLY LANDSIDE BEACH IN THE COUNTY

ENVIRONMENT

SUNSET VIEWS

PRESERVE

BEACH

SHOREBIRDS

SAFETY

HISTORIC

## **INITIAL PROGRAM INPUT ITEMS**

### Initial Program Elements from Initial Public Meeting

#### **BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN RELATED FACILITATION**

- Encourage Biking and provide facilities (Strong Desire for well designed bicycle and pedestrian facilities)
- Comfortable, Safe and Dual Bike Paths wherever possible
- Access to back waters for interpretive experiences desired
- Buffered / Protected Bike Paths
- Hiking trails desired.

#### **ACCESS & PARKING ISSUES**

- Gate for Controlled Access
- Parking on Beach is Desired (May be Limited)
- Strong desire to have and maintain beach access at all costs
- Traffic Calming and Speed Control Measures are desired along John Morris Road
- Trams were suggested as a possible provided service
- Desire to have access to adjoining Public 2020 Lands
- Could/Would On-Road Parking along John Morris be provided?

#### **DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS & FACILITIES**

- Kayak Launch at Rock Creek is desired
- Provide a fishing or possibly a pier facility
- Restroom facilities are a must.
- Community posed the question of what type of off-site facilities would be provided or accessible.

### **DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS & FACILITIES...cont.**

- Community posed the question of what the possibility or feasibility would be to acquire additional property near Summerlin & John Morris for Parking and Park Entry Features
- Desire to see improved drainage and stormwater runoff controls.
- Community inquired as to the possibility of acquiring additional ROW along private property portions of John Morris Road for additional improvements.
- Shelters for rain and sun relief near or on the beach are desired.
- Informative and Interpretive signage are desired. Education information on public lands, 2020 and the park should be provided for the public. Seems to be a desire to educate and develop an appreciation for the site.
- Observation tower or possibly platforms for viewing desired (Salt Flats, Rock Creek and other aesthetic view points.).

### **GENERAL & CONCEPTUAL COMMENTS**

- Bowditch Park mentioned as a good example of a park preserve Concept (Maintain Nature/Preserve Theme of Park)
- Provide Consider Security throughout. SAFETY is a major concern.
- Behavioral Concerns noted (User Types – relate to security)
- Timing of building the improvements was a concern (Public would like to see improvement activity right away)
- Environmental Protection is strongly desired throughout.
- Strong desire to maintain historical significance of the park / site.

### **INFORMATION & ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

- Anyone may feel free to contact John Yarbrough or Bill Prysi if they'd like to add additional comments or request additional information. Contact John at [JY@leegov.com](mailto:JY@leegov.com) or Contact Bill at [BillPrysi@CLATi.com](mailto:BillPrysi@CLATi.com)
- WEB SITE INFORMATION  
Information from both the Initial Public Input and Conceptual Design Presentation Meetings will be available for view on the following web sites by **February 1, 2007**.
  - [www.leeparks.org](http://www.leeparks.org) (Bunche Beach Park Link)
  - [www.CLATi.com](http://www.CLATi.com) (Bunche Beach Park Link)