

Carroll Knolls Local Park Renovation Project – Facility Plan Community Meeting #3 Meeting Notes

Date / time of meeting: June 4, 2019 from 7:00PM-9:00PM

Location: Capitol View-Homewood Park Activity Building, 2929 Edgewood Rd,
Kensington, MD 20895

Public in attendance (from sign-in sheet): 18

Parks Staff in attendance:

Lucas Bonney, Project Manager, Park Development Division (PDD)

Tricia McManus, Design Section Supervisor, PDD

Brian Lewandowski, Engineer, PDD

Carl Weber, Park Manager

Kevin May, Park Manager

Alex Girr-Borrayo, Public Affairs & Community Partnerships (PACP)

Bob Green, Senior ADA Compliance Project Manager, PDD

Public official representatives in attendance:

Mr. Mark Melmed, liaison for Md State Senator Jeff Waldstreicher

Meeting summary

Community Meeting #3 began with a PowerPoint presentation that provided a summary of the information presented and the community feedback received during the previous two community meetings (December 5, 2017 and June 5, 2018). The presentation also included a brief review of existing site conditions, additional details on proposed future park improvements, and the proposed project schedule. Staff presented the Recommended Concept Plan, which was developed based on community and staff feedback to date. Staff re-iterated to the community that Carroll Knolls Park was designated as a “Local” park, which has amenities that serve a broader geographic area and include active recreation facilities such as permitted athletic fields. Since the community mostly responded that an “active teen element” would be the preferred amenity to draw countywide use to the park, rather than a community garden or

permitted athletic field, staff proposed that an asphalt pump track facility could serve this need. Additional details and examples of pump tracks were presented for the public to consider and discuss. Following the presentation, staff transitioned the meeting to an open discussion period. A summary of the meeting discussion is outlined below.

Discussion

- A. The Recommended Concept Plan – overall, meeting participants enthusiastically supported the plan, including the new asphalt pump track, and would like to see the project built as soon as possible.
- B. Funding/Budget – participants asked when the project would be constructed and if the project could be built in phases. Staff responded that due to the size of the project, it would be preferred to construct the project all at once.
- C. Georgia Avenue – the danger of pedestrians crossing Georgia Avenue at Evans Drive was discussed. Improvements to Carroll Knolls Park may increase the instances of people crossing Georgia Avenue from Evans Parkway Park. Perhaps signage could be installed on parkland on both sides of Georgia Avenue to highlight the dangerous crossing and urge patrons to use the signalized crossing at Dennis Avenue.
- D. Playground – residents asked if the community will be involved in the process of selecting playground equipment during the future Detailed Design phase. Staff responded that they would consider scheduling a meeting with the public to review potential playground equipment.
- E. Wooded edge – the existing shaded lawn area along the existing parking lot is very important to members of the community. Some asked to place picnic tables or flexible seating options to allow for picnicking/relaxing in the shade. Moveable furniture might get stolen.
- F. Douglas Avenue roadway terminus – a resident noted the large volume of rainwater from Evans Drive that flows into the dead-end of Douglas Avenue. In addition, snow removal piles and illegal dumping piles were also raised as

issues, since they occasionally block roadway runoff to the existing storm drain. Residents requested that we remain mindful of the existing drainage issues as we re-design this area.

- G. Stormwater facilities – some inquired about the depth of the stormwater facility adjacent to the proposed pumptrack. Staff responded that the stormwater facility would be similar to a planted rain garden and would be a few feet deep. The facility would not hold or pond water for more than 24 hours following a rain event.
- H. Perimeter fence – a resident asked if the existing perimeter fence along Georgia Avenue would remain in place. Staff responded that a small portion of the existing fence would be removed at the northern end to allow for a new sidewalk access to the park.
- I. Pedestrian access –
 - a. Formal access from adjacent Plyers Mill Crossing townhouses – some requested a paved pathway connection to the existing stone pathway adjacent to the community pool. This connection would be well-used by the community.
 - b. Mulch path – some suspect that with the addition of the pump track, bicyclists may want to access the park from Lilian Drive along the existing lawn area behind the Plyers Mill Crossing townhomes. There was a request for a natural mulch path to accommodate this potential increase in access/use, which could connect with the natural surface trails in the wooded area.
- J. Pathway materials – some requested clarification on the intended pathway materials. Staff responded that due to ADA requirements, concrete would be used for most pathways in the park. Asphalt material will be used in the parking lot and for the pump track. One person mentioned that they like the exposed aggregate concrete walkways at Evans Parkway Neighborhood Park.
- K. Existing tree removals – some asked if existing trees will be removed to make room for the new park facilities, including the pump track. Staff responded that the existing small trees that Park Staff had planted as part of the interim

improvements will need to be either relocated on-site, moved to another park, or removed before they grow too large. These existing young trees are planted on top of the large existing storm piping that traverses the site, which is not advisable in the long-term.

- L. Parking lot size – some asked if the number of proposed parking spaces (25) could be reduced further to lower the amount of impervious surfacing in the park. Staff responded that the current number of proposed parking spaces (25) is the minimum that should be provided for a Local Park of this size.
- M. Fundraising – some expressed interest in exploring opportunities to raise funds for the proposed park amenities through the Montgomery Parks Foundation.
- N. Habitat – residents noted the importance of preserving and enhancing the ecology of the wooded area so that animals have refuge in an increasingly urbanizing area. Invasive vines need to be removed. Some asked if a bat house could be added to the park. Staff responded that a bat house was not advisable.
- O. Labyrinth – some asked why the labyrinth amenity was removed from the proposed plan. It was discussed that at this stage in the project, there is not enough funding to include some of the smaller site amenities, such as the labyrinth. Staff noted that as the plan and cost estimate are developed and refined, these additional amenities may be added where feasible. Some mentioned that there is an interesting labyrinth behind Northwood High School, near the existing trail.

End of meeting notes