Title: The many spins on skate park

Proposal for other sites have inch ed along since the closing of the LOVE Park to Beer. It’s now a campaign issue.

By Stephan Salisbury

It’s been a year since the city shut down one of the world’s best-known public skateboarding venues, LOVE Park — despite an outcry from skaters, their supporters, and lovers of the city’s vibrant youth culture. Despite well-publicized promises by Mayor Nutter to offset the loss of LOVE Park with a dedicated skate- board park, plans for such a site have barely advanced beyond the planning stage — and no public funds are available for construction. A site along the Schuylkill behind the Art Museum has been cited by the City Planning Commission as a likely park area, but the Fairmount Park Commission has not formally re- ceived proposals or given approval for such a project. The city is still in the process of having second thoughts about the right site.

While the park-planning process is moving along, Comptroller Michael A. Nutter has introduced legis- lation in City Council that calls for a more severe crackdown on skaters. The bill, which increases fines for ille- gal skating from $25 to $75, also en- sures anti-takeout badges to include in- store skating and bicycling. The proposed law specifically bars much activity within LOVE Park — but not all has been hostility and animosity in the city’s skateboard world. "The banks are gone. The phone com- panies are gone. The last of the skaters have gone," said the Rev. James S. Hall of Trinity United Methodist Church, who proposed the legislation.

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MOASIC from B1

"I don't allow the children to throw rocks at other people or play with matches or do anything that could be dangerous. I'm afraid they could get hurt, you know."

Josey says that the children do the same thing. "It's only fair that they have that," she said.

She teaches the children to love the environment. In 10 years, she hopes to have many acres of land with millions of trees. She has already planted trees and gorgeous mosaics on the side of a building in the center of the community, with plans to build more mosaics on the sidewalks and streets in the surrounding area.

"This school real..." asked the interviewer.

"This school realizes that kids are going to use public transportation before we even finish this building," said Joe.

"I want to be a zoologist," said a young boy. "I want to work with animals." He added, "I want to be a veterinarian." Joey said, "That's great. We need veterinarians."

Cyndey Randall, 14, said, "I want to be a nurse." She added, "I want to help people."

Every mosaic has a theme — often environmental — and an educational purpose.

"The goal is to get kids to love nature and be advocates for the environment," said Joey. "If you really understand something about nature, you will love it and respect and care for it." erficial skate-