

Joe Rowell Park Meeting June 3, 2022

Attendees:

Ken Charles
Kalin Charles
Hugo Robinson
Molly Wolf – mud puppies
Cheryl?
Linda Robinson
Kym Hampton – youth baseball
Reece Blincoe – Dolores School District Superintendent
Val?
Joe Recker? – historic society

Town Hall Meeting Notes:

What do you like about the park?

- Walking trails – visual access to seeing other parts of the park (kids playing in playground and in the water)
- Playground – well utilized
- Baseball fields
 - Reunions on fields – rent out pavilion for family gathering and big potluck
- Joe Rowell designed ball fields (little league world series program)
 - Volunteer labor originally
 - Tibetts field – local family (dick and gary are sons)
 - Invested mountain gravel
- Public space that you can walk out into at any time for gathering or personal use
- First thing you see when you come into town
 - Heart of the town
- River access – fishing – wildlife watching – swimming
- Maintained in the winter – year-round access
- People come in and having picnics
- Use of soccer field – still going but not as big as the numbers for baseball. Field is mucky and wet much of the time.
- Flexible and multi-use spaces (LSD visually seeing and gathering)
- Dog agility trials
- Multi-cultural visitors. Many people visit from Ute and Navajo reservations and other ethnicities enjoy the park too.
- River makes the park

What would you fix / enhance?

- ADA access missing
- No park loop/trail that is internal

- Flower beds – pond in Cortez Park (beautification)
 - Xeriscaping
- Transition zones (gravel on basketball courts)
- Welcome signage (welcome to Dolores) everyone sees green first which is nice
- Reservoir – what happens when flooding (undeveloped)
 - Can this be enhanced?
 - Influences landscape design strategy
- Park is very segmented – lack of connectivity
 - Segmented by uses
 - How does everything interact together
 - Pedestrian (walking) connections (cohesion)
- Bridge mystery (can this be restored)
- Galloping goose bridge (concrete in river)
- Escalante expedition (went through Joe Rowell Park)
 - Trail system (roots and connection back to where this started)
- History and culture embody into the design
 - Stories that are incorporated back into the overall design

What do you want to add?

- Concession stand would be good to rebuild. Kids with fundraisers could manage the concessions. Jana stated that most communities going away from full concessions stands because groups that support them are unpredictable/unreliable over the long term. Many are going to food trucks and some vending machines to save the capital cost as well as the maintenance and operations.
- Restrooms closer to the fields.
- Track around soccer field
- Football field with a track
- Field houses/ locker rooms required for a quality high school football stadium
- Should this park become more of a sports complex?
- High school softball
- Sanitary sewer? Old concessions area is the farthest west it can be without a pumped sewer lift station. What size line is this?
- Security for a football/track facility (fence around it but open gate)
- Some believe that the Galloping Goose train is the Golden Egg, but not very many people support it. Concrete in the river next to the park was where the original bridge for the train was located.
 - ½ mile loop
 - Frequency issue? Future implementation
- Dog park
 - Fenced in (creates a sense of community and place to meet your friends)
 - River access for dogs is not necessary
- Skate park
- Bike park

- Enhance natural area associated with the slough
- Outdoor Ice skating rink? Freeze over a plaza area when cold enough?
- Cycle cross – pump track?
 - Can you utilize this when it snows?
 - Create walls that you can paint on for teen art expression like the track in Cortez?
- Permanent cornhole
- What is the parking demand for football and track events that are run by the school district?

Ballfields and Programs

- 9 Dolores teams in 2022 that include teeball up to 13-14 U kids (REC BALL)
 - (3) – teeball
 - (2) coach pitch
 - (2) 9-10 teams
 - (1) 11-12U Team
 - (1) 13-14U Team
- Pitching machine
- Cortez could not put together a team (put together a competition team)
- Plug set on the fields for different sizes
- Break away bases
- Large field is 347 – highschool and 13-14U
- Tibetts field is 285 – same as Firemans (plays coach pitch up to 11-12) (lights on this field)
- Fireman’s field is coach pitch and teeball (has power at mound)
- High school runs 6 days a week
- Escalante Days uses the fields for a 3 day tournament

Summary of Park Walk at 3pm:

- Pump park would engage local youth
- Dog park
- River access – how do you incorporate that without a structure?
- River Trail – ways to incorporate art and history?
- Adult exercise areas (where does that need to go) **2 weeks to use grant!**

Can you incorporate a yearly activity that people can add a paver / create a brick that adds to a walking trail or connectivity corridor and generate some funds for the park?

Other Comments:

Some in the community have complained that park is being used to much for festivals.

Programs

Dolores Booster Club

Library District

Does Dolores need to create a larger Park and/or Recreation District for funding because the Town serves many that do not live within Town limits?

