

Carroll Knolls Local Park Renovation Project – Facility Plan Community Meeting #2 Meeting Notes

Date / time of meeting: June 5, 2018 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): 11

Parks Staff in attendance:

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

Tricia McManus, Design Section Supervisor, PDD

Derrick Williams, Park Police

John Boyd, Park Manager

Carl Weber, Park Manager

Dominic Quattrocchi, Park Planning

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

Purpose of meeting

To receive feedback from the community on the three proposed concept plans and ideas for the renovation of Carroll Knolls Local Park, located at 10500 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

Meeting summary

Community Meeting #2 began with a PowerPoint presentation that provided a summary of information presented during the first community meeting on December 5, 2017, including a review of existing site conditions, opportunities for future park improvements, preliminary park program ideas, and the proposed project schedule. Staff presented three concept plans with accompanying precedent images for the public to consider and discuss. Following an open discussion period, Staff encouraged community members to participate in the “red dot-green dot” exercise. Participants could place a red dot (“do not prefer”) or a green dot (“prefer”) on a specific concept plan or proposed park

amenity image. A summary of the meeting discussion and results from the “red dot-green dot” exercise is outlined below.

Discussion

A. Preferred Concepts – the following comments indicate preferences for proposed park amenities and include feedback/results from the red dot-green dot exercise. In general, the layout of Concept Plan 2 was preferred, with some modifications as suggested below.

1. Concept 1

- Overall – concept 1 was least preferred, since it included the permitted rectangular field, which was unpopular.
- Good playground location, as it is closer to existing tree shade area.
- Do not prefer “permitted” rectangular field with 4-foot perimeter fence (9 red dots).
- Permitted field will result in more cars/parking, which is undesirable.

2. Concept 2

- Overall – concept 2 was most preferred (7 green dots, no red dots).
- Some objected to the active teen area location, as it may cause more noise for the adjacent townhome residences. Consider flipping locations of playground and active teen area, since it is preferred that the playground is closer to existing tree shade.
- Some requested reducing the proposed parking lot below 30 space, if feasible.

3. Concept 3

- Most preferred playground location and layout in this concept, as it is closer to existing tree shade area.
- Community garden is not supported and takes up too much space, which instead could be used for additional open lawn space or an active teen area.

- Some preferred Concept 3 if the community garden was replaced with the active teen area, which would fit more appropriately closer to Georgia Avenue.
4. Some did not like the electronic/digital nature of the play elements for the active teen area and would rather consider traditional or non-digital amenities. Electronic games can break over time and may not be repaired. It's safer and more cost effective to provide activities that don't rely on technology.
 5. Additional preferences for park amenities, per feedback received during the "red dot-green dot" exercise, include:
 - Strong support for the fitness station, labyrinth, table tennis, and concrete pump-track.
 - Moderate support for different seating options such as a swinging hammock. Some did not support movable lawn chairs.
 - Mixed support (almost equal red and green dots) for the interactive electronic games like the "Memo" posts or "Sutu" soccer wall.
 - There was minimal feedback on skateboarding elements (2 red dots, 1 green dot).
 - Some did not support the large-scale chess/checker boards or the cornhole lawn game.

B. General Comments

1. There was a preference to have the playground near the townhouses and to keep noisier activities, such as the teenage-oriented activity areas, further away from the townhouses.
2. In general, the community garden and the field seem to take up too much of the usable park space. These activities will also require more parking, which will take up space.
3. There was discussion that the park is designated as a local park, so it needs to provide countywide activities that will draw users from the regional area. Attendees expressed that teen activities would be the preferred activities to draw countywide use to the park (rather than the field or community gardens).

4. Concept 2 seems to provide more of the activities requested in the first community meeting, and it provides something for everyone. However, it would be better to have the teen area relocated.
5. Ideally, the playground should be located where shade can be provided. It would be nice to transition it with natural play elements to the natural surface trail that goes through the wooded area.
6. “Gaga Ball” is a highly popular interactive game for teens that we should consider adding to the park. It’s an octagonal court, and the game is similar to dodgeball.
7. Some want less pavement and more permeable areas.
8. One requested to avoid using exposed aggregate surfacing on pathways, as it creates a lot of vibration for inline skaters. Smooth paving surfaces, such as asphalt or concrete are preferred. Providing a loop path that could accommodate in-line skating would be ideal.
9. There were supportive comments to provide a path connection to Georgia Avenue, as it would invite people to the park from Wheaton.
10. Provide fitness equipment that can be used by children and teens as well as adults.
11. Trees that are native to this area should be used in the park, such as Tulip Poplar and Sweetgum.
12. There were questions regarding the appearance of stormwater management areas and concerns that drainage problems in the park must be addressed.
13. In developing the pedestrian entrance from Haywood Drive, staff will need to do some study and make adjustments to avoid the neighboring owner’s property and driveway.
14. There was a request for a water play feature.

End of meeting notes