



Eastridge Neighborhood Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 28th, 2021

5:30 – 6:45 P.M.

Via Zoom

<https://amarillo.zoom.us/j/84778772736?pwd=QmlxRDlyVnJtNDYyZW16YjY5SStaUT09>

Meeting ID: 84778772736

Passcode: 860753

By Phone: 1 (346) 248-7799 or 1 (253) 215-8782

Committee	Ryan Pennington	City of Amarillo:	Emily Koller
Attendees:	Emma Rohers		Torie Benshushan
	Patrick Miller		Michael Kashuba (P/R)
Potter			Dave Wilson (P/R)
County:	Comm. John Coffee		Kristen Wolbach (P/R)
			Kelsey Sargent (P/R)
			Officer Blanco (NPO)

Agenda

- 1) **Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions** (5:30 PM)
Guests attending this meeting included: Michael Kashuba, Director of Parks and Recreation; Dave Wilson Assistant Director, Kelsey Sargent and Kristen Wolbach; Potter County Commissioner John Coffee, new member of the Neighborhood Oversight Committee; and Patrick Miller, Assistant Principal at Eastridge Elementary School; and Officer Hugo Blanco with the Neighborhood Police Officer Unit.
- 2) **Existing Conditions Chapter Update**
Planning staff has completed the existing conditions chapter except for 2020 demographic data. The committee was asked for feedback regarding the history of the neighborhood and its timeline. Pastor Mike Garman, Sue Kelly (ESL teacher?) and Anne Clark at First Baptist Church were recommended as possible sources because of their tenure in positions.
- 3) **Priority Projects**
Staff will share feedback received from other departments regarding some of the proposed priority projects.
 - a) Parks and amenities – *Mr. Kashuba shared that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been adopted (at the Council meeting earlier in the day) and City Council has approved a major increase in funding for capital projects through the proposed budget. The projects identified in the Eastridge Plan are all implementable given this new context. A year ago, they would not have been possible. The major limitation at this time is that the types of amenities would overwhelm Eastridge school park so the best course of action is to find a more suitable property (20 acres approximately) for a new Community Park.*

Recommended next steps: 1) Find suitable property. Staff will work on this through neighborhood planning process. Consider corporate landowners as potential partner or developers. 2) Create a master plan for the new site. 3) conduct outreach to make sure it aligns with what the neighborhood wants and that it is context sensitive to the multi-cultural aspects of Eastridge.

There are good opportunities for grants and funding including Texas Parks and Wildlife matching grant. Neighborhood bond funds can be used.

Patrick Miller mentioned that if changes are made to Eastridge Elementary Park, the safety and access during the day need to be considered. The group discussed the community center idea. Buildings become more complicated, but if there is an existing space that could be retrofitted, there could be discussions about Parks and Rec potentially running programming in a facility. Infrastructure needs would include water and sewer for any new parkland.

- b) Public safety initiatives by NPO – Officer Blanco shared information about a program that the NPO unit has been working on for awhile to increase the availability of security cameras on private households to help make residents feel safer. The goal is a 20% increase. This and other related initiatives can be added to the plan in a coordinated effort such as street lighting.*
- c) Property maintenance, rental registration, and code enforcement – Emily reported that the rental registration program will be difficult to implement, but Code Enforcement wants to assist with educational outreach. There are also opportunities for grant funds to assist in improving the interior conditions of houses. The neighborhood can also work on targeted funds to improve the exterior condition such as doors, windows, and porches (Property Pride grant).*
- d) Trains and NE 24th Ave. Emily reported to the Committee that the City is aware of this problem with the trains and there have been meetings with CP&DE and the Railroad. The plan will assist in making a case for changing the pattern. The issue is that this is the place where trains going the opposite direction meet, so trains “pull off” to wait for the other to pass. There is the possibility of building a pedestrian bridge and there are grant programs for such projects.*

4) Plan Community Outreach Event

The group agreed to join in on the Eastridge Elementary school Fall Carnival which will be Friday, October 22nd from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Patrick will meet with Ms. Baca and get back in touch about how the City and Advisory Committee can participate.

5) Future Meeting Date and Other Announcements

6) Adjournment

(6:45 PM)