



STAKEHOLDER GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

Project Name: Clark County PROS Plan Update **Project #:** Proj-# 19-127PLN

Location: Webex Teleconference **Interview Date:** August 19, 2020 **Time:** 10:00 am

Notes by: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix

Participant: Gigi Olguin, Hispanic Metro Chamber of Commerce
Dora Hernandez, Volunteer Program Coordinator

Yasmina Aknin, Clark County Public Health
Jay Chester, Parks Advisory Board

Melissa Martin, Clark County Public Health
Laura Hoggatt, Clark County Parks

Emily Kaleel, Clark County Food Bank
Steve Duh, Conservation Technix

Laura Ellsworth, Council for the Homeless

Subject: Diversity & Inclusion Group Discussion (#1)

PURPOSE

To discuss barriers, challenges and needs related to diversity and inclusion in Clark County’s park system. This meeting took place on August 12, 2020 via a WebEx teleconference from 10:00 – 11:00 am.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction of participants and an overview of the County’s plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate a discussion of priority projects and to consider opportunities for collaboration.

Priorities & Improvements

- Connectivity and accessibility – getting people to trails. Safety concerns of having to ride bikes along county roads to visit places like Whipple Creek, Daybreak and Bell Mountain.
- Prioritize areas with diverse populations, lower income. Aim for greater equity. Develop a priority matrix to allocate resources.
- Transportation is a barrier for many in the Latino community, especially when it is a 1-car household and the family member who works uses the car.
- Some in the Latino community also do not have a clear idea of what to expect at parks and trails. There should be better information available, for example, how long the trails are and locations of trailheads and parking. There is a need to educate the community why parks and open spaces are important and what one can do there.
- Education is also important for trail use and etiquette – what behaviors and uses are appropriate and where.
- Signage should be in multiple languages with information about trail length, difficulty, material/accessibility.

Interview Notes (continued)

- Clarify information and requirements about shelter rentals (i.e., clean up fees, pinata hook-up fees, etc.)
- Regarding homelessness, when there is not enough shelter for folks, people will use public spaces to find a place to rest or sleep. More hygiene facilities relate to cleaner camps. Sending outreach workers to connect folks with resources.
- There is no single answer to homelessness. It is a complex issue that affects humans of every race, color, age and gender identity.
- Outdoor spaces are attractive to people for lots of reasons; people have to live somewhere
- Parks staff uses and shares the 1-page resource guide from the Council for the Homeless when staff are in the field.
- The Clark County Food Bank leases about 10 acres from the County at Heritage Farm
- Partner with WSU and CC Public Health and get more trips to the farm and increase access of youth to Heritage Farm
- Do more and expand the usage of Heritage Farm. Funders and grants to sustain and build a farm to school program

Other Amenities of Interest

- Covered space for picnics. Covid changes how we use outdoor spaces. Parks are places where families can gather and celebrate. There is a diversity of users at picnic shelters.

Barriers to Access

- Acknowledge there is systemic racism for black/brown populations. Make investments in outreach – maybe through mentorship programs. Go to schools and churches to promote trails, community parks and resources available to folks, promote group walks and day hikes among minority communities
- There should be a qualitative investment to help share information about parks and trails to get folks out
- Trails might not feel safe to some groups (emotional safety). Provide info about likelihood of cell phone coverage along trails

Collaborations

- Listen more and talk to people (what do they need to feel safe?)
- Latino Outdoors has a Portland chapter and a Washington chapter based in Seattle. There may not be a SW WA chapter
- Look to older teens as mentors/guides through a community service program
- CC Public Health is a willing partner for future communications

Key Project or Initiative by 2025

- Camp Bonneville – bring the site online as a multi-purpose outdoor area
- Implement signage and information in multiple languages at all parks and trails

-- End of Notes --



STAKEHOLDER GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

Project Name:	Clark County PROS Plan Update	Project #:	Proj-# 19-127PLN
Location:	Webex Teleconference	Interview Date:	August 20, 2020
Notes by:	Steve Duh, Conservation Technix	Time:	10:00 am
Participant:	Diana Avaolos-Leos, SW WA League of United Latin American Citizens		Dora Hernandez, Volunteer Program Coordinator
	Dellan Redjou, Parks Foundation of Clark County		John Spencer, Parks Advisory Board
	Bill Baumann, Human Services Council		Laura Hoggatt, Clark County Parks
	Dale Gaskill, PFLAG SW Washington Chapter		Steve Duh, Conservation Technix
Subject:	Diversity & Inclusion Group Discussion (#2)		

PURPOSE

To discuss barriers, challenges and needs related to diversity and inclusion in Clark County’s park system. This meeting took place on August 12, 2020 via a Webex teleconference from 10:00 – 11:00 am.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction of participants and an overview of the County’s plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate a discussion of priority projects and to consider opportunities for collaboration.

Priorities & Improvements

- The local neighborhood park is built for younger children. Build them to accommodate the needs of older kids and teens as well; add variety.
- Parks are generally focused on younger ages. There is not much for middle school and high school aged youth.
- Address accessibility for all ages (socio-economic, ethnicity, physical, transportation)
- Bring people to the table during design to capture the needs of a wider range of users. Park improvements might meet ADA standards, but they might not meet the needs of specific, local users. Pacific Park is an example where tactile warning strips were moved away from the edge of the vehicular route because of safety concerns from visually impaired park visitors. The original construction met code, but the revision made for a safer park.

Interview Notes (continued)

Challenges

- Be more intentional about inclusion efforts and use a trauma-informed lens/approach to guide outreach. Need to understand all the barriers from different perspectives: trauma-informed, inclusionary, utilization, access
- Make signage more welcoming by including multiple languages.
- The PROS Plan could be the impetus for preparing a Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) plan; it would require long-term planning and level-setting. Consider pursuing foundation funding for a DEI plan.
- Funding for County Parks is an issue
- Parks Foundation of Clark County has not heard much in terms of DEI requests from local jurisdictions, but they have supported projects improving accessibility (physical, income, geographic) for playgrounds and trails.

Barriers to Access

- County website is not easy to navigate. There is too much information and it's hard to find what you're looking for.
- Access/transportation – the only way to get to several parks is by driving. Transportation in Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities may have additional limitations for those that live in one car households. Barriers to access creates isolation.
- Connectivity between parks with bike lanes. Need better access to bike lanes and sidewalks to connect to parks. Public transit access to parks is limited. Consider using C-Tran's route maps to identify future park properties that are on/near bus routes to improve transit access to sites.
- Low or no lighting reduces the sense of safety.

Key Project or Initiative by 2025

- Complete the Master Plan for Camp Bonneville and work toward getting the park open for public use.
- Simplify/explain terminology about parks and open space to clarify the intended uses for those property types. Non-English and non-native speakers might not understand the terms and might not use the parks.
- Improve awareness and access to information so people can learn the uses of parks and amenities provided
- More linear parks for better accessibility
- Begin creating a DEI and Social Justice Plan as a living document to drive policies and decisions; align it with other outdoor groups, such as Columbia Springs, National Forest, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, etc.
- Consider tracking park users (demographics, diversity), with a goal of seeing more minority groups using parks

-- End of Notes --