

Berry Creek Community Association
Interpretive Center Grant Town Meeting

Berry Creek School

Minutes

January 9, 2010

Meeting began at 10:05am

Roger Cutler, Chair, Executive Council, BCCA: Recap of grant process to date

Prop 84 has funds available for developing park like spaces. The BCCA saw an opportunity when Maidu Meadows (70 Graystone Lane) came up for sale.

Original ideas focused on active youth activities: After listening to concerns of neighbors, we found those activities inappropriate for the Maidu Meadows site. We would like to establish youth fields adjacent to the Berry Creek School. We will attempt to negotiate for parcels next to school.

The Prop 84 grant is a 2 year grant: year 1 we would apply for Maidu property and year 2 we would apply for grant to develop multi-use athletic fields next to the school. The Executive Council has met with the Berry Creek School Board to start the conversation about partnering with the school.

As we have gathered ideas for what recreational facilities residents want for our community, they have covered activities for all age ranges and are not necessarily appropriate for Maidu Meadows. We will be brainstorming today what is appropriate for Maidu and what activities/facilities are more appropriate for the parcels near the school.

Review of site plan: Preserve open space as a buffer to Berry Creek Ranch Estates on the south side of creek.

Prop 84 allows for road improvement when the road is located within parcel boundaries which is the case with Graystone Lane. One option is to pave up to Maidu driveway and stop, to dissuade people from traveling up road. Option 2 is to get it paved up to property owners at S-curve. Option 3 is to not pave at all. We want to hear from Estates neighbors. Penny has been asked to facilitate the discussion of Estates property owners as to what the group prefers.

Mary Keiser, Chair of Grant Committee:

As we have incorporated community ideas and concerns into the plan to develop recreational facilities for Berry Creek, the focus has shifted for the Maidu Meadows site. The working title now is “Interpretive Center” but for the grant purpose it qualifies as a park if it serves the community.

Grant requirements can be found at www.parks.ca.gov

Deadline is March 1, 2010

Awards made 6 months after deadline.

The following is a draft of the overview and history of the Maidu Meadows site. It is a working document for the grant and is subject to further community input.

BERRY CREEK INTERPRETIVE CENTER OVERVIEW

(Please note that Berry Creek Interpretive Center is only a working title and

That this document is only a DRAFT, subject to further community input).

Berry Creek Community Association, in conjunction with Feather River Recreation & Parks District, is working to create an interpretive center & community center in Berry Creek.

Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water Bond Act of 2006, includes the Sustainable

Communities and Climate Change Reduction chapter which funds the creation of parks in critically underserved communities. The purpose of the grant is to create parks to “benefit the health of families, youth, senior citizens, and other population groups by meeting their recreational, cultural, social, educational, and environmental needs”. According to the grant, a community center is considered to be a park if it: 1) creates open space and 2) is not adjacent to an existing park.

Berry Creek Interpretive Center is envisioned to be an interpretive center consisting of open space, nature trails with interpretive signage, informational kiosks and a community center consisting of a meeting hall and 2 classroom buildings. The project will preserve open space, the natural environment, cultural sites and historic sites located on the 17 acre site. The project site is composed of 4 contiguous parcels (062-210-138, 062-760-014, 062-760-015 and 062-750-008) located at 70 Graystone Lane in Berry Creek.

Berry Creek Interpretive Center will focus on the natural environment of Berry Creek and the surrounding Sierra Foothills. It will serve to educate the public about the native flora, fauna, geology and cultural resources of the area as well as the preservation of our natural resources. The interpretive center will contain features that will help to preserve our environment through ecologically sound and sustainable techniques.

The majority of the 17.3 acre project site will be open space in the form of 2 meadows, a seasonal stream, riparian areas, and forested areas. The property contains cedar, ponderosa pines, sugar pines, an ancient oak tree, wild azaleas and two outstanding madrone trees. Any non- native species will be removed. Most of the project site will remain undeveloped in order to preserve the natural beauty of the property.

