

Benedict Fountain Park Meeting Notes
Wednesday, February 15, 2012

ALTERNATIVE #1

What do you like?

- Like the big open lawn space in alternative 1.
- Like cohesiveness of sidewalk walk and play areas shown on alternative 1 graphic.

What don't you like?

- Am concerned about the size of the lower plaza.
- Am concerned about the traffic congestion near the lower plaza.
- Am concerned there is too much seating in alternative 1, and would like to pull out some of the seating.
- Feel the park does not need a playground.
- Do not want a lot of hardscape, would prefer passive green space.
- Does not like brick and stone veneer the historic fountain, would like to see a more complimentary alternative.
- Am concerned about teenage drug use in playground across the street from Benedict Park. Feel drug use will migrate to park if you build a playground.
- Have concerns about the inclusion of berms in alternative 1. The berms would attract public drinking in the park.

What's missing?

- A design that will disallow people from cutting across the sod areas at all of the intersections.
- Would like to see an alternative that shows the park sign closer to the plaza.
- Would like to see other alternatives showing possible fountain treatments.
- Did not see a bocce ball court in any of the alternatives.
- Would like to see more trash receptacles.
- Would like to see the incorporation of kickball, frisbee, baseball and soccer into any of the alternatives. Would like to see more activities for multiple age groups.
- Would like to see the addition of adult fitness areas.
- Would like to see picnic area that does not attract drug use within the park.
- Would like to see at the policy level, an age restriction on play grounds.
- Would like to see the 8-10' path connect directly to the crosswalk at the intersection of East 20th Avenue and Grant Street.
- Would like to see a designated bike lane along East 20th Avenue.
- Would like to add walk from existing crosswalk at Tremont Place and 22nd Street to the proposed 10' wide walk near lower plaza.

ALTERNATIVE #2

What do you like?

- Likes both concepts 2 and 3, they have the least amount of hardscape.
- Like the amount of preserved open lawn, good for play area.
- Likes the nature inspired playground features.
- Like the addition of new irrigation system to the park – will help with the condition of the existing lawn area.
- Likes the idea of renovations to the lighting, just no glare.

What don't you like?

- Doesn't care for table tennis, feels that it would attract bad behavior.
- Does not like table tennis, feels it would be used for shelter.
- Does not like the amount of seating shown around the existing fountain. Would like to see less seating by fountain, in hopes to reduce unwanted activities.
- Does not like the radial layout, and would prefer the wider straight sidewalk connection shown on alternative 1.
- Does not like playgrounds, feels the park needs more open space.
- Concerned about the use of pavers along East 20th Avenue side of the fountain. Is concerned that the use of pavers will conflict with winter upkeep and maintenance around the fountain (i.e. plowing of the sidewalk).

What's missing?

- Would like to see a dedicated bike lane along East 20th Avenue.
- Would like to see no parking along 20th street portion of park, this would apply to the request to see dedicated bike lane along East 20th Avenue.
- Would like to see workout stations for adults.
- Would like to see a backstop in the lawn area for small neighborhood pickup games.
- Would like to see unique pull off route for bmx or youth cycling in the park.
- Would like to see the addition of a crosswalk along North Grant Street where the public works improvements will occur.
- Would like to see frisbee golf area in the park, even if area is small.
- Would like to see the park attract a larger age demographic other than children.
- Would like to see other age groups attracted to the park. The thought is that by including more age groups, families with children will feel less intimidated. With more users in the park, there will be more eyes on park.
- Would like to see an emergency notification system, one that has a phone hardwired the Denver Police Department and possibly has a blue light for identification.

- Would like to see a basketball court or possibly a half court if funding is tight.
- As an alternative, could incorporate a multi-use hard court for 20-30 year old age group.
- Likes the idea of incorporating table tennis.
- As a suggestion, recommends over-seeding the lawn area with a drought-tolerant seed variety. By over seeding will hopefully cover up sod presently in rough condition.
- Would like to see existing attached walks along Tremont Place to be “detached”. Feel that the existing sidewalk along Tremont is narrow and does not allow for passing traffic. Would like to see the walk along Tremont to be widened.
- Possibly reduce amount of walk and or hardscape on alternative 2.

ALTERNATIVE #3

What do you like?

- Likes the playground concepts shown on alternative 3.
- Likes walk circulation shown on alternative 3. Only concern is there appears like there are several connections, can the design reduce amount of walk? Can the design increase the amount of open sod area? Alternative 3 has distinct uses, but work complementary in the design overall.
- Likes open views across the park on alternative 3.
- Likes the upgrade to the historic fountain presented.
- Likes the upgrades to the fountain and feel the concept complements the park and building architecture across East 20th Street.

What don't you like?

- Do not like any of the existing benches in the park. Would like to see the old benches replaced.
- Does not think the park needs a children’s playground.
- Does not like picnic tables in the park. Would like to see all of the tables removed from the park.
- Does not like playgrounds. If a playground is to be added, would like it located closer to Benedict Place Apartments.

What's missing?

- Would like to see more trash receptacles and possibly the addition of restroom facility.
- Would like to see more seat walls or curbs included around planted areas to protect plants from being trampled.
- Would like to see an emergency phone system with blue light.

- Would like to see all attached walks become “detached.” Possibly include multi-use jogger/bicycle path. Perhaps the path becomes the buffer around the edge of the park.
- Would like to see greater steps to protecting proposed plantings.
- Would like to keep park “dog friendly”. Feels that a dog-friendly park generates more user-friendly activity.

GENERAL COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

- Would like to restrict parking along East 20th Avenue between Pennsylvania Street and Logan Street. Would like to see no parking and create as dedicated bicycle lane.
- Would like to see small wall around proposed flower beds to stop people from walking on plantings.
- Improve Snow Removal. Two of the 3 plow able storms this year resulted in very poor or non-existent removal of 30% of the periphery walk.
- Are there any trees that will be removed? Which trees will be removed?
- Will there be any annuals included in the park improvements?
- What is the approximate scale of each playground presented?
- Will new irrigation be included in the park improvements?
- What type of lighting will be included in the park renovation?
- Will there be drought resistant grass included in the renovation?
- What type of playground surfacing will be used?
- Are the picnic tables seasonal or will they be installed year round?
- Are there other concepts for the fountain improvements?
- Can the existing attached walk along Tremont Place be moved inward and create a tree lawn?
- Would like to create a large play area between the 3 local parks rather than residents travel further to one single park.
- Would like the drug use in the park to stop.
- Ebert Elementary School uses park often.
- Would like the design to incorporate drought tolerant turf.
- Would like to see a large playground for kids to meet and play.
- Am concerned about the homeless taking over playground areas and using it for drugs and alcohol.
- Would like to put project on hold until other parks and needs of community are studied.
- Would like to pull the sidewalk away from Tremont, moving sidewalks in and creating a tree lawn.
- Ebert Elementary school uses Benedict Fountain Park often. Activities include: Jog-a-thon; field day; mother/child related activities.
- Would like to see multiple pet-stations in and around the park so that people pick up after their pets.
- Would like to see the removal of existing “old” concrete picnic tables that attract nuisance activities.

- Has a question about the demographics of the neighborhood: are there enough children to constitute the addition of a playground? Will the playground attract enough people to activate the park and offset the “bad elements” in the park currently?
- Thinks that table tennis is a good idea and that it will attract more of the 20-year old demographic than the 2-12 age group.
- Feel that a dog park would end the homeless and drug issues in the park.