



Office of the City Manager

Letter to City Commission

LTC No.:

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

From: Albert P. Childress
City Manager

Date: April 10, 2023

Subject: Bayview Park Revitalization – Public Input

This Letter to the City Commission (LTC) is to provide information to the Mayor and Commissioners about steps taken to obtain public input on the revitalization of Bayview Park.

The City desires to revitalize Bayview Park, a historic landmark located at the entrance of the old town area of Key West. The Commission approved a Task Order for preparation of conceptual plans and enhancements in March of 2022. Initial concepts for Bayview Park were prepared and presented to the public in two separate noticed Community Workshops where the residents of Key West were invited to attend. The first meeting was held on October 25th, 2022, where thirty-two residents attended and shared their thoughts on the revitalized park space. The second meeting was held on December 7th, 2022, where twenty-three residents attended. These workshops were interactive, and those attending were encouraged to voice their concerns as well as their ideas for Bayview Park. The Mayor, some Commissioners and Parks & Recreation Board members, as well as the City Manager attended one or both of the workshops.

Below, you will see a list of the common concerns as well as the ideas of the City of Key West residents:

Sports Improvements

- Overall, residents do not want the courts moved, just want them resurfaced.
- Consider the potential to add a Bocce Ball Court or Pickle Ball Court between the double tennis court and Truman Avenue if there is space.
- Solar Screens (or some type of structure supplying shade) to block the sun from the courts (tennis specific).
- Adding a “baseball hall of fame” informational board to the field.

- Install artificial turf at the sports field.
- Provide a walking track throughout the park with a soft surface.
- Install new/additional bleachers around the tennis courts.

Children Facilities

- Upgrade the current playground equipment.
- Have a separate play area for smaller kids.
- Integrate sensory items for children with special needs.
- Keep the playground in the same area and add a younger play area adjacent to it.
- Resurface the playground area.

Landscape/Seating

- Install 4 ft fencing around the park.
- Additional shade is to be provided by planting trees.
- Sitting stones that are large and flat for people to sit on.
- Provide additional bench seating throughout the park.
- Install and maintain an irrigation system.

Art & History

- Signage around the park with its history
- Art sculptures around the park
- Art along the fencing of the fields

Current & New Structures

- Tear down and replace existing Tennis Pro shop.
- Tear down and replace the existing bathrooms.
- Rebuild the Pro Shop with bathrooms attached (outside entry)
- Make bathrooms simple.
- Short stall doors so the homeless do not camp in them.

Following the second Community Workshop, the Parks & Recreation Board requested that a Public Survey be taken on the revitalization of Bayview Park. (Note – an online Public Survey was conducted in September 2019, but it was decided that current survey input should be obtained.)

The online Public Survey was conducted for two weeks, ending on April 7th, 2023. Of the eight (8) primary activities offered in the survey, the ranking by the 420 respondents in order of engagement were:

1. Relax
2. Events and/or Birthdays
3. Tennis
4. Dog Walking
5. Children Playing
6. Individual sports/exercise
7. Picnic
8. Basketball

On the question whether patrons were satisfied with the activities currently offered at Bayview Park, the total answers for Yes and No Opinion scored higher than those voting No.

The barriers that are stopping enjoyment of using the park were primarily Lack of Activities followed by Lack of Regular Maintenance. Under the “Other” category where respondents were requested to specifically add their comments, homeless presence and unmaintained facilities were the most frequently cited comments.

The primary improvements the respondents would most like to see at Bayview Park were Improved Courts and Playground Area, as well as upgraded Landscape and Art.

The features that would most likely be enjoyed/used by roughly half of the respondents were Regular Scheduled Activities, Picnic Tables, Bike Racks, Art Installations/Sculptures, Walking/Running Track, Green Space for Team Activities, and Playground Equipment.

The survey respondents represented broad participation from all Commission Districts.

If you have any questions regarding this summary of public input on the Revitalization of Bayview Park, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Interim Director of Engineering, Gary Volenec, P.E.

Cc: Patti McLaughlin, City Manager

Todd Stoughton, Assistant City Manager

Gary Volenec, P.E., Interim Director of Engineering

Brandy Lewis, Executive Administrator to the City Manager