

Daily Leader photo/Jessica Crawford Jason Stouder, far left, of American Ramp Company discusses options for the new skate park to be built in Light Park.

By JESSICA CRAWFORD • Daily Leader



As American Ramp Company's sales representative Jason Stouder looks over plans on his laptop with all involved in the new skate park project, he is talking to Todd at the company's office back in Joplin, Mo. Todd is able to move things around and change ideas for the park as they are suggested by Stouder or the youth that are planning the set-up of the park.

"We want to come up with a master plan idea for you guys on what your goal is for the park," Stouder said. "And basically what we are going to have to do is trim it back to the budget the city has to work with. So we are going to build something pretty big then we will cut it back."

Stouder explained the standard size they often work with is the size of a tennis court. Simply because many times skate parks are built on top of old tennis courts, like the skate park in Mary Frame Park which was built 10 years ago.

"Back in the '80s and early '90s there was a big tennis boom where cities bought tennis courts," Stouder explained. "And now they aren't used that much."

The goal for Monday evening's skate park meeting was to come up with a final design, recreation director Gary Scott said.

"The main thing we are wanting to do is get a final design," he said.

“We got their ideas down, it has been about a month we have been working on these.

“This is an exciting thing because we have a company here that can show them how to move things around,” Scott continued. “Then we will look at it and see what the cost is going to be, but we aren’t going to touch that tonight.”

Stouder explained to everyone how the park will have a flow to it and why a good flow is necessary.

“The cool thing about this too, you have an above ground park with a flow to it,” he said. “You can kind of hop around to everything, you never really have to stop.”

Scott was pleased with the efforts made by American Ramp Company to find an appropriate design for the new skate park.

“Tell Todd thanks,” Scott said.

“Todd they are telling you thanks already and you aren’t even done yet,” Stouder said into his cell phone. “You are doing that good of a job.”

The next skate park meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan.

12. At that meeting, cost and budget issues will be addressed and discussed by those involved in the project.

