

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #1

January 26, 2016

1:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Douglas Callahan (Clay Township Trustee), Rich Taylor (CCPR Board and Clay Township Trustee)

Copies to: Participants, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and an overview of team roles, project history and planning process. The following meeting schedule and expectations were discussed:
 - A. Monthly meetings will occur with the consultant team for the three months of charrette preparation. Future dates will be 2/23/16 and 3/22/16. These will include daytime stakeholder meetings and an evening public education and input meeting focusing on key project topics such as creative play facilities, ecology and recreation programming and operations.
 - B. There will be a three-day charrette, date TBD but likely April/May 2016.
 - C. There will be a review meeting 4-6 weeks after three-day charrette, after which the draft plan would be forwarded to the Park Board for review and approval.
 - D. It is anticipated that a first phase of construction will occur shortly after the master plan is approved, using available COIT and Impact Fees.
 - E. The following items discussed:
 1. The plan will focus on the entire 125 acres, not just the new 45 acres, in order to have a holistic design for the entire park.
 2. The existing boardwalk is in good condition for its age and a very popular park feature but will be looked at if there are ways to improve or even expand it in the new design as part of a broader trail and environmental network. It is conceivable that existing ponds/water features could be augmented.
 3. Pedestrian/trail links to adjacent neighborhoods and Dad's Club/School properties to the north have been discussed in the past and will need further discussion with appropriate parties in this plan.
 4. Programming and physical connectivity with adjacent University HS will be explored. Furthermore, it was discussed that a holistic approach with University as well as the school and Dad's Club properties to the north could create a much larger, fully functioning open space network that fulfills a wide range of programming needs and trail linkages through partnerships.
 5. There is a lot of interest in a west side dog park and heavy dog activity currently in the park. The public will likely request this for consideration at West Park.

6. Shelters and potential indoor programming space will be considered based on community need and capacity of facilities in other parks (Central and Founders).
7. It was suggested that the library has good data on how to serve the west side and should be contacted accordingly.
8. The approach that the new Central Park playground is taking for people with disabilities was cited as a model and minimum standard for the new West Park playground. Features for children with autism were specifically mentioned.
9. Large events have recently overwhelmed West Park and coordination with Cox Hall Gardens was encouraged to manage larger events.

II. Next Steps

- A. Additional stakeholder and community meetings will occur on 2/23 and 3/22.

SEH of Indiana believes that this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should notify the writer at once. Unless objections are raised within seven (7) days, we will consider this account accurate and acceptable to all.

If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Gregg Calpino at 219.513.2503.

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West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #2

January 26, 2016

2:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Mark Westermeier, Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Bruce Knott and Adam Harrington (Carmel Fire), John Thompson and Julia Litchford (Carmel Engineering), Carolyn Goolsby (Carmel Library), John Duffy (Carmel Utilities), Drew Williams (Clay Township Regional Waste), Chris Stice (Hamilton Co. Parks), Steve Engelking (Carmel Administration)

Copies to: Participants, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and an overview of team roles, project history and planning process. The following meeting schedule and expectations were discussed:
 - A. Monthly meetings will occur with the consultant team for the three months of charrette preparation. Future dates will be 2/23/16 and 3/22/16. These will include daytime stakeholder meetings and an evening public education and input meeting focusing on key project topics such as creative play facilities, ecology and recreation programming and operations.
 - B. There will be a three-day charrette, date TBD but likely April/May 2016.
 - C. There will be a review meeting 4-6 weeks after three-day charrette, after which the draft plan would be forwarded to the Park Board for review and approval.
 - D. It is anticipated that a first phase of construction will occur shortly after the master plan is approved, using available COIT and Impact Fees.
 - E. The following items discussed:
 1. There is adequate sanitary capacity in West Park but low/flat terrain will require a grinder pump.
 2. Water service is good via 6" main along 116th Street.
 3. Preliminary investigations suggest that a well dug on site could yield 300 gallons per minute (gpm).
 4. There are City plans for trail linkages along 116th that could improve West Park non-motorized access. Some ROW dedication is still needed. It was also noted that the park currently has three entrances from 116th and alignment with those on the south side would be preferable.
 5. There are opportunities to implement upgraded stormwater treatment train approaches in West Park, building on what was put in place in the original design. It was also suggested that green lots be considered to reduce potential stormwater fees. Same with the potential for green roofs and a potential net-zero approach to new facilities.

