



## **Artesian Well Commons Park**

### **PARK USER FORUM**

**JUNE 20, 2016**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

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- **WHAT:** CommonAction Consulting facilitated a PARK USER FORUM to gather input from young people regarding the Artesian Commons Park (ACP).
- **WHEN:** Monday, June 20, 2016 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm
- **WHO:** Approximately 35 participating young people at the ACP. Staff from Parks, Arts and Recreation and Community Youth Services (CYS) assisted with facilitation.
- **WHY:** Gather park user input on the successes, challenges and desires for the ACP.
- **WHERE:** Using the existing tables and adding additional tables, as well as adding pop up tables and tents for sun coverage.
- **HOW:** Adam Fletcher of CommonAction facilitated a process focusing on four questions:
  - What do you like about the ACP right now?
  - What don't you like about the ACP right now?
  - What would you change at the ACP right now?
  - What should never change at the ACP?

#### **NOTES**

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- The process moved participants straight into questions with little introduction or interaction.
- Participants were informed their comments would be considered.
- The entire process took approximately 45 minutes, with lingering input shortly after.
- The responses below do not indicate frequency, priority, or importance. There is no significance to the order below. There are hash marks to indicate the frequency of responses.
- The majority of young people attending the Forum appeared to be under 25 years old.
- Most participants were already at the ACP when the Forum began, likely as regular users.
- All notes were transcribed by Adam Fletcher. Most were written directly, some were interpreted, and others were left out due to their inappropriate or irrelevant nature.



Following are the main categories of questions and responses.

### 1. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PARK RIGHT NOW?

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Park  | • Basketball                                 |
| • Open  | • Friends                                    |
| • Quiet   | • Melting pot                                |
| • Convenient to get out of the sun and the rain                 | • Tables with umbrellas                      |
| • Fun now with books and chess                                  | • Chalk writing walls                        |
| • Honey Bucket  | • Benches                                    |
| • Cold water / the well   | • The people                                 |
| • Positive vibes  | • Priceless                                  |
| • Awesome socialization / gathering of the people<br>           | • Respect                                    |
| • Smoking   | • Source of income—cool aid, ice cream, food |
| • Safe place to smoke weed                                      | • Plants                                     |
| • Safe place to come at night if we don't have<br>nowhere to go | • Chess                                      |
| • Safe place to pinky [sic]                                     | • Basketball                                 |
| • Always nice   | • Food                                       |
| • Diverse groups of people                                      | • Beautiful girls                            |
| • Good location   | • Openness                                   |
|   | • Shade                                      |

### 2. WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PARK RIGHT NOW?

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- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Drama                            | • Being in a safe place       |
| • The time it closes               | • Letting us police ourselves |
| • Tweekers that flail and digglers | • Not enough seating          |
| • Fights                           | • Tar gets on shoes           |
| • Swearing                         | • Cops – harassment           |
| • The people                       | • Drinking                    |
| • The openness                     |                               |

**3. WHAT SHOULD CHANGE AT THE PARK?**

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- Everyone get along
- Quarterpipe
- More cover for the rain
- We need a bark park as a place for dogs to go ||
- Needs person sized chess board painted
- I want cement ping pong tables
- More than two ashtrays ||||
- Basketballs
- Butts
- Flowers
- Could be more appealing to the eye
- Needs events
- Vending machines
- Showers / beds
- Concrete grass
- Push broom / broom and dustpan access ||
- Pressure wash the ground often for health and safety
- Chalk to draw
- More shade |||
- Tree |||
- A sink
- Full access to charging port ||||
- More water play on hot days—water, balloons, squirt guns
- Containers to water plants
- Plant fruits / vegetables in pots / garden ||
- More / different seating
- Grass ||
- Community card required
- Recycling bins
- BBQs |||||
- A family day at the park
- Sharps disposal container
- Display case, face in, job listings on board
- Stinks
- Closes
- Karaoke / open mic
- Cops
- Available lockers to stop all the diggling b\*\*\*\*\*
- Another portable toilet ||
- Drinking fountain with a doggie bowl
- Suggestion box
- Bathroom door broken
- New bathroom |||
- Add other activities (24 hour access)—ping pong, foosball
- Stay open later to have access to use the hoop and other things
- Kid-friendly bathroom
- More art
- Babysitter
- Don't lock up no curfew
- Bathroom smell better
- The black wall
- Fighting
- Real bathroom
- Double deck pinochle
- Cribbage club
- Picture puzzles
- People coming in to change what's already here
- Community pool or little kid water area ||
- Mural
- Hours of operation
- Should be a safe haven for the homeless
- Put lock on honey bucket
- No park rangers |||

#### 4. WHAT SHOULD NEVER CHANGE AT THE PARK?

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- Water ||||
- The feeling of safety
- Thanks to park rangers presence
- Always open daily
- Always clean water
- I like that its more than a park
- The park isn't exceptional however it doesn't lack anything
- Basketball hoop
- The liberty that takes place here—safe place to hang out, people able to smoke weed and dabs
- The way of life that takes place here
- I would like to see the wall have some type of weekly category, any idea is acceptable, like fairy tales and other types of category [sic].
- I would like to see a soda well, something that's free pouring like a well
- Umbrellas
- Tables
- Chalk
- Well must stay
- Clean up the streets not just a park
- That it is a family place

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS

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- 49 murders should not be gay rights, should be about the people and their parents
- One bad apple shouldn't spoil our well and effect [sic] a community meeting place
- Equipment goes a long way
- This is like a place of home for some of us
- I know that my kid is safe not coss [sic] of cops. But because people police their self
- Being watched by cops this stupid s\*\*\*