

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of May 16, 2012

ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD JUNE 20, 2012

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at TJPDC. Members present were: Ruth Barnett, John Foster, David Hirschman, Skylar Hughes-Lyon, John Kammauff, Sean McCord, Jennifer McKeever, Ned Michie and Dan Rosensweig . Member absent: Byron Brown

Staff: Will Bassett, Brian Daly, Doug Ehman, Vic Garber, Chris Gensic, Philip Seay and Rion Summers

Minutes

➤ **Motion**

Dan Rosensweig made a motion to approve April, 2012 minutes, second by John Foster, motion was unanimously approved

McIntire Park East Side Master Plan

- Brian Daly made a presentation reviewing the McIntire Park Master plan process and noted that it was coming to the end of the process:
 - Meetings:
 - Sept 26, 2011 – informational
 - Oct 24, 2011 – public comments, organizations provided time
 - Dec 12, 2011 – CHS, 11 charette concepts
 - Jan 23, 2012 – discussion on concept plans
 - Feb 6, 2012 – City Council update
 - Feb 28, 2012 – public comment meeting
 - March 26 – P&R Advisory Board - public hearing
 - April 18, 2012 – Advisory Board - work session
- All public comments received through the process are all listed on the McIntire Park website concept diagrams – a, b, and c, lots of comments from a, c
- Take the universal comments received to come up with concept that is thoughtful, community's desire, provides phased approach to implementation, access into the park will be difficult because of parkway & interchange construction. Concept diagram – 5/16/12
- Common elements – Dogwood Memorial, Skatepark – relocation to McIntire Park in the southwest corner, vehicular entrance, family activity center, wooded area into creek – core area for botanical garden, center for passive golf for a period of time, no later than 2020 – will enable formal study on economic study, programmatic needs of First Tee, will remain open to general public on Sundays.
- Parking on west side near entrance, south of interchange – 30 space parking lot, pedestrian bridge – near CHS concept allows for community's desires to be implemented. Core area of Botanical Garden so they can get started, can expand in future.

- John Schmidt from Land Planning & Design stated the following:
 - Family Activity Center – gateway to City, core gateway
 - Trails – multi use; ½ mile trail part of road project – east side
 - Connection north for high school athletic programs – Melbourne Road
 - Botanical Garden – core pieces could be developed in the core area.
- Board Comments:
- Ned Michie stated that there was significant support for a rectangular field near Melbourne Road. Brian Daly replied that with the topography in that area it would be challenging
- Dan Rosensweig asked what size field were they looking at, Doug Ehman replied a small field
- Chris Gensic reported that they were actively pursuing other locations for fields and that the flat area was very soggy.
- John Foster asked about access to center of park and trails. Chris Gensic replied that on Sundays the park was all open.
- David Hirschman asked is golf the same as now, Brian Daly replied that the existing figuration remains the same – 7 holes
- David Hirschman asked if there would be some kind of water feature @ the Family Activity Area included, Brian Daly replied yes
- Skylar Hughes-Lyon asked how many spaces were @ the western parking space, Brian Daly replied 30 spaces plus existing parking lot
- Sean McCord acknowledge staff's work and stated that he was concerned about golf reverting to a passive area and that he did not remember that being discussed before, felt like it would be passing on to a future Advisory Board. Brian Daly acknowledged that he was correct that this was the first discussion of golf not existing after 8 years.
- John Kammauff asked about how they came up with the date. Brian Daly replied that with the construction time of the parkway, it allows time to make decisions down the road.
- John Kammauff stated that golf has been this way for the past 30 years and felt there was no chance for golf to prove themselves.
- Ruth Barnett also thanked staff for their work and stated that she would like to see golf to remain for a period of time, to allow time to look for other space, incorporate public comments.
- Dan Rosensweig asked about checking with user groups about rectangular fields, alternatives. Brian Daly replied that they knew the guidelines for soccer needs.
- Dan Rosensweig stated he would like the Family Activity Center to have multi uses, smaller fields – fenced 30'x50' that were unscheduled and the northern edge to be passive golf.
- Jennifer McKeever asked about access to the hilltop with or without golf around, Brian Daly showed access on the concept map.
- Jennifer McKeever thanked staff and Land Planning & Design for their hard work.
- Jennifer McKeever asked for any motions.
- Dan Rosensweig stated that he would like to have a comment period.
- Dan Rosensweig stated that he agreed with John Kammauff from last meeting that this is programmed the way he would program. Felt that Botanical Garden, Golf, Skatepark groups were well represented. Connections, parking closer to pedestrian bridge, like 3 different access parking, multiple point of entry, including CHS
- Reversion to passive – gives golf an opportunity to find a different home, would like to see golf as a shared resource in this location. Family activity center – have to get into urban scale thinking, active use, would like to see more activity in family activity area.

