

S.P. panel studying park use proposals

SAN PEDRO: Latest suggestions for Angels Gate Park coming in; public meeting Dec. 1.

By Donna Littlejohn, Staff writer

Article Launched: 11/11/2007 07:49:34 PM PST

Approaching a milestone in the creation of a master plan for Angels Gate Park, it appears city officials already have made some preliminary decisions about what will work - and what won't.

An 18-member citizens panel is mulling over some 20 proposals from various groups hoping to use a piece of the 64-acre, ocean-view park in San Pedro, with tabulations due to be unveiled by Nov. 20.

But city parks officials ultimately have the final say on what will be developed at the park and they've been circulating maps that indicate some proposals may be simply out of luck. The maps will be posted Wednesday in Building A of Angels Gate Cultural Center, 3601 S. Gaffey St.

A proposal for a fenced-in, off-leash dog park, for example, appears to have already been eliminated.

"Recreation and Parks has basically said their management does not want (a dog park) at that park," said master plan consultant Laura Loring of Alchemy Design and Architecture.

City officials reportedly are looking in other areas of the 15th City Council District, including Harbor City and Harbor Gateway, for an alternative space. The community's current dog park has temporary space only for three years on port property.

Meanwhile, a request for 9 acres for youth sports fields also could face challenges, with city officials saying there is not enough flat land at the park to accommodate the fields. Supporters say sports fields were promised at Angels Gate during another master plan process that never was completed in the 1980s.

There are discussions under way, however, to see if some fields could be developed on existing school district property within Angels Gate Park under a shared-use agreement between the community and schools.

"Our goal is to accommodate everyone, but there are not 9 acres of flat field space in that park, so that's the best we can come up with," Loring said.

"There are probably things that people want that just aren't going to fit," Loring said. "It's a fine line to accommodate everyone."

American Indian interests will probably be included in some way, but at least one committee member has raised concerns about whether such uses will be sufficiently available to the general public. There also are talks about trying to move one of the American Indian proposals to nearby Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City.

Other proposals that call for major construction that would obscure views and open vistas at Angels Gate also could face likely rejection.

A Korean-American group is hoping to build on its physical presence next to the Korean Friendship Bell at the southern hilltop vista in the park.

Tensions also continue over a campaign by volunteers at the Fort MacArthur Museum to have the entire park declared as a state historic district in honor of its military past.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn has written a letter to state officials asking that they hold off on any decision about a historic overlay, which she said would complicate and add to the cost of developing the park.

"I think it's kind of premature," Hahn said. "We're trying to get everybody to the table to have a consensus."

The Angels Gate Master Plan Steering Committee will make draft recommendations on which of the proposals should be included in a final plan.

But in the end, it will be the city's Recreation and Parks Commission that has the final say on what will or will not be done on the property.

The committee will gather at 10 a.m. Dec. 1 at Angels Gate for a public session to discuss its draft recommendations.

In the meantime, members are being asked to rank each of the proposals using a complex matrix that takes into account such criteria as historical and aesthetic value.

"There are all sorts of suggestions, many of which can probably be incorporated and some of which probably can't," said committee member Andrew Silber.

[donna.littlejohn@dailybreeze.com](mailto:donna.littlejohn@dailybreeze.com)