The site has a long and varied history. It was originally inhabited by the Maidu Native Americans. It has served as a mining camp, a logging and railroad site, a cattle ranch, a boy’s camp, a juvenile probation camp, a restaurant, and a church retreat. For the past few years, as

Maidu Meadows, the site has served as a meeting place for several local groups including the Berry Creek Community Association and the Sierra Foothills Art Association. The proposed use as a community center with meeting hall and education/classrooms would be an extension of this most current use. (At this time, the property is vacant.)

The primary parcel (APN 062-210-138) contains several historical sites including Native American grinding holes, postholes for narrow gauge Swayne Railroad pilings from the early 20th century, cisterns from a cattle ranch, and structures from a boy's camp in the 1940's. These elements will be preserved and enhanced with interpretive signage detailing the effect of these various activities on the environment.

The project site contains 6 existing buildings dating from the summer camp era. The three buildings nearest to the seasonal stream will be removed and the remaining 3 buildings will be renovated for use as a community meeting hall and education/classroom space. New construction will include parking lots, trails, a septic system and a free-standing ADA restroom.

The project will be a community effort of local resident volunteers consisting of the youth, adults and seniors of Berry Creek working with the Feather River Recreation and Parks District.

Berry Creek Interpretive Center will be a peaceful setting for residents of all ages to enjoy and learn about nature and local cultural and historical resources.

The following are grant criteria that we need to meet:

Project Selection Criteria Overview:

Items 1 thru 7 determine our eligibility.

1. Critical Lack of PARKSPACE (18 points) Met but rank against other communities

We have 0 acres of park space per 1000 residents.

2. Significant Poverty (18 points) Met but rank against other communities

The median household income of census tracts in PROXIMITY to the PROJECT was lower than \$47,331 based on the "California State Parks Community Fact Finder" report (See Project Selection Criteria 2-A).

Our report shows 5 families below that level. Median Household Income: \$37,941

3. Type of PROJECT (12 points) Creation of new park scores max 12 points

Remember: a community center can qualify as a "PARK" if it 1) creates open space and 2) is not adjacent to an existing park.

4. Community Based Planning (18 points)

5 meetings required for max points

Goal 1: The residents worked together to identify and prioritize recreation features that best meet their needs, and reached a general agreement on the type and design of the recreation feature(s) included in the proposed project.

Goal 2: The residents engaged in a process to reach a general agreement on the location of the recreation feature(s) within the park. (Next meeting)

Goal 3: The residents engaged in a process to provide other park design ideas, including solutions for safe public use, and park beautification such as landscaping and public art.

5. Sustainable Techniques (11 points) How can we make the project sustainable & energy-efficient?

How will the PROJECT include the following sustainable techniques? (6 points for all 4)

4 pts for 3 techniques - 2pts for 2 techniques

1. Use of water efficient irrigation system that includes a rain sensor and soil moisture meter, or on-site water recycling that reduces potable water consumption.

2. Incorporate pervious surfaces or other technique(s) such as bio-swales or grading to capture storm water for infiltration or irrigation or cleanse storm water before release.

3. At least 10% of the materials for PROJECT construction will consist of recycled materials, or

construction waste will be minimized by the separation and recycling of recoverable materials

generated during construction.

4. Landscaping that excludes the use of invasive plants and instead features drought tolerant or climate appropriate non-invasive native turf, trees, shrubs, plants, and ground cover, and minimizes the use of toxic pesticides and inorganic fertilizers.

5B. Other sustainable techniques for efficient use of energy, water, and other natural resources that were not listed above: (5 points for 5 techniques)

Please let us know if you have any expertise in any of these sustainable techniques!

- Energy conservation

- Water conservation

- Resource conservation

Ecological techniques

Recycling ideas?

6. PROJECT Funding (0 points)

7. Fees and Hours of Operation (5 points) 7 days per week required to be eligible for funding.

8. Youth Outdoor Learning Employment or Volunteer Opportunities (3 points)

3 points for a combination or 1 activity that involves at **least 20 residents**

Examples:

- Help with outreach efforts in community based planning stage

- Help with meetings: *pre-meeting set-up~greeter~take notes & report to your class, after meeting clean-up*

- Plant trees in park

- Make art tiles & add them *to* walls or walkways in park

- Create a community garden

- Create or restore natural habitat
- Other activities with designing, landscaping or constructing the park

9. Community Challenges and PROJECT Benefits (15 points)

What challenges are present within the community that contributes to the need for a new park?

