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Planning Commission getting Great Park plan

Master plan will be reviewed today

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IRVINE WORLD NEWS

THEN

Ken Smith's design team was picked in January 2006 to design the Great Park after the park board conducted an international competition to pick a designer. His group presented a draft master plan on Oct. 12.

On June 20, the Community Services Commission unanimously approved the master plan. Commissioners made some recommendations, along with their approval. Recommendations include: building a multicultural facility as soon as possible; providing sports areas for not just children and teenagers, but also for pre-teens; consider building an indoor performing arts venue; connect trails in the public park to the Lennar Corp.'s surrounding private development; sprinkle more parking lots throughout the park; make sure the park includes sufficient sports facilities; include bicycle racks on the shuttle buses.

NOW

The plans will be reviewed, and possibly adopted, at tonight's 5:30 p.m. Planning Commission meeting at City Hall, at the corner of Alton Parkway and Harvard Avenue. The commission is the final body that needs to approve of the plan.

WHAT'S NEXT

Smith's group will work on the details of the park design. The designers will present their recommended first phase for the park this fall. If the team's contract is approved by the Great Park Board, the designers over the next year will work on: creation of overall park systems such as lighting, trails and safety measures; development of schematic drawings for the whole park; construction-ready drawings for the wildlife corridor and Agua Chinon stream; development of architectural features; development of master design standards; development of programs such as horticulture, habitats and environmental stewardship; and engineering for mass grading, water planning and environmental restoration.