

# Meeting Notes Long Branch-Wayne Local Park Renovation Project

## Community Meeting #2 – September 20, 2016

Montgomery County Department of Parks, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

Park Staff Present at Community Meeting #2

Lucas Bonney, Project Manager, Park Development

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Josh Arnett, Park Development

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Mohammed Turay, Park Manager

Officer Christopher Bratburd, Park Police

## Meeting Summary

Community Meeting #2 began with a PowerPoint presentation to provide an overview of the project, a summary of community feedback received during the first community meeting, the proposed park program, and four (4) new park renovation concept plans. During the presentation, staff addressed questions that were posed by the community. After the presentation, participants were encouraged to review the four proposed concept plans and begin to discuss their preferences. Staff requested participants to indicate their specific preference (or non-preference) for one of the proposed concepts by placing a green dot ('prefer') or red dot ('do not prefer') on one of the plans. The meeting concluded with a summary of the feedback received during the exercise. A full summary of the meeting discussion is outlined below. A graphic summary of the results from the red dot/green dot exercise is also included as an attachment to these notes.

1. **Concept 4** – Concept 4 was identified as the most preferred plan during the meeting, since it received the highest number of green dots (22) and positive reception in general. Park staff clarified that the feasibility of this concept was contingent on obtaining approval from Pickwick Village for vehicular access through their property to Glenville Road. Specific community comments on Concept 4 included the following:
  - a. Picnic Shelter – liked relocating the existing picnic shelter further away from University Boulevard. The proposed shelter relocation may also help to balance (space-out) large groups using the park.
  - b. Playground – liked the location of the playground on top of the hill, although some expressed concern about its proximity to University Blvd. Staff responded that these safety concerns could be addressed with a low fence or combination of site elements.
  - c. Hill Play – liked idea of incorporating play with the existing hills and steep slopes.
  - d. Loop path – In addition to the proposed path around the soccer field, would also like a circuitous loop path in the eastern half of the park that connects the proposed picnic shelter, playground, and new parking lot.

- e. Open Space – liked the green open space and vegetated buffer next to the proposed exercise equipment north of the soccer field.
  - f. Pedestrian Bridge connection – some want to retain the existing pedestrian connections leading to and along the Long Branch stream valley corridor, as there are several natural surface trails that people use to connect to adjacent residential areas (Schuyler Road connection).
  - g. Parking – liked that the parking areas, and amenities in general, are more equally balanced throughout the park in Concept 4.
2. **Concept 3** – this concept received the second most positive votes (9 green dots, 2 red dots). Like Concept 4, participants preferred the more balanced placement of park amenities. This concept also relies on obtaining approval from Pickwick Village for vehicular access to Glenville Road.
3. **Concepts 1 and 2** – Although Concept 2 received the highest number of red dots for the overall concept, staff received a much stronger opposition in Concept 1 to the proposed additional parking lot access at the intersection of E. Wayne Avenue and Long Branch Pkwy (14 red dots). This resulted in the slight preference for Concept 2 over Concept 1. Participants also commented that the proposed playground was located too far from the existing and proposed parking areas. Some also opposed relocating the basketball court near the corner of Glenville Rd. and MD 193.
4. **General Comments** – the following topics were discussed without any direct reference to any of the concepts:
- a. Playground location – needs to be near parking.
  - b. Softball Backstop – There is not a high demand for the existing backstop, however, kids may occasionally use it so it should not be removed entirely. The southwest corner is not a good location for a backstop, since it is close to the stream valley slope.
  - c. Soccer Field play – some mentioned the need for a fence along the stream side of the soccer field, as balls tend to be kicked down into the stream valley.
  - d. Soccer Field condition – everything should be done to improve the long-term quality of the soccer field, including the addition of irrigation and addressing drainage, soil, grass type, etc.
  - e. Sidewalk along Wayne Avenue – discussed possibility of adding a new sidewalk along E. Wayne Avenue to improve safety and access between University Blvd. and the stream valley, without having to walk through the park.
  - f. New Pedestrian Bridge – consider adding lighting on the proposed bridge over Long Branch. Should also consider adding something interesting at the end of the bridge as a gateway to the park – art work, seating, exercise elements, etc.
  - g. Basketball Court – re-surface court and upgrade basketball poles/equipment.
5. **Dog Park** – a few residents expressed disappointment that staff was unable to add a new dog park at Long Branch-Wayne Park and retain the existing program elements. There is not space

within the park to accommodate additional program elements and provide adequate parking. There were other dog owners in attendance that did not want a dog park.

6. **Parking** – residents re-iterated the difficult parking situation surrounding the park and the need for possible parking restrictions on side streets (Wayne and Glenville) adjacent to the park.

**Park Examples** – the “fire engine” park (Upper Long Branch Park) was noted again as a nearby park that contains a nice mix of amenities and playground features. This park is located less than a half-mile north of Long Branch-Wayne Park.

Attachments:

Concept 1

Concept 2

Concept 3

Concept 4

END OF MEETING NOTES