- John Kammauff – trail from CHS like gas line; Chris Gensic replied that it would be a little more north. Would like field adjacent to high school especially if they lose a field, extra field would work well for high school.
- Sean McCord stated that when ready to vote would like to suggest highlight common elements, room for discussion on golf course and botanical garden, never felt botanical garden has been defined, people have different opinions of what is a botanical garden, would like Advisory Board to define what they feel botanical garden is. Golf course – uncomfortable on punting onto future boards, either permanent place or revert to passive, use if another suitable home for community golf is found.
- David Hirschman stated he would like a transition plan that was realistic, commend that approach, looking at 2004 master plan also had transition approach.
- One recommendation for Advisory Board – hilltop not currently part of golf course, if possible in short term to have some trail elements, felt it was a shame not to use, donut without hole, looking at arboretum – short term, vegetation, tree cover elements, would take corridor, doesn't feel would impact golf course, experience of being up there than being in the creek valley, would show what this piece of land has to offer.
- Skylar Hughes Lyon agreed with David's comments, make hilltop more available, passive use in plan, golf has been given a long time to get more users and has not happened. Opportunity for transition, feels small fields with fence could work. John Foster agreed with hilltop comments, would hate to wait until 2020, could provide temporary trails, in general likes the plan, appreciate comments of staff.
- Ned Michie stated that it was a good job by staff, but 8 years too long to wait, make a temporary trail maybe 3 or 5 years, as soon as possible, hilltop area, in favor of Skatepark, would like rectangular field, unorganized sports, corner right for this activity, playground, want to see more work on that, circuit trail, people will love, bicyclers, walking.
- Feels slopes can be overcome, transition time period for golf – maybe work with other partners such as County, private.
- First Tee is a great program which provides exercise, skills beyond golf and life skills. First Tee's program's purpose to grow the sport of golf – private need to step up, felt it could be accommodated at other locations.
- Transitioning – affordable golf users would suffer, feel that loss for this group, have to look what is best for the community, history has been underuse for prime space.
- McIntire golf course had 3,200 rounds of golf using honor system – 50 players that are regulars play 2-3 times/week; 2,400 from 50 players part of 3,200 - afraid that it is a small number, golf will always be a small group, 10% of population.
- Everybody can enjoy an open space, flying kite, trails, kids running around, 150 prime acres to golf, compelling that all kinds of people can use, would like to see transition sooner than 8 years, access to top of hill – don't want citizens would have to wait 8 years, appreciate staff's work, transitioning golf right thing to do, golfers can play @ Pen park -170 acres of beautiful land, great that city has bought passive land.
- Sean McCord stated that he has never played golf – made opinions after talking to people. He asked about golfing @ McIntire Park using the honor system, what does it cost to golf @ Pen Park, cost, reservations, compare golf experience @ Pen Park, McIntire golf course different kind of golf, golf in its natural state, does not have greens, made of sand, can putt but not like regular golf course, Meadowcreek – designed for real golf including chemicals and greens. Doesn't feel that golfers that go to McIntire golf course can have same experience @ Meadowcreek golf course. Stated that as a citizen board making recommendations had a responsibility to represent this constituency.

- Brian Daly replied that fees vary, prime vs. non-prime time, lower rate late in day, higher earlier & weekends.
- Jennifer McKeever stated that Pen Park includes more than the golf course; trails, fields and playground. Vision for the park has always been a dynamic one – field, passive area, walking and biking. Likes concept plan. Really wants to make sure of access to hilltop, like plan with transition, if boom in golf in next 8 years, could be opportunity. Likes idea of a small course, certain population that won't golf or go to botanical garden, feels this gives opportunity to both groups
- Sean McCord looking @ brand new park, not surprised not playing golf, access is difficult from bypass, talking about whole new park with amenities, feel not entirely fair what golf has been like without giving a chance. Even with difficult access, already has a core group participating
- Dan Rosensweig felt that the plan presented does not give an opportunity for change, would program both.
- Ned Michie stated that access to golf area was not an issue for golfers; know how to get there, access has not been the problem. Meadowcreek golf course has golf that is a dedicated prime golf resource. Central park – should revert to rest of citizens , felt area is way underused
- **Motion:**
 - Dan Rosensweig made a motion to accept the plan as presented with an amendment of inclusion of acreage at north edge of park to include fenced lighted rectangular field, hilltop area access for passive or botanical garden
Motion was second by Ned Michie.
 - Jennifer McKeever stated that this was the first time seeing this concept without public input, should be considering this formally.
 - Ruth Barnett stated that she feels ready for a vote because plan includes public and Advisory Board input
 - Sean McCord agreed with Ned Michie that the plan includes all things that have been discussed for many months, feels prepared to move forward.
 - Chris Gensic stated that public comments can be made until City Council votes on the master plan.

