Next Project Phase: Preferred Design Alternative

Public Input on Design Alternatives

From a turnout of approximately 75 members of the public at the February 28, 2002 Community Meeting, the Task Force members, Parks and Recreation Department Staff, and project consultant, Lee Steinmetz, received input from involved citizens. This Community Meeting marked an important milestone in capturing the public's perspective on the three design alternatives for the Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park Master Plan. Through small break-out groups facilitated by Staff and Task Force members, the participants discussed the various program elements within each design alternative and prioritized those that they felt would be appropriate for a Preferred Design Alternative Plan. The general outcome of the group discussions supported the multi-use trails element. There was also support for other elements that reinforced the ranchland and environmental sensitivity themes outlined earlier in the project goals. In general, the participants favored some integration and variation of the program elements proposed in Alternatives #1 and #2.

Considerable discussion was spent on the proposed golf course element within the 300 acres of the flat area by New and San Martin Avenues, known as the "West Flat Area." It was recognized that the community is still divided on the appropriateness of a golf course. However, this element has been identified as having the greatest potential for generating revenues for the countywide parks and recreation system and may be the vehicle to fund most of the Coyote Lake Bear Ranch Park proposed development. Some participants thought that further consideration of this concept should be explored but most participants all had strong reservations about including a 27-hole golf course.

Next Steps

The Task Force will reconvene on March 14, 2002 to review the public input on the design alternatives and discuss the elements for a Preferred Alternative with the Staff and Lee Steinmetz. Once the Task Force has met, the internal Project Team within the Parks and Recreation Department will meet to review the Task Force's recommendations and develop a Preferred Alternative Plan. It is anticipated that a Preferred Alternative Plan will be presented to the County Parks and Recreation Commission on May 1, 2002. At this time, members of the public may continue to provide their input to the Commission and Department.