



Meeting Notes

Steering Committee Meeting 2 | Redstone Park Improvements

The second Steering Committee meeting took place on November 17th, 2020 at 5:00 pm via a Zoom webinar. The objective was to review the draft schematic plan and options, and establish the character and elements of the Redstone Park Improvements. The meeting was led by representatives from Pitkin County Open Space and Trails and DHM Design.

The meeting began with introductions of the Pitkin County OST representatives and design team. This was followed by a presentation of the revised schematic design for the park improvements as well as options in various areas. Finally, a discussion was led by OST and DHM to establish the design direction and character for the park.

The topics that were covered were as follows:

- **The character of the park and site elements.** This includes the overall park aesthetics, sense of place and desired feeling for the park to evoke.
- **Options for programming and design of the park.** This topic included potential top-of-levee improvements, river access, playground elements, entries and parking, lighting at the ice rink, and the overall concept for the Meredith parcel.

Informal visual preference polls were used to gauge the group's interest in various park features from design elements/programming to types of site furnishings, however, not everyone in the group had the ability to participate in this exercise.

Meeting Findings and Themes:

The major themes that were communicated by the Steering Committee were:

- **Less is More.** This idea was reinforced in the second meeting. The park “feels” right for the community and character of Redstone. Major changes to park aesthetics, character and sense of place are not desired.
- The rustic and “natural” character of the park should be maintained. This pertains especially to materials. The materials used should be in keeping with the rustic environment and respect the historic architecture of Redstone.
- The balance between passive and active areas is important. The Meredith parcel should be programmed as passive space.
- Upgrading park electricity for events and to serve temporary/holiday lighting at the ice rink is a priority. Lighting at the Meredith parcel should be temporary (or power should be seasonally controlled) and on

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a timer. If the lighting had a festive quality that would add to the ambiance of the skating rink, that would be preferred.

- The improvements presented in the schematic design for the entries have broad support.
- The ice rink has become a community asset and the park design should incorporate its continued winter use and possible expansion.
- River access should be maintained and modestly improved. It should be rustic in character and fit naturally into the existing levee boulders. The number of existing access points is sufficient.
- Additional elements:
 - Increased parking, including the addition of a handicap spot has support.
 - Limited tree removals are acceptable but more information is requested on the removals.
 - A drinking fountain with a bottle fill station should be included near the existing restrooms.
 - The addition of strategically located bike racks has support.
 - The Steering Committee expressed interest in updated swings and potentially a new play feature that could be phased in over time at the end of the current structure's useful life.

Detailed Comments by Area:

Meredith Parcel (Northern end of the park):

- Passive use is the goal for this area.
- Turf and/or grass surface that is irrigated and maintained.
- Lighting: Temporary lighting on a flip timer, with a time-kill switch has the broadest support. There is an option to install permanent posts to support setting up lighting that could be incorporated into the existing landscape. Festival-style lighting had the broadest support.
- Connecting River Overlook area with Lower Lawn: Currently there is a disconnect between the upper and lower parts of this area and the upper portion is rarely used (blocked by vegetation, lack of seating etc.); it should be better connected. The draft plan's proposal – gentle access to the top of levee to a bench/seating overlooking river with terraced stone seating to retain grade and make a visually attractive element – had support.
- Tree removals and modestly expanding level area has support (including follow-up emails submitted by Steering Committee members), but the removals should be carefully documented and explained. Adding new trees to supplement removals has support.
- Potentially could store equipment for summer lawn games in the skate shed or a small set of cabinets on the north side of the shed; games would mix some fun and playful elements into the passive areas for a range of ages and multi-generational family groups.

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- Playful gestures (such as the terraced seating, strategically placed boulders, tree stumps.) integrated into the landscape that add interest to the passive space.

Top-of-levée Improvements: Three potential top-of-levée improvements (more formal curb-like edge, informal/variable but improved boulder edge, and a top-of-levée path) were presented and discussed by the group. General agreement was to improve the edge with additional large boulders in a natural/organic way that maximizes the lawn area while fixing the current condition where the soil has eroded away and created a hazard between the lawn and the start of the rip-rap.

Dumpster: Moving the dumpster to a less prominent location or behind an enclosure has support. The potential to relocate the dumpster and dumpster enclosure to the south side of the skate shed should be evaluated; critical review of the size vs demand for the dumpster is recommended. *Further committee discussion is needed.*

Fencing: OK to keep fence open along the Boulevard at the playground, split-rail fence consistent with Elk Park/current conditions will be maintained. Twenty feet of fencing going west from the southeastern property corner (Open Space/Stifter boundary) could be sufficient. The open boundary between the park and the Boulevard is preferred.

Playground – Move/keep tire swing and big kid swings; add toddler swing as space allows.

River access points – Clean up north access point for safety, erosion control, and access. Improved access here should be composed of a natural arrangement of boulder steps. South access – stairs will not go all the way to the bottom/eddy area, and may be beam or curb stone (possibly sandstone steps) with gravel landings to facilitate safe access paired with informal/natural character.

Shelter – A larger event/covered picnic shelter is desired, but the final arrangement and design of this element requires further study and input. Maintaining the same scale as the current structure and staying consistent with the historic/rustic Redstone character are also important elements. Maintaining views and ensuring that the structure functions for park day-users were important to many committee members. A couple of Steering Committee members were OK with encroaching on the lawn space to support a larger, more functional concert venue that would replace the need for a temporary stage that is currently used; others want to ensure that the views down valley and the lawn space are preserved, while others feel an open structure with an overhang that protrudes over the lawn or a roof with four supports may not limit the views down the valley. Whether the design is more of a gazebo, gable roof or shed roof structure will depend on how it is positioned in the park. There are a few potential options that may work well for the site.

Two options to carry forward include: (1) shed roof rotated 45 degrees (roughly facing Elk Park and Chair Mountain), with screening planting and (2) shed or gable roof with ridge parallel to the Boulevard, and sides open to the park and street. Two options will carry forward into the public process for additional community input. *Further committee discussion / public input is needed.*

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Next Steps:

DHM and OST will create a revised plan with supporting enlargements, character photos and sections to illustrate and refine the design intent. This product will first be distributed to the Steering Committee via Google Sheets. The sheets file will require a google account. This format will allow all of the committee members to leave feedback on the design in a collaborative way (e.g. see and comment on other's notes). Detailed instructions for use will accompany the distribution of this product.

Next, the design team will incorporate the feedback from the Steering Committee and further refine the plan and supporting documentation. The product that results from this effort will be distributed to the public for a public comment period (likely to begin in January).

The third Steering Committee meeting will take place after the public comment period, in late January or early February. We will most likely gather via Zoom meetings again. We plan to tweak the format to make it easier for everyone to participate and iron out the kinks from last time. During the next meeting, we will review the public comments and resolve all outstanding design decisions. The plan will be modified following this meeting and the final plan will be presented during our fourth meeting.

Appendix

Event Statistics

Permitted events, as provided by Pitkin County:

In 2020, OST had two wedding applications, but one was for Elk Park and both were canceled.

In 2019, permits were issued for four weddings, one rehearsal dinner and two birthday parties. That was more than usual. In both 2017 and 2018, OST issued three permits for park events.