Amendment

- John Kammauff made an amendment to remove language of reverting pasture golf to passive area by 2020, Sean McCord second. Vote: amendment – not passed
- **Amendment**
Sean McCord proposed a compromise that is in addition to Dan Rosenweig's motion to approve this plan that there should be open passive access on hilltop of golf course, and golf course not be sunseted until the city can find alternative affordable golf. John Kammauff second. Vote: amendment – not passed
- Skylar Hughes-Lyon suggested offering midweek days to passive use plan. Jennifer McKeever replied that they should not go into programming. Vote: amendment – not passed
- David Hirschman stated to think about entire city – Towe Park close by and active, City always in role of regional services, others need to step up.

- Skylar Hughes-Lyon stated that he felt badly for people using low cost golf, maybe possible to offer lower cost to seniors or young people @ Meadowcreek, discuss at later date – offer lower solutions
- Dan Rosensweig stated the count was 50/50 – would redraw map to support amendment.
- David Hirschman stated that his concern was that with this piece of land was a hazard of like putting 10 lbs. of potatoes into 5 lb. bag. Urban scale – interesting vision; need to revamp up design, northern area – great place to think about design.

- **Amendment:**

John Kammauff suggested removing language from reverting to passive land by 2020 with agreement to reduce acreage from 25 to 20 acres, Sean McCord second

Vote: Amendment failed

- Jennifer McKeever asked for clarification of where greens are; suggested changing from 7 hole to 3 hole. Dan Rosensweig agreed.
- Noise from Rt. 250, golf course would buffer
- David Hirschman felt that a 3 hole course, could lock in creative ways to use space.
- Jennifer McKeever everything north of hilltop would be passive use. Brian Daly showed area on map.

- **Amendment**

Ned Michie made an amendment that golf is out of the area in no longer than 5 years rather than 8 years, 01/01/2018, Skylar Hughes-Lyon second. Amendment was withdrawn

- **Amendment**

Sean McCord made an amendment that as part of the master plan; reduce foot print the golf course to the southern end of the golf course and to keep as permanent home for golf. Remove the reversion language to include minimal golf course along the southern edge that could be designed to co-exist with other uses. Jennifer McKeever – second. Vote: Amendment failed

- Dan Rosensweig asked if staff could weigh in on consolidating golf. Chris Gensic stated that the wading pool had been there for 70 years and never had a golf ball problem; minimal golf course could coexist with other uses.

- **Amendment**

Ned Michie made an amendment to change language to 01/01/2018 for transition. Vote: Amendment failed – tied vote

- David Hirschman stated that he would like for the deadline to move along; concerned on being too specific.

- **Motion**

- Dan Rosensweig made a motion to recommend plan as presented with the following amendments:
 - Add acreage to the Family Activity Center at the north edge of the park to include a rectangular, lit athletic field
 - Add area identified as hilltop on concept diagram to botanical garden/passive use with access from remainder of park
Ned Michie second
 - Opposed: Sean McCord and John Kammauff
 - Motion passed.
- Brian Daly stated that staff will go back and reconfigure concept with motion, bring back to meeting in June

Chairman Matters

- Jennifer McKeever stated that pool passes were on sale until 5/20/12, stated that last year sale was through Memorial Day, would like staff to extend through Memorial Day

Board matters

- None

Directors Matters

- Brian Daly thanked the Advisory Board members for their active participation and thoughtful comments throughout the McIntire Park Plan process.

Motion:

- Ruth Barnett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, David Hirschman second, motion was unanimously approved.
- Meeting ended @ 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daly
Secretary to the Advisory Board