Why do we need a community center in Berry Creek?

How can this project benefit our community? Improving the community's health & quality of life for youth, seniors & families

- Recreational Conditions: What activities (sports, jogging, exercise, walking, community gardens) can improve the

community's health & quality of life?

- Social Conditions: Parks can support places where youth at high risk can be mentored, seniors can socialize, and

families can bond.

- Cultural Conditions: Cultural conditions can be improved through public art in parks such as mosaics, murals, sculptures etc. that reflect and celebrate the history and diverse cultures of surrounding neighborhoods. Older existing parks may have their own unique histories which can be told

through public art as well.

Performing arts facilities can support cultural recreation such as dance, theater, music, which can improve the health and quality of life for youth, seniors, and families.

- Educational Conditions: parks can support places where residents can be tutored, coached, and taught a wide range of health and life skills.

This can also link to Project Selection Criteria #5. The project's sustainable techniques can be interpreted to show how energy and water can be conserved.

- Environmental Conditions:

A new park can improve the appearance of a community by replacing blighted properties with green space. Beautification of existing parks through landscaping or public art can also enhance the community's appearance. Sustainable design techniques from Project Selection Criteria #5 can also be used to improve the community's environment.

*****Our goal today** is to identify and prioritize Interpretive Center features, reach general consensus, provide design ideas and discuss sustainable techniques.

How can we incorporate youth outdoor and volunteer opportunities (landscaping, planting trees)?

How will this project benefit our community?

What do we want to call it? "Interpretive Center" is just a working title.

Initial questions from community members:

Is FRRP insured for liability? FRRP is non profit and they have insurance. They are exempt from property taxes.

Do we have access to designers for River Bend Park? Not necessarily. Prop 84 may be able to cover those expenses.

Would exterior of buildings be changed? No, exteriors would remain the same but the interiors would need to be insulated, kitchen upgraded and bathrooms and entry would need to be ADA compliant.

Grant is to acquire property *and* develop facilities, but not maintain. We would have a contract with FRRP as to what they are responsible for and what we as a community would be responsible for maintaining. When we design features we need to keep in mind ease of maintenance.

Where do we need fencing? Currently hog wire and 6 foot chain link on perimeter in some places and none in others. The Graystone/Wardell line is not currently fenced and other sections not fenced.

After revisiting ideas submitted since the summer, the following ideas are what the group present at today's meeting deemed suitable for the Maidu Meadows site:

Community center w meeting rooms: Use existing larger former dining hall as meeting space & the adjacent dormitory buildings for as educational spaces (Uses to be further defined)

Lighting: Security only, no bright exterior lights, solar/high efficiency (energy efficient)

Interior lighting to be solar where possible.

Restrooms: Freestanding ADA compliant & possible remodel of existing restrooms in 3 community center buildings

Parking lot: pervious materials to meet sustainability requirements

Picnic areas/Tables

Fencing: Chain link except for south boundary which should be critter friendly to allow migration

Native Plant Garden: for educational & demonstration purposes

Recycling: Recycle cans near trash cans

Trails: Nature trail(s) with interpretive/educational signage & kiosks. The trails would lead to various specimens & areas on property. An ADA compliant trail or section will be included. Trails will avoid the migration corridor & native habitat by being located north of the riparian corridor near the seasonal stream at south end of property.

Amphitheater: for educational or interpretive lectures & demonstrations. Possible acoustic performances (daytime only)

Benches: Along trails & in Rest Areas

Compost area: for onsite landscape vegetation

Meditation sites/garden

Rock garden: Create in areas with existing outcroppings

Fish pond: in damaged swimming pool, still open for debate

Features for Alternate Site

Unfeasible Features

Playgrounds

Community garden

Swings

Evacuation gathering point

Horseshoe pit

Worm farm

Multi Use Field

Berry garden

Tether Ball

Volleyball

Frisbee Golf

Rock climbing

Ball games

Baseball fields

Soccer fields

Computer Lab

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm