

College Gardens Task Force Meeting, Monday, June 25, 2007

Attendees:

College Gardens

Mark Pierzchala, President, College Gardens Civic Association

Mike Phillips, Vice President, CGCA

Paul O'Brien, CGCA Storm Water Liaison

Luci Roberts, observer

Barbara Marinelli, observer

City of Rockville

Craig Simoneau, Department of Public Works

Susan Strauss, Department of Public Works

Lise Soukup, Department of Public Works

Jeff Winstel, Historic Preservation – Planning

Burt Hall, Recreation and Parks

Mike Critzer, Recreation and Parks

Contractors

John Slater, Slater and Associates (Park Design)

Jeff Zahner, Slater and Associates

Tim Scheuler, CPJ (Pond Design)

Jim Fetcher, CPJ

Commissions

Kate Savage, Recreation and Parks

Paul noted that we lost Jerry Leighton, Commission on the Environment

1. Craig chaired the meeting. He noted that there are 2 CIP sheets for this project, one for the SWM pond, and one for the park. Both are in the fiscal year 2008 budget.

Project schedule: we're looking for a 100% design, then a bid process, then construction.

2. Jeff Winstel spoke about putting up historic signs in the park to acknowledge the history of the site. This had been the Anderson farm for over 200 years. He noted that the Andersons were prominent people as lawyers, in the judiciary, and senate. He spoke of putting up an interpretive panel, noting the history of the site. He pulled down an aerial photo of the farm from the CGCA website. If anyone has any ideas, please get back to Jeff. Mark spoke in favor of incorporating history into the scheme. Peerless Rockville knows about this project and has some files on the Anderson farm.

Mark noted that there is an artifact from the Anderson farm somewhere that could be incorporated into the historic scheme. Paul identified this as a barn cupola. We will try to find out who has this object.

There was some talk of the archeology of the area, but Jeff Winstel noted that the area had been heavily disturbed, and that shards of objects out of context were not worth very much. He also noted that adding an archeological component to the project would be very expensive.

3. The City is in a detailed engineering review of designs.

The group then spent the bulk of the meeting working through a list of 18 features. Some of these were in the purview of the group to make a decision, others were deferred for community input. The group worked from a diagram produced last year by Slater and Associates.

Task Force Decisions: (A) Two paths were removed to save trees or to mitigate damage to trees. This included the removal of steps that would not have been ADA compliant and would have been attractive to skate boarders. (B) The overlook over the inlet pipe into the forebay will be high enough so that only a 10-year storm would rise to that level. A material called Trex will be used as the planks for the overlook. It will have rails. (C) The bridge will use Corten, orange colored steel, for the framing. (D) The overlook on the pond will be shifted to the side of the riser. Originally it was supposed to be over the riser (see next) in order to hide it, but this is not possible anymore. It will have rails. This will be bid as an optional feature and will be funded if the bid prices are right. (E) The riser (this is the structure that drains water out of the pond into the stream) will be covered with a stone facing to give it an attractive veneer. It will be made hard to climb. (F) All paths and the basketball surface will be non-porous asphalt. (G) Playground surface will be a new kind of rubberized material. (H) The basketball courts will be cut down to 3/4 size in order to target them to elementary and middle school children, and to cut down on the amount of impervious surface.

Task Force Deferred Decisions: (A) The path at the back of the park (abutting the homes on Carnegie Court and Purdue Court) may be straight (as is) or could be curvilinear. We will wait to hear from the Forest Conservation Plan. (B) The bridge deck materials will be decided later?

Community Meeting Decisions: (A) Concerning the bridge, Slater will present 2 or 3 options to the community. (B) Slater will present 2 or 3 options on the fountain to the community. (C) Plaza surface stamp design? (D) Stone surface on riser? The community meeting will be in September. The CGCA will get back-to-school night dates to the City so there are not any conflicts.

Input on Flora: There needs to be joint design between Slater and CPJ to get plants suitable to pond inundation patterns. City Forester needs to review for tree suitability. There is an opportunity for input from the **Garden Club of College Gardens** and from individual experts in the neighborhood.

Input on Playground Equipment: There needs to be an advisory team made up of children and parents to decide on playground equipment. These people should be drawn from the community and the school. The CGCA will solicit participation from the neighborhood and get into contact with the College Gardens PTA. There will be a playground for children up to 5, and one for children from 5 to 12. There will be an exercise cluster for adults. This input needs to occur this summer. The playground equipment purchase will be part of a larger City purchase of equipment this year.

4. Mark mentioned a Pond Study initiative. The community wants a before and after study of the pond, flora and fauna. There is \$2000 available now for an inventory before construction begins. There will have to be another meeting soon with Mark Charles and Karen Carp from College Gardens.

5. Schedule: Plans done: December / January. Proposal put out in February, it will be out for bids for about 6 weeks. Mayor and Council must approve. Then June 2008 for start of construction. The construction will take about a year. It will take a few years for all plants to establish themselves.