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Re: Comprehensive Plan – Parks Chapter – Parks and Recreation Staff Feedback

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – Dec. 13, 2018

Following release of the latest draft of the Parks Chapter of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Parks and Recreation staff met and reviewed the chapter to ensure the current draft was reflective of feedback that was provided by staff following review of previous versions over the last year. Parks and Recreation staff are encouraged by how the current version has evolved and feedback from staff has been acknowledged and incorporated into this version, but have identified a few pieces of additional feedback for consideration prior to finalizing this draft. The following is a summary of staff feedback on overall content, along with some specific notations on various policies outlined in the current draft.

Overall:

- Specific amenities and features that are still high priority items in the Parks and Recreation system aren't specified or called out in any policy item, including; golf courses, play areas, pools, and the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory.
- References to equitable services such as handicapped accessible facilities and gender-neutral restrooms.
- Specific partnerships, especially long-standing ones that have benefited the department and city over the course of several decades, aren't called out in any policy item, including the long-standing partnership with Como Friends at the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory.
- There are references to modeling best practices and performing routine maintenance on assets, but there isn't specific language about developing dedicated long-term sustainable funding sources to achieve these things.
- The amount of graphics and maps supporting some of the key policy items could be improved and expanded. An example being adding a graphic or mapping the additional green space that has been added over the last decade or since the last Comp Plan as a reference point. Staff would welcome the opportunity to provide options.
- An evaluation of where we are compared to national scale.

Specific:

- PR-5: Add – 'play areas, pools and other amenities' after Community Centers.
- PR-6: Change - 'recreation AT neighborhood and community parks' from 'TO neighborhood and community parks'.
- PR-28 or PR-29: To address the lack of acknowledgement for the non-profit supporters of the system, like Como Friends (mentioned above), could add "Como Friends" as an example for collaboration or fostering current relationships.

- On page 95 – In the text under “Perceptions of Park” – refine the whole description and paragraph to reflect the fact that definitions do not always translate to preference. Staff would welcome the opportunity to help refine.