

Update on Heron Landing Park – Previously Park “A”

The finalized design of the park has been approved, and the name will be **Heron Landing Park** to reflect the adjacent nature preserve.

Thank you again to the many neighbors in Anatolia and nearby neighborhoods who weighed in with their thoughts on the design, walked petitions door to door, discussed alternative designs, showed up at the community meetings both at the Anatolia Clubhouse and at City Hall, met with the many interested groups (youth soccer officials, little league baseball officials, girls softball officials, HOA officials, City officials including the Mayor, Park District officials and others), submitted names for the park, provided input on the names submitted, and spoke up at Park District board meetings. All of those are important parts of a getting what we want from a representative government, and I'm proud of the result.

For more background leading up to this outcome, please see the September 14 update which is also posted here on the Anatolia neighborhood's website www.AnatoliaHOA.org.

Because of the strong turnout of Anatolia residents at the public workshops, our concerns were listened to – and we got nearly all of what we asked for.

- **Parking lot configuration** – our concerns were heard, thanks to the work of Anatolia residents Andy Payne, Kevin Grimes, and Heath Randall. The parking lot was substantially changed for the better, moved further west, now mostly along Sunrise, rather than all along Justinian as it was previously.
- **Balance between family amenities vs. sports facilities** – our concerns were heard on this also. The final approved design has more open space for families and picnics, and fewer sports facilities.
- **Reduced lighting, and better technology to reduce light pollution for neighboring homes** – our concerns were heard on this also, thanks again to the work of Andy, Kevin, and Heath. The final approved design has fewer lighted fields. And even better, the lights that will be built will use updated technology that keeps the light very tightly focused on the playing areas in the park, with very little spill-over light. The Park District has also offered to host a nighttime “field trip” for interested residents to see the same type of new lights at another park nearby, to observe how effective the new technology is.

A dog park was discussed, and some residents were in favor of having a dog park, while others were opposed. The Park District reached a compromise position by planning a dog park at another nearby park in the upcoming Montelena neighborhood, adjacent to Anatolia. More information is available in CRPD's press release www.crpdc.com/images/pdf/planning/CRPD%20Anatolia%20Community%20park%20a.pdf.

Even though not everyone got everything they wanted (neither did I), we did manage to arrive at a far better design by working together collaboratively, giving everyone something better than what the park district started with. We brought many viewpoints together to forge a design that we all can live with. The work over these past 6 months will benefit all of us for many years to come. It's worth noting that even though there was plenty of critique on the early designs, at the board meeting tonight during the open public comment period nobody brought any complaint about the final draft design. That doesn't mean everyone is fully happy with the final design, but it demonstrates how effective the work by neighbors was, in finding out what we wanted to change, developing consensus, getting the changes made, and making them stick.

The final approved design for **Heron Landing Park** is posted on our Anatolia HOA's website www.AnatoliaHOA.org and at the CRPD's site www.crpdc.com/images/pdf/planning/126_Concept%201B_2013.11.13.pdf.

The next steps will be the Park District will begin the detailed construction drawings/specs and will obtain bids from construction contractors. The opening date is not finalized yet, so stay tuned for construction updates in the coming months.