

October 5, 2021, Parks Master Plan and Recreation Feasibility Study Update for Advisory Boards

2nd Survey Responses

As you are probably aware, EPD and Mt. Lebanon's Public Information Office conducted another, short, follow-up survey to clarify some of the responses from the first survey, especially with regards to recreation facilities. While EPD is still analyzing the results, as they just closed the survey two days ago, they report that the 2nd survey was effective in its goal of providing clarity.

- Good number of respondents took the second survey = a little over 1,000, The prior survey had close to 2,000 and we expected less this round
- Many residents who responded would like indoor aquatics (swimming lanes, children's play area) however they would still use a facility at least a several times per month if it didn't include these.
- Locations preferred for indoor recreation center: residents are NOT interested in anything outside Mt. Lebanon borders, but on the edges is fine (for example, McNeilly is OK)
- The three locations EPD is evaluating for an indoor rec. center are:
 - Main Park- expanding the existing recreation center/ice rink
 - South Garage on Washington Rd. in Uptown - including expanding the parking structure to include the large lot behind 710 Washington, keeping a parking structure, possibly going taller than the current structure.
 - McNeilly (currently large vacant land off McNeilly Road.

Project Status

At our last joint Parks & Sports Meeting on September 7th we proposed a follow-up joint meeting for this month. Since that joint meeting many members on both the Parks and Sports Boards have had questions regarding the details of the recommendations that EPD will be making. It's clear that is what most individuals want to discuss. At this time, EPD doesn't have a draft of recommendations and is still analyzing the survey and doing market studies. Therefore, we are proposing that the 2nd Joint Meeting be scheduled when there are draft recommendations to discuss and debate.

Here is a timeline and ways to participate:

Project Team Meeting- Oct 25, 2pm

The project team consists of one member from the Parks (Richard Heyse), Sports (Chad Wertz), and ESB Advisory Boards, one member of the public that was also on the Parks Board prior (Jonathon Farrell) one member of the public that was involved in the Recreation Center Feasibility Study and a prior Sports Board member (Dale Cable), Commissioners Ranney and Silverman, Staff Department Heads Rudy Sukal (Public Works), David Donnellan (Recreation), and Municipal Planner Ian McMeans. (Additional municipal staff members are invited to provide clarity at times.)

Joint Parks/Sports Meeting – evening of Nov 10 or Nov 11, Ian will send out Doodle Poll to both groups to schedule

Open House for Public Feedback - Nov 18, time TBD but possibly 5-7 PM or 6-8 PM.

(This is also the night for Lebo Light Night from 6pm-8pm, which could increase pedestrian traffic and participation.)

The 710 Washington municipal building hallways and commission chambers will likely be the primary venue. EPD will probably use the same QR Code option as well, that they used for outreach in the summer.

Board members are encouraged to attend.

Public Commission Discussion Session - Nov 23

Quick check in, with the goal is to see if any Commissioners are a "hard no" on any items on the recommendations list and if any items should be eliminated.

Public Commission Discussion Session – Review final draft of recommendations

Targeting Jan 11th Public Discussion (could get pushed out 2 weeks)

Issue Final Report - End of Jan/Beginning of Feb

If you have questions or input now or at any time throughout the project, please reach out via email or phone to your Advisory Board Project Team member, so they are sure to capture all board member's input. You can also contact Mindy Ranney and my cell number and email is on my email signature.

The joint Parks Board/Sports Board meeting in September was the first step in taking some of the public feedback we received and using the focus group of the Parks and Sports Boards to prioritize that feedback. From the public feedback and the prioritization by the boards, EPD will be crafting the first draft of recommendations, which will then be taken back out to the public (to both the boards and in other public forums) for feedback. Here's a flow chart made by Ian McMeans that I think helps to visualize the process:

PARKS MASTER PLAN INPUT PROCESS FLOW CHART