6. Cox Hall Gardens was discussed as it relates to larger functions currently housed in CCPR parks, West Park included. It was suggested that we review their master plan which may decrease the amount of lawn space currently used for large event parking. Based on this it was suggested that a proactive strategy be undertaken between appropriate City and County entities for large event planning.
7. The library has no current plans for additional facilities there could be some cross programming opportunities in a West Park CCPR facility. Further dialog was suggested during programming.
8. New structures would need to coordinate fire protection needs as the program and design advances. It was also noted that any new structures that may be considered on the far north end of West Park may require a secondary access for fire protection.
9. It was noted that the current pond flows south under 116th via a regulated drain.
10. The idea of trail fitness nodes were suggested as a potential program to consider.

II. Next Steps

- A. Plans will be reviewed with most of the above parties as the designs advance. This could potentially happen as part of the three-day charrette in April/May.

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West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #3

January 26, 2016

3:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Mark Westermeier, Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Wendy Franklin (Carmel Mayoral Appointment) and Jim Garretson (Clay Township Trustee Appointee).

Copies to: Participants, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and an overview of team roles, project history and planning process. The following meeting schedule and expectations were discussed:
 - A. Monthly meetings will occur with the consultant team for the three months of charrette preparation. Future dates will be 2/23/16 and 3/22/16. These will include daytime stakeholder meetings and an evening public education and input meeting focusing on key project topics such as creative play facilities, ecology and recreation programming and operations.
 - B. There will be a three-day charrette, date TBD but likely April/May 2016.
 - C. There will be a review meeting 4-6 weeks after three-day charrette, after which the draft plan would be forwarded to the Park Board for review and approval.
 - D. It is anticipated that a first phase of construction will occur shortly after the master plan is approved, using available COIT and Impact Fees.
 - E. The following items discussed:
 1. Demand for a west side pool was suggested, questioning whether West Park would be a candidate site. It was suggested that this would be explored with other suggestions during the programming stage and done in light of the comprehensive parks and recreation plan for CCPR that suggests a need for a future west side community facility.
 2. It was noted that hockey is popular in the community with limited available facilities in Carmel. It was noted that skating was suggested and eliminated in the original West Park plan but included in the 2003 plan for the 5 acre Riley Site. This plan was never implemented but some level of non-competitive skating could be considered in the plan in line with the park's heavy winter use.
 3. The idea of a West Park nature center was suggested to support the park's extensive natural areas. It was noted that the park may need additional water elements to support an extensive enough ecosystem to support such a center. However, nature interpretation would be a logical component in any design.
 4. It was noted that the current pond near 116th is stocked for fishing, a popular program from the boardwalk.

5. Destination plan was noted as a draw for past and current park users. The non-traditional design of the play and spray components with places for parental viewing and socialization and emphasis on "imagination" was specifically noted as positive.
6. The issue of large special events overwhelming the park was noted as a challenge in all of CCPR's facilities and something not aligning with the department's mission. It was also suggested that events that remain consider off-site parking strategies and temporary solutions to minimize over paving of the park.
7. It was suggested that signage be added to reinforce City ordinances pertaining to dog activities in the park, supported by greater enforcement.

