



Public Meeting Minutes
Spring Meadows Community Park Update
Project No. 13.1141.001
Date: 04.29.2014

A public meeting was held at the Township Municipal Building on 04.17.2014 for the above referenced project. The following people were in attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Andrew Mears	JMT		
Ann Toole	Toole Recreation Planning		
Kurt Uhler	Director of Parks & Facilities		
Matt Steiman	Dickinson College Farm		
Jarrett Sweeney	SMT		
Heather Mowers	Resident		
Margaret Naguski	Resident		
Bronwyn Stever	Resident		
Chris Pedersen	Resident		
Eric Naguski	Resident		
Scott Bucher	Resident		
Greg Lunde	Resident		
David Feaser	Resident		
Annie Reynolds	Resident		
Angela Stever	Resident		
Richard Stever	Resident		
Quest Stever	Resident		
Karen Reynolds	Resident		
Dianna Papalagoo	Resident		
Brady Pyers	Rec. Board		
Sam Glesner	Rec. Board		
Cynthia Good	Rec. Board		
Andrea Ciccocioppo	Rec. Board		
Tammy Eads	Rec. Board		
Thomas Hayes	Rec. Board/School Board Rep.		
Tom Faley	Twp. Supervisor/Rec. Board		

The purpose of the meeting was to kick-off the project and hear the residents' goals, concerns, and expectations for redeveloping and expanding the park.

The following items were discussed:

1. A. Mears reviewed the meeting agenda, presented a brief overview of JMT and Toole Recreation and discussed the planning process that would be undertaken to develop the park master plan. The meeting agenda included:
 - a. Project Overview/Project Timeframe

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- b. Image Preference Dialogue
 - c. Project Goals
 - d. Project Opportunities
 - e. Project Issues/Concerns
 - f. Site Area and Conditions
 - g. Comments/Questions
 - h. Next Steps
2. A. Mears and A. Toole led a brainstorming/discussion session to explore the opportunities and concerns for the park. A series of questions were asked to solicit feedback from the committee regarding the park, the current uses, future uses, and concerns for expansion. These questions included:
- a. What do you like about the existing park?
 - i. The existing trails were overwhelmingly noted as a great asset
 - ii. Exercise equipment
 - iii. Connection to South Middleton Park
 - iv. Disc golf
 - v. Feels modern – nice new bathrooms, pavilion, disc golf, soccer fields
 - vi. Scenic beauty and views
 - vii. Connectivity, experience different landscapes
 - viii. People take care of it – always clean
 - ix. Parks Dept. does excellent job!
 - x. Plantings along drive
 - xi. Lot of space
 - xii. Natural features: wetlands and wildlife
 - xiii. Lack of impervious surface, comment seconded by 2 other individuals
 - xiv. Location: accessible to residents, close to home and walking distance to school campus
 - b. What improvements could be made to the existing park?
 - i. Have different things to do: soccer, football, trails, for recreation enjoyment, physical activity
 - ii. Add things for little kids
 - iii. Add skate park, tennis courts
 - iv. Additional restrooms – put one on the other side
 - v. Amphitheater
 - vi. More diverse native plants – beyond expanse of grass. Add natural areas. Return grass to meadow. Reduce mowing and provide more attractive landscape. Add boardwalks by wetlands.
 - vii. Environmental Education – Provide access to the wetland area.
 - viii. Veterans Memorial – loved the York picture
 - ix. Students have presented a petition with over 200 signatures for a skate park. A skate plaza that is aesthetically pleasing with native plantings is what is desired. A Power Point presentation was developed and presented to the Board of Supervisors.
 - x. Put in what the kids SAY they want not what we THINK they want.
 - xi. Add splash pad. Could it double as skating rink in winter?

