

## **Record of Proceeding Old Town Springs Public Meeting**

### *La Plaza Vieja Draft Specific Plan*

*July 11, 2015 10am to 12 pm, Old Town Springs Park*

City staff: Sara Dechter, Jennifer Mikelson, Mike O'Connor, Steve Zimmerman

City Staff held a neighborhood meeting in the Old Town Springs Park to provide easy access to residents of Upper and Lower Coconino Ave. 10 residents of the neighborhood came to the meeting including several who were able to bring their young children because of the location.

#### **Topics discussed:**

1) Conditions of the spring in the park: Residents wanted to see the springs recognized for their historic importance as a water source for residents, commercial businesses, and the railroad. The spring was developed in the park. Pictures or a historic replica of the development would be appreciated assets in the park. One resident believed the Cline library has such photos. One older resident stated a preference for having a replica or the original installed at the park because she missed seeing it there. Restoring native spring vegetation to the spring is a concept that received support from participants. It would be valuable to visually separate the spring from the surrounding grass and discourage dogs from urinating close to the water. Also residents wanted to know if removing silt from the bottom of the spring would increase the quantity and reliability of the flow.

2) Flagpole in the park: The flagpole is a very important feature in the park because it is one of the possible sites of the first flagpole that Flagstaff was named for. The other 2 possible sites in town have a flag up full time and the residents feel that when the City stopped supporting their flagpole that it was unfair and very upsetting. The residents would help the children in the neighborhood put the flag up and down historically in order to teach them pride and respect. Everyone present had a memory of why it was important to them individual or their children and grandchildren that this part of their neighborhood culture is maintained. Staff promised to explore ways of creating a volunteer relationship with residents who want to maintain this asset. Steve Zimmerman is also going to look into the condition of the flagpole because the top is bent. This should be prioritized as an implementation strategy and may be achievable in the short term.

3) Vegetation in and around the park: The juniper trees in the park are overgrown and need trimming. Some residents would also like to see a path through the juniper for easier park access. Residents also asked if the City could clear the elms that are in the ROW of Lower Coconino between the road and the fence because they obstruct views for some residents.

4) Basketball court: Some residents asked that the basketball court be widened so that they could make wider shots. Steve stated that would require bringing in dirt and might risk disturbing archeological resources in that portion of the park and so that may not be feasible.

5) Ramada rental issues: The park is very popular for ramada rentals on weekends, which keeps some residents from being able to use the park with their families and causes parking issues on the adjacent

roads. Residents prefer that the ramada go back to first come first served so that it can serve local residents that fought to have it created.

6) Railroad crossing for pedestrians and bicycles: The residents expressed a desire to see a railroad crossing near the park. Staff explained that a Florence-Walnut crossing was in the works but that an at-grade second crossing was not an acceptable option for BNSF and a overpass is cost prohibitive.

7) History and Interpretive Panels: There was unanimous support for providing interpretive panels in the park about the history of the spring and surrounding area.

8) Historic District inventory: Residents present stated that they would support an application for a portion of the area north of the tracks to be considered as a historic district and would be able to provide some paperwork to assist in an inventory. This should be prioritized as an implementation strategy.

9) Road conditions: Upper and Lower Coconino are both narrow for a local street. Residents asked if there is a possibility to widen the upper portions of the road in order to facilitate parking and snow removal. They would also like to see "Children at Play" signs to the east of the park to make drivers aware to look out for children.

10) Clay Ave. Extension: Staff answered questions about how this was treated in the concept plan and if it is imminent.