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West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #4

January 26, 2016

4:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Mark Westermeier, Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Jim Engledow (CCPR Park Board), Jeff Worrell (City Council), Kevin Rider (City Council), Carol Schleif (City Council),

Copies to: Participants, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and an overview of team roles, project history and planning process. The following meeting schedule and expectations were discussed:
 - A. Monthly meetings will occur with the consultant team for the three months of charrette preparation. Future dates will be 2/23/16 and 3/22/16. These will include daytime stakeholder meetings and an evening public education and input meeting focusing on key project topics such as creative play facilities, ecology and recreation programming and operations.
 - B. There will be a three-day charrette, date TBD but likely April/May 2016.
 - C. There will be a review meeting 4-6 weeks after three-day charrette, after which the draft plan would be forwarded to the Park Board for review and approval.
 - D. It is anticipated that a first phase of construction will occur shortly after the master plan is approved, using available COIT and Impact Fees.
 - E. The following items discussed:
 1. It was suggested that there needs to be more to do in the park. More active, including trails. More use of the "circle", including Jill's Hill.
 2. Spray plan gets heavy use. Some operational challenges with kids blocking drains and creating standing pools. Unattended kids an issue. Future design will re-evaluate operations.
 3. Dog walking is very popular.
 4. Consider expanding the lagoon and adding more boardwalks.
 5. West Park will have some "legacy" issues due to long-term personal connections of residents and park users. It's well liked but "refreshing" will be viewed as positive, as will making it bigger and better.
 6. The park currently serves some University HS needs, including cross country.
 7. The park may benefit from a flexible facility like Founders Park. Possibly with a stage and ability to serve summer camps.
 8. West Park is a heavily used winter park due to Jill's Hill. There is opportunity to expand and improve this with things like a snow machine, toboggan run and skating ribbon.

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #4

January 26, 2016

Page 2

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West Park Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting

January 26, 2016

12:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Mark Westermeier, Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Dan Dutcher, Jim Engledow, Matt Snyder, Jeff Worrell (Steering Committee)

Copies to: Participants, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and an overview of team roles, project history and expectations of the Steering Committee. The following meeting schedule and expectations were discussed:
 - A. Monthly meetings with the consultant team for the three months of charrette preparation. Future dates will be 2/23/16 and 3/22/16.
 - B. Regular milestone reviews and briefings during the three-day charrette, date TBD but likely April/May 2016.
 - C. Review meeting 4-6 weeks after three-day charrette, after which the Committee would likely forward the draft plan to the Park Board for review and approval. At this point the Committee could sunset unless the Park Board desired to maintain the group for additional purposes.
 - D. It was also discussed that the Committee would be expected to assist the staff and team in gauging community input through their respective networks between meetings and assist with community engagement.
 - E. The following master plan considerations were discussed:
 - 1. There is a near-term need to replace the playground and water play features due to age/lifespan.
 - 2. The park is heavily used and cherished by the community, making it one of CCPR's first "legacy" projects where existing parks are updated. There are many personal connections and meaningful user engagement will be critical factor for success.
 - 3. Pedestrian/trail links to adjacent neighborhoods and Dad's Club/School properties to the north have been discussed in the past and will need further discussion with appropriate parties in this plan.
 - 4. The existing house and structures on the 40-acre Perelman property will be demolished as a first phase however utility services and the 116th curb cut will remain as opportunities.
 - 5. There is a lot of interest in a west side dog park and heavy dog activity currently in the park. The public will likely request this for consideration at West Park.
 - 6. Facilities at Central and Founders Park are at or near capacity and there is a need for some level of program facility space on the west side that may be a fit in West Park, mindful of site and access/parking limitations.
 - 7. Additional trail linkages will be a popular program for the park.

8. Large events have recently overwhelmed all CCPR facilities, including West Park. Access/parking challenges make larger events a challenge. Satellite parking is used at University HS but that poses potential challenges crossing 116th Street. A proactive planning and coordination strategy will be explored, as will physical solutions in the design.
9. Significant COIT and Impact Fee budgets have been identified for the first phase of implementation, which would likely begin late 2016/early 2017 based on direction in the master plan.

II. Next Steps

- A. Steering Committee, stakeholder and community meetings will occur on 2/23 and 3/22.
- B. Suggested follow-up stakeholder meetings include schools, Dad's Club, faith-based groups, ecology-focused groups and the business community/Chamber.

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