- xii. Bocce court with grass or oyster shell surface
 - xiii. Tennis courts could be adapted for pickle ball. There is a trend toward smaller size tennis courts for youth.
 - xiv. Install security cameras
 - xv. Facilities should be developed that are multi-use
 - xvi. Modified re-cycling is underway for the parks. The Parks Dept. is working with the trash company to improve recycling efforts. The Parks Dept. needs to be a leader in the recycling effort.
- c. What are the concerns for expansion of the park?
- i. The question was raised as to what purpose the amphitheater would serve. The amphitheater would serve for community gatherings and concerts and would require programming. A smaller amphitheater is envisioned but needs to be further defined. It was suggested that the amphitheater could be combined with other uses and developed to be multi-functional, i.e. restrooms and plazas. Considerations should be given for placement back by the Dickinson Farm.
 - ii. Noise was concern in early park development schemes.
 - iii. What goes into the park or does not go in? Is this a discussion of the system as a whole or are we trying to cram everything into this one park? Some facilities might be more appropriate elsewhere, not in this park.
 - iv. The design team will look at all park and community factors in creating the design including relationships of facilities in the park.
 - v. Don't put too much into the park!!! Make sure that we focus on natural features and design and not develop an urban type design.
 - vi. Avoid advertising in the park!
 - vii. How are we deciding if there is a bigger need for one thing over the other? For example more ballfields as a given as opposed to having to prove that another very different type of facility is what should go in and have to prove that.
 - viii. Reach all ages, interests and abilities in this park. Not all kids like organized sports. They like to skateboard.
 - ix. Is there a way for people who don't come to meetings to provide their input? Use the Facebook page more. Create a P&R Facebook page. Use social media, Survey Monkey, etc.
 - x. Biggest challenge: Balance of the land. Past design looks like it is all for soccer. If 90% of the land goes to ballfields – there is not much left. There are a lot of walkers – do they have enough places to walk? Multiple uses and balance is crucial. If you add more fields, it will look like a sports complex. We want a community park. A community park should have lots of different uses, not just a lot of ballfields.
 - xi. Who will maintain it? How much will it cost? Does not look like we will be hiring more people.
 - xii. Don't want light pollution
- d. If you came back 10 years from now what is the one thing you would like to see happening in each of the parks?
- i. Friends Group, there once was one that disbanded recently.

- ii. Community focal point
 - iii. Ability to change with the times
 - iv. Something different
 - v. Meet demands
 - vi. Well-maintained facilities
 - vii. Variety of options
 - viii. Lots of use
 - ix. The back nine!
 - x. People having fun
 - xi. Robust and dynamic usage
 - xii. More biological diversity
 - xiii. Skate park
 - xiv. Playground
 - xv. Shade
 - xvi. Township-wide interconnecting greenways: want the ability to bike anywhere
 - xvii. Used by all
 - xviii. Bocce
 - xix. Something for everyone
 - xx. Community member diversity
 - xxi. Safe place to skate
 - xxii. Landscape integrated design
3. A. Mears presented an overview of the preliminary park program to date based on early feedback from the study committee meeting and focus group meetings with the school district staff and science teachers. An overview of the existing site constraints was also reviewed.
4. A. Mears presented an overview of the initial site opportunities identified to date including:
- a. Utilize existing sloped area adjacent to cell tower area and steeper slopes to develop an architecturally sensitive building for storage, etc.
 - b. The proximity of the High School campus to the existing park should be explored for development of the Lot 1 parcel.
 - c. Close proximity of Dickinson College Organic Farm
 - d. The existing natural resources are conducive to expanded environmental educational opportunities with the high school.
 - i. Ecology
 - ii. Watersheds and Wetlands
 - iii. Natural Resources
 - iv. Agriculture and Society
 - v. Humans and the Environment
 - vi. On-site Wellhead
 - e. Connectivity
 - i. Park connectors - Physical, Natural, Heritage, Education, Social
 - ii. Science Teachers – Partnerships, meaningful experiences, expand habitats, programming
5. Some residents felt that there was not ample notification of the meeting. It was noted that the meeting was publically advertised and was even featured in an article on April 13, 2014 in the

Sentinel. The Township will add notifications to the website for future meetings. It was also noted that all study committee meeting minutes as well as tonight's meeting summary would also be posted to the Township's website.

6. A. Mears will email the meeting minutes to all meeting attendees who provided an email address on the sign-in sheet.
7. A. Mears concluded the meeting by outlining the next steps in the process. JMT will begin working on:
 - a. Project Site Analysis
 - b. Key Person Interviews
 - c. Include public comments and ideas into the planning process
 - d. Develop a draft vision statement
 - e. Formalize park program

The above represents a true and accurate account of the discussion during this meeting to the best of my knowledge. If there are any conflicts, misrepresentations, or omissions with the above statements, please contact the undersigned within ten (10) days of this date.



Andrew A. Mears

04.29.2014

Date:

Copy:
Attendees
Project File