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Dec. 10, 2001 - Bass Lake Park design approved

By JO RAFFERTY Staff writer

A conceptual design of the proposed Bass Lake Park, 41 acres off Bass Lake Road in Cameron Park, 2.5 miles from Highway 50 and bordering the Serrano Development in El Dorado Hills, was unanimously approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission at a commission meeting Wednesday afternoon.

"I was really pleased that we're moving forward," said Park Project Coordinator for El Dorado County, Shane Ryerson, stating that residents had been hearing about the possibility for the park for the last 10-15 years.

The meeting was attended by Ray Cherney, Bob Smart, Kathy Bryson and chair, Steve Yonker.

The plan, presented by John Courtney of RJM Design Group, Inc. in Auburn, the designers of the park, includes two baseball fields, two soccer fields (both with bleachers) a multi-use bike trail, four picnic areas with playgrounds, three tot lots, three bathrooms, a basketball court, tennis courts, a 3,500 square foot nature-community center, a nature area, an 18-hole disc (Frisbee) golf course and a half-acre dog park.

The design was reached as a consensus following a Site Awareness Tour and a workshop attended by approximately 35 advocates of the park on Oct. 6.

After touring the Bass Lake area, the group attended a workshop at the Cameron Park Firehouse where it broke into three groups, each eventually creating their version of how Bass Lake Park should be laid out.

One of the "Top Likes" by all three of the groups was the topography of the land; containing flat areas, densely vegetated areas as well as hills.

"We have a beautiful site here," said Courtney.

One of the first good results from this workshop, according to Courtney, is that the El Dorado Irrigation District said the fence surrounding Bass Lake could be removed, although as of now the district is not allowing any recreational activities in the lake.

"At this point EID still considers this a 'no touch' facility," said Courtney, adding that this policy could change. But EID does not care what is done with the small pond next to the lake, sometimes called "Little Bass Lake," which is located on county land, according to Courtney.

"Top Issues" identified by the groups included both surrounding neighbors and joint issues (the sharing of the land by El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park and El Dorado County).

Wayne Lowery, general manager of El Dorado Hills Community Services District,

spoke about joint issues.

"We're extra excited about this project," said Lowery. "The regional use concept is well addressed here."

Lowery suggested a "joint maintenance" program between El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park and the county.

"There's no reason why we can't cost share," he said. "I think this is a real model, looking at how we can get several agencies together to make it work."

Bill Annis, one of the few neighbors present, all who were mostly in support of the park, said his property butts up to the southeast corner of the proposed park. His worries included noise and light pollution coming from the park.

"I'm glad to see the park going in," he said. "I just wanted to make my concerns known."

Concerns over the disc golf course were expressed by a resident who said she didn't want to have to worry about being hit by a Frisbee.

Charlie Callahan, who said he has designed 18 disc golf courses in California, including a 14-hole course at Pioneer Park in Lotus, said, "The courses are designed to throw the discs away from the park."

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the plan, and now it is up to the Planning Commission to approve it at a meeting tentatively set for Thursday, Jan. 24. Following this meeting the Bass Lake Park design must go before the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, and upon approval, have an environmental review done which must go through the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors a second time, according to Ryerson.

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