

Envision San Jose 2040 Lead, Andrew Crabtree;

I have attended task force meetings of the Envision San Jose 2040 group and wish to input public comment. I could not find how to go about this on the web site, so I ask that you please input this e-mail to the task force members. It is ONE plan for a 'grand park' for the South Bay at the current Santa Clara County Fairgrounds site. As you know, the City and County were working together on a plan to convert 100 acres of these properties, currently zoned open space, to commercial and residential development. Public outcry has lead to a broad attempt to solicit public input as to alternative uses and/or developments for the Fairgrounds; and the plan proposed herein is just one, such plan. I thank you for re-directing this as public input to the Envision 2040 Task Force Members. pppizzo

I share with you a vision of the Fairgrounds Site as a Grand Park. I know I am putting forward a vision without consideration of funding and/or political and logistical requirements. However, I feel passionately that we preserve the Fairgrounds site for the people; and, considering the needs of the people of the South Bay in terms of quality-of-life considerations, I believe it to be a worthy idea. The South bay has about 3.5 acres of active-park per 1,000 residents. Considering the projected growth of the South Bay, we need to preserve the Fairgrounds for open-space and park use. I suggested a cooperative SCBOS and City Council of San Jose joint effort to preserve the Fairgrounds properties in the last, Joint Meeting in the Council Chambers. I respectfully submit one design option.

In public meetings about the disposition of the Fair, I was supportive of retaining the grounds for the people of the Santa Clara Valley as a 'Grand Park' (for the South Bay). Here is my take on one option. This option would retain the 55-58 acres of existing buildings plus the paint-ball arena(s). and the MX bike track. Below are the new features to be added....

A main feature is an open-air amphitheater, centered where the pavilion and race track used to be.

To the right of the amphitheater is a Fair-History and Solar Living complex to interface with the Franklin McKinley School, which is just adjacent to the Fairgrounds. The School is the rectangular block just North of the history complex. The complex will feature creative ways of use of solar energy, will have livestock and agricultural features which the 4-H would maintain; and will house information about the Fair's past history. There is a replica of the State Capital (SJ was the first, CA State Capital) building on the Fairgrounds and this should be incorporated into the subject 'grounds'. This complex will interconnect to the Franklin School and it will be a featured educational field trip during the school week for K-12, county-wide; and it will be open and accessible to the public on weekends. The solar features would be similar to that described in the Solar Living Center of Northern California (<http://www.solarliving.org/display.asp?catid=50&pageid=35>) and others developed from a discussion with the San Jose City Council and County BOS.

There is an orchard positioned just south of the above complex and it

will feature the fruit trees of San Jose's agricultural past. It will be maintained by community effort (similar to the Rose Garden of San Jose).

A East-Side Community Center will occupy the South East corner of the Fairgrounds. It will be modeled after the Jewish Community Center of Los Gatos (and other CC's in the Santa Clara County). It should predominately meet the needs of the East Side community of the South Bay.

The South-West corner of the Fairgrounds will be home to a Baseball and Soccer Sports Complex. There will have to be parking for the CC and Sports Complex off of the south-bounding street in the overhead view.

Just North and West of the Sports complex is a park, featuring trees and plants. This park will have people play-features such as International game-tables and kid-water features. The International multi-cultural aspect should be the emphasis of what this park contains and how it is laid-out. A few centrally-located vendor and refreshment stands should be considered, especially for Friday through Sunday.

The 'dirt' areas of the remaining Fairgrounds will be a 'campus' atmosphere with trees, flowers and plants, appropriately selected. An appropriate ride, such as a Ferris Wheel and/or Merry-go-Round should be included near the International Park to recognize past-fairs and midways.

Overtime, the Fairgrounds facilities, those that currently exist, should be refurbished to maximize the revenue generating potential of the site. Special sites for weddings and anniversary celebrations should be featured.

Respectfully Submitted:

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