

SIERRA/LINEBERRY DRIVE PARK MASTER PLAN

Public Workshop #2 Summary

On-site

Sierra Drive and Lineberry Drive

Raleigh, NC

April 5, 2014

9:30-10:30am

Carolina Pines Community Center

2305 Lake Wheeler Road

Raleigh, NC 27603

April 5, 2014

11:00am -12:00pm

Public Workshop

The community gathered to the Sierra/Lineberry drive park master planning workshop and park tour on April 5, 2014. The event consisted of a one hour on-site portion from 9:30 to 10:30 am and a one hour workshop at Carolina Pines Community Center from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. There was a large range of participants, many different age groups and demographics were represented. The participants were joined by a design team that consisted of staff from the City of Raleigh, Surface 678, and Planning Communities.

During the on-site portion the design team displayed three concepts that were available for public comment on tables beneath a tent. Each concept had a representative from Surface 678 to take comments and review the plans. Additional staff circulated the workshop while interacting with and answering questions from the participants. The City held two tours of the property where they examined the vegetation and programmatic elements of the design concepts.

The participants were encouraged to provide comments on-site through interactions with the design team and on a public comment form that was collected at the end of the event. The following is a summary of the comments received at the workshop and is broken down into concepts with an added field for general comments.

SIERRA/LINEBERRY DRIVE PARK MASTER PLAN

Concept 1 (image attached as an appendix)

This concept had restrooms with a shade structure, one half-court, two minimal parking spaces, a large play area and lawn with a loop trail. A generous natural area which included a meadow under the power easement was also provided.

- This concept received the highest marks from the comment form (6 outstanding, 4 very good, 1 average).
- Many people commented on adding lighting and noting the important role it plays in regards to safety.
- Other safety concerns were noted as providing traffic calming along Sierra Drive.
- Participants wanted to see security fencing around the play areas, buffers adjacent to the surrounding properties, and noise reduction by moving the courts further into the park.
- There were many positive responses to the limited parking provided in the concept. Commenters felt this is a neighborhood park and limited parking will attract more pedestrians than cars.
- Several items were suggested to be included by the participants, if possible, to the current concept including: water fountains, grills, volleyball, and a full court.
- These are the top items that were liked: restrooms, community gardens, open space, natural play area, lawn, picnic area, loop trail, meadow and limited parking.
- These items were disliked: lack of benches, no water fountains shown on plan.
- Participants also advocated for no restrooms, no increase in parking numbers, and no courts.

Concept 2 (image attached as an appendix)

This concept had a central lawn surrounded by a community garden, full court (split into a half-court and flex court), 7 parking spaces, picnic shelter with no restrooms, and a large play area with a shade structure. The concept also has the meadow in the easement, loop trails, and a natural play area.

- This concept was well-received in the public comment form (3 outstanding, 3 very good, 4 average).
- There were privacy concerns for the neighbors which included: increasing buffers, providing low lighting, and removal of the courts from the plan.
- There was general support to include restrooms somewhere in the park.
- People were concerned about the proximity of the stormwater device area to the courts.
- Trails were noted to be a benefit to the community.
- Several items were added to the concept by the participants including: water fountains, splash gardens [water features for the play areas], traffic calming devices, and grills. Participants advocated reducing the size of the lawn, increase the footprint of the play area, and add several benches.

SIERRA/LINEBERRY DRIVE PARK MASTER PLAN

- These are the top items that were liked: the full court, the natural play area, size of parking area, picnic shelter, open space and trails.
- These items were disliked: several people wanted to entirely remove the courts and they disliked the lack of restrooms. Some noted that the community gardens were too large, as well as the parking and the lawn.

Concept 3 (image attached as an appendix)

This concept had a one-way drive lane which entered the park from the east and exited on the western side. The parking area contained fourteen spaces. The amenities are aligned close to the parking area and included (from east to west): a large play area, shelter with restrooms, bike racks, half court and adult exercise. Surrounding the amenities is a natural area, meadow in the easement, and a small lawn.

- This concept ranked the lowest in the public comment form (1 outstanding, 4 average, 4 poor)
- An overwhelming amount of negative comments were received in regards to the large parking area. Many felt that the parking was too generous and took amenity space away from the park. Some noted safety concerns, sightlines, blind corners, and large amounts of asphalt. Others suggested that the park design utilize on-street parking.
- Many people wanted to see the park design become more walkable for the surrounding residences and less car dependent.
- A lot of people responded positively to the play area and its proximity away from the courts.
- The representative from Orchard Pointe, townhomes adjacent to the park, advocated for a future connection to the Sierra/Lineberry and stressed that they did not want to see barriers such as a fence on the perimeter adjacent to the property.
- Some participants sighted that the basketball court was pushed too far into the park making it a safety concern.
- Participants felt the restrooms would be a benefit to the park design.
- A few noted that adult exercise equipment is rarely used and questioned its overall use at Sierra/Lineberry.
- Some participants mentioned a desire to have a nice sheltered bus stop at the corner of Sierra Drive and Lineberry Drive.
- Several items were added to the concept by the participants including: traffic calming, shade, volleyball, entry signage, and water fountains.
- These are the top items that were liked: bike-racks, community gardens, restrooms, and traffic calming.
- These items were disliked: Parking (as noted above), basketball courts (as noted above), and exercise stations (as noted above).

General Comments

SIERRA/LINEBERRY DRIVE PARK MASTER PLAN

Below are lists of more general comments received either through the public comment form or staff members who were circulating and engaging participants throughout the event.

- The park should be a quiet place within the neighborhood that has a lot of trees and natural areas.
- Views into the park are of great importance and will increase awareness of the park and improve access and increase the number of visitors.
- Targeted lighting should be used in a variety of applications such as bollards, in ground, up lighting and along walkways. The lighting should be mindful of the surrounding residences and not be too intrusive.
- There were comments that advocated not having a perimeter fence.
- Many people wanted to ensure privacy for the neighbors including vegetative buffers, fences, and noise considerations.
- Walkability was an important aspect for a lot of the participants and should include shade, benches, and water fountains.
- Safety was a concern and many noted the importance of sightlines, lighting, and visibility into the children's play areas.
- A lot of comments addressed the play areas and wanted to see a variety of hands-on and natural elements as well as spray jets for the hot summers.
- Additional comments were: to focus the park on the neighborhood rather than beyond, some did not want to see basketball or parking to overflow into the neighborhood streets, traffic calming is heavily desired, and one participant wanted to see an enclosed HOA facility.

On the comment form we asked what was missing from the designs and here is a summary of those responses.

- Amenities such as: volleyball, benches, water fountains, fencing, and disc golf.
- Safety issues such as: lighting and traffic calming
- Additional comments where notes as: Bus stop at Sierra Drive and Lineberry, educational opportunities, and specific items regarding the material choices in the playground.

We also asked what a successful park would look like and here is a summary of those responses.

- Accessibility concerns were: open to all ages and demographics, play areas to be large and accommodating, benches for respite, and traffic calming for ease of access into the park.
- Safety issues such as: a variety of site lighting, no pesticides as this is a health concern, and paved trails.
- Additional comments where noted as: provide shade throughout the site, community gardens bring ownership and pride to the park.