

June 17, 2021

Project #00218203 – Beaver Dam Swan Park Lagoon Project

Public Input Meeting Notes

MSA presented the overall project via a power point and described 2 options being considered for the project. These options are as described below and attached.

Option A:

- Less walls going back in; closer to past with more interface with the water
- Direct access directly to the shoreline
- Stepping stones allow for interaction with water
- Water fountain on eastern lagoon
- Island on western lagoon
- Access on eastern and western lagoon for maintenance and ADA access
- Removing sidewalk next to bandshell along western lagoon on north side (per the Master Plan)

Option B:

- More walls going in around lagoons than Option A
- Stepping stones allow for interaction with water
- Water fountain on eastern lagoon
- Island on western lagoon
- Access on eastern and western lagoon for maintenance and ADA access
- Sidewalk connecting to viewing point over western lagoon (ADA accessible) with possible swing bench

Walls:

Materials:

- *Precast Concrete stone that is stained to look like natural stone*
- *Stone (natural)*

Discussion with Public Attendees:

Q: Will the evergreen trees stay on the middle of the island?

A: Trees are not very healthy right now on the front end of the island so they will be taken out. Evergreen (large) will hopefully stay as the waterfall would be added.

Q: Water containment with natural stone... does the water penetrate proposed natural stone plan?

A: Water will be contained whichever method is used

Q: How does water get to the pond? Now pond seems to dry up occasionally... it gets "mucky"... is there a method to get more water in?

A: The water is fed the same way as now: from the well north of the springhouse, powered by a pump. In the proposed plan, it will depend on aeration method.

Comment: Seems like people would be interested in slightly deeper water if they could get cleaner water and maybe have fish?

Q: People on S. Vita Ave notice flood events in their basements coming from the park. When the drain is open during a rain storm there is a more severe basement flood in all houses on S. Vita Ave

A: Further discussion should be had on the water basin with the City. Flooding and further review is beyond this project scope.

Q: Fish in the pond? Would be cool to interact from bridges

A: City will discuss and consider.

Q: Swings? Likes the swing aspect

A: Tom and Judy will be donating two swing benches in the park. Seems like most people like the swing bench overlook on Option B.

Q: Fountain respond to music in bandshell?

Comment: Fountain response adds a lot to the show

Q: Walls add aesthetics

A: Walls can be added with increased budget so it should be discussed with the city

Q: Lights on island? And lights around lagoon for skating? And music during winter

A: Still looking at strategic placing for light receptacles, lighting around the lagoon for skating will be considered.

Comment: Sidewalk around entire lagoon allows a path in the shade; if that path is taken out, will there be more trees added?

*many comments about walkway that is proposed to be taken out on the north side of the western lagoon and general vibe is that people are wary of changing current pathway layout.

Q: Are future ramps going to be concrete?

A: Yes for City access to maintain the lagoons.

Comment: If a waterfall gets put on the island, the water needs to be treated if people can get there which would add cost

Comment: Green space is good. Look of bridges remaining the same style is good. Important for rotary to be able to beautify it in the winter.

Q: With ice skating, would walls prevent ADA?

A: There would be a ramp with mats down to the ice

Q: Will there be a warming shelter?

A: Yes, a warming shelter is proposed as part of the park master plan to add a warming shelter. (mayor emphasized expense and that it is not a priority at this point)

Comment: Like width of paths

Q: Benches next to band shell?

A: Four front rows of benches will stay and then it will be grass tiered (good response from audience with this answer)

Q: Rip rap for slopes instead of grass? Because then the geese wouldn't go as much. Lower maintenance (as opposed to wall or grass).

A: Yes, rip-rap limits geese. But it would discourage public interface with water. Also for lower maintenance, could put lower growing natural grasses that do not need to be mowed.

-one audience member likes the manicured look of this park and would like it to continue to be mowed all the way up to the edge of the lagoons (as opposed to the long grass)

Solo Questions/Comments After:

- Loop connection seems important and swing seems to have a lot of support
- Green slopes have some resistance but an understanding... would be received okay if went with them. ***It really seemed like everyone was okay with the mix of stone walls and natural side slopes, but the public leaned more towards Option B to have more stone walls due to keeping the loop of the lagoons as they are now.***
- COMMENT: expressed interest in naming paths after Native Americans that were in the area prior to European settlement
- Another person expressed desire to keep shady path that was proposed to be removed
- Combination of slope and wall has interest (more wall) including having the wall meet the bridge
- Person on South Street does not experience storm-induced flooding in their basement
- Lighting for fountain has support
- Some people would like to see a fountain back that is timed to the music in the pond like they had before