City of Durango
Animas River Trail and Park Shore Amenities

The following comments are from comment cards filled out at the November 21, 2013 public meeting at the Durango Recreation Center. Categories were added to organize the comments.

**Softscape**
- Broaden scope, add trees, west bank
- More/better sound barriers for road noise. More trees. Split bikers/kayaks/walkers somehow?
- Create riparian habitat in areas along the bank where you don’t want people. Effectively delineate the access points & people friendly areas from the new riparian areas using vegetative barriers, or minimally intrusive fencing like split-rail.

**Hardscape and Furnishings**
- [Entry] Opportunity – Magnetic entrance gravitates people up river.
- Smelter pocket & corner theater; keep it natural; ADA access top & bottom paddler, overflow parking
- Whitewater park suggestions: #1 small pavilion on top of intake. #2 Large pavilion in heart of park. #3 Reroute ART along river at north end. #4 Plant trees on west side of river - broaden scope.
- Equipment storage, easy access, lockable
- I would like more seating along the river trail with view of the river
- Add changing room. Add bike racks. Grills?
- Understand key areas for river ingress & egress by talking with boaters & local swift water experts. ADA access to water’s edge & appropriate toe anchoring at these locations.
- Theater as pockets.
- Create natural seating at smelter drop (#5) that preserves the natural feel of the area. Minimize concrete & avoid the standard concrete steps & seats in this area.
- #1 Can we remove the smell? #2 River. #3 Biking. #4 Ped. & Bikers. #5 Access in & out. #6 Children’s play area doesn’t drain. #7 Trails – Riders – Boulders – Bouldering.

**Event Related**
- Space(s) for pop-up tent, booths flow, i.e.-tree spacing, etc., perhaps against fence; improve building façade, building relieved eye-lits
- Opportunity – Festival main stage in Santa Rita Park, second stage in WW Park
- Better vehicle access for setting up music shows, even booth, etc.
- Power – Feed it toward the river edge under path
- Coordinate with John Brennan & Eric Lokken on electrical hookups locations and voltage for events. Understand key access points to water both for boaters & spectators. Use natural boulders & not “urban” concrete elements.

Russell Planning and Engineering
Design Workshop, Inc.
Whitewater Park Shoreline Amenities

Public Comments

From: Kevin Heiner [mailto:kevin@scscorsps.org]
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:05 PM
To: Metz, Cathy; Lombardo, Aaron; Brennan, John; Brown, Brian; Carver, Karen; Lynch, Casey; Churchwell, Ty; Bechtel, Daniel; James Wilkes; Kimple, Aaron; Sigle, Shane; Skillen, Buck; White, Jim; Zimsky, Bill; Wolf, Tim
Subject: RE: Whitewater Park Community Visioning Workshop

Hi all,

Unfortunately, I'll be out of town traveling for work for this and the next Oxbow meeting. That being said, my thoughts around the whitewater park's shoreline amenities are fairly brief. I support whatever John Brennan's vision is, generally, but especially as it relates to designing the Park for the purpose of hosting events. I think we can all agree it's in our interest, economically, to keep Durango on the map as a whitewater destination. A Park that allows for the events will aid greatly in this process. I'd like to see a Park design that allows for vehicle access, plenty of room for vendors to set up (under shade trees ideally), connections for sound and electricity, improved slalom gates, a grandstand for spectators, place to put bands and perhaps a drinking fountain and place to fill water bottles. Additionally, some thoughtful green space and landscaping (stuff that smells good) will add to the beauty (hopefully helping to mask the poo poo plant):)

If the SCC can be of assistance I'd be happy to visit about that as well, whether signing letters of support and/or helping with any hand work.

I hate to miss this meeting, I'm so pleased to see all this moving forward and am really grateful for all the hard work that went into this before I even arrived in Durango. Good work everyone!

See you around,

Kevin Heiner

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From: Wilkes, James [mailto: jamesgwilkes2001@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 9:23 AM
To: Rec
Subject: Whitewater Park
I would suggest rerouting the bike path so the whitewater park area is a pedestrian only zone.

Thank You

James Wilkes

(C) 970 903 9428

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From: kirk komick [mailto:kirk@rochesterhotel.com]
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 10:50 AM
To: Clements, Chris
Subject: FW: Whitewater Park Community Visioning Workshop

Any thoughts regarding volleyball courts in this regard???

Kirk

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From: kirk komick [mailto:kirk@rochesterhotel.com]
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 5:17 PM
To: Metz, Cathy
Cc: Clements, Chris; James Dryden Graham
Subject: RE: Whitewater Park Community Visioning Workshop

I think Dave Stokes had a good proposal a few years back regarding drainage most importantly. When it would rain or get too much water from the irrigation system, the sand would get very wet or puddled and the sand became very compacted over time. I did donate $500 in the past to get new sand delivered to the courts which was helpful but not fully sufficient. I think that improvements to the grass area and fencing to protect the ball from going into the river would be helpful. Lighting for evening play is also very helpful.

I do not think the expense is very high in relation to the total budget for Park and Rec's.

It appears to me that the courts get a lot of use from community members of all ages and is an attractive attribute to the park. In the past, Durango attracted many people from surrounding communities of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah for the outdoor volleyball tournaments. Youth and adult program from Jim Graham proved beneficial to our community and I believe the programs can be expanded upon. I believe colleges will start offering Women’s Beach volleyball into their athletic programs. I also believe that Sand Volleyball programs and events can be capitalized upon with our two Olympians from Durango – Elaine Youngs and Nancy Reno.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this issue with you further at any time.
From: jbrennan@obrainstorm.net [mailto:jbrennan@obrainstorm.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 10:50 AM
To: Metz, Cathy
Subject: RE: Whitewater Park Community Visioning Workshop

Hello Cathy,

Here are some notes about the park. Kent Ford has all of this on paper also and he will be at the meeting.

1. I feel this park should be an event driven design. Make it easy for craft fairs, music, cinco de mayo, etc... to take place at the park. As well as Animas River Days and the national slalom/freestyle events that so want to come back to Durango. I think one way we can do this is to make 2 access gates through the storage yard so vendors can unload close to their sites. Of course this would be if we can work this out with the storage yard and the treatment plant. This would make it easy on folks to unload/load and make it so they would like to come back to Durango more often. This would eliminate the "driving" in the park.

2. Power is a must! I would like to see at least 3, maybe more, in ground power outlets on the river side of the park (finish line/mid point and start etc.) as well as multiple power stations along the fence line for events!

3. Durango Whitewater needs to have storage there. I would like to see either a Zircon or a structure (I am working on getting either donated) available so both boats and race equipment can be stored on site. Right now the storage site for the flat water site at 33rd is my shop. I would love to see kids ride their bikes down there and be able to store their boats. Go paddle and then ride home!! This is what happens in Europe in almost every town and it is truly one of the coolest things I have ever seen.

4. Get the bike path away from the river edge. Have a "natural" path over buy the river. I told Scott McClain that we would like to have 10 feet of space from the river edge to the poles for the gate system. I could work with 5 feet if that would help on space. 10 feet would be best.

Just a few thoughts. Thanks again for all your work! I have been down at smelter almost every day and things are moving along ok.

These are times when a dam would be a good thing! The only time.

Thanks again and feel free to call if you have any questions!

Cheers JB

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From: John Baxter [mailto:jfb22@live.com]
Hi-

I'm not going to be able to make the public meeting, so here's my input; **Reroute the River Trail,** keeping it along side the river rather than next to the sewage treatment plant in the northeast corner of the Whitewater park area (the trail is running N/S beside 160/550 and then turns west at the treatment plant) This could be accomplished by moving some of the small hill that is at the northeast corner of the area and create an earth berm between the River Trail and the treatment plant at that point. It would be a great enhancement to the River Trail!

Thanks, John Baxter

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