



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: 11 June, 2013, 7:30pm

RE: Kemp Mill Urban Park Renovation

MEETING LOCATION: Kemp Mill Elementary School (411 Sisson Street, Silver Spring MD 20902)

GOAL OF MEETING: Community meeting to present the 50% Construction Drawings and to receive feedback on the playground design and the pond design.

PRESENTERS: Aaron Feldman (*Parks*)

David Ostrich (*WRT*)

Lanshing Hwang (*Symbiosis*)

ATTENDEES: The meeting was attended by at least 26 members of the community (as represented on the sign in sheets) and several Parks employees.

MEETING NOTES:

- 1) After attendees had the opportunity to view the proposed site plan and renderings on display, Aaron Feldman opened the meeting with some introductory remarks:
 - Introductions of the project team.
 - Overview of the project location and existing conditions.
 - Description of recent pond stabilization work completed to date.
 - Summary of the facility plan process.
- 2) David Ostrich gave an overview of the proposed site plan.
- 3) Lanshing Hwang described the proposed playground design, the main interest of many of the meeting's attendees.
- 4) After the presentation, attendees were given the opportunity to express opinions and ask questions of the design team:
 - Several attendees suggested Parks contact Rabbi Rosenbaum of Young Israel for his opinion of certain elements of the playground and whether or not children would be permitted to use them on the Sabbath.
 - Of particular concern are the musical elements. Playing a musical instrument is considered work and therefore forbidden during the Orthodox Jewish Sabbath.
 - *Aaron Feldman plans to contact Rabbi Rosenbaum for a meeting prior to the completion of the 50% Construction Documents.*
 - Additional bucket swings were requested (four seemed to be an adequate number). There is often a wait of half an hour or more on the weekends for young children to use the bucket swings.
 - Belt swings are still popular amongst older kids. Include them if possible.
 - Rather than allowing for flexibility, the multi-use court may draw conflict between groups wishing to use the same space at the same time for different sports.
 - Ensure that the playground fully complies with ADA. This project will be reviewed by our in-house accessibility coordinator.

- The existing spring rockers are very popular amongst toddlers and have a small use zone. A few of these elements should be incorporated where there is space.
 - Stroller parking was a concern. Ensure that there are out-of-the-way places to park strollers near play equipment so parents can watch older children on the play equipment and be near infants in strollers at the same time.
 - Provide ample seating areas near the playground for adults to watch children.
 - If possible, Parks should adjust the construction schedule so the park is closed through one summer instead of two.
 - There was a strong preference against the use of motion sensors in the lighting scheme. There was also a strong preference against lighting the sports court. The community does not appear to want to encourage nighttime use of the park beyond pathway lighting.
- 5) At the end of the meeting, attendees were encouraged to complete a questionnaire, in case they had additional comments.
- **What do you like about the plan that was presented tonight?**
 - Excellent balance for various users.
 - Equipment for various ages.
 - Benches.
 - Handicap accessibility.
 - Playground structures are nice.
 - The vegetation around the pond.
 - Pond filter systems.
 - Sport court, although it would be nicer to have it larger.
 - Small hill with nets/slides/rock climbing connected to the tower looks fun.
 - Good to have enclosed slides.
 - Waterfall type slide looks interesting.
 - **What would you change about the plan?**
 - More swings.
 - More swings.
 - Smaller ponds – may get rid of the geese.
 - Eliminate the basketball court area and add more playground equipment.
 - Get rid of more of the pond – maybe keep two sections to build more swings or grass field area instead of pond.
 - **Is there anything else you would like to share with us?**
 - Good presentation.
 - Good responses and acceptance of input.
 - Concern about vegetation around pond to discourage geese – will it encourage mosquitoes, gnats, deer ticks?

- The current goose situation is very dangerous. They stop traffic and cause a danger to pedestrians and cars as well. Something needs to be done to solve the issues until the park undergoes construction.
 - Get rid of the geese.
 - Some of the terrain area seems ok, some I don't see my children playing with it. Also it needs to be constructed of materials that small children can fall down and not get hurt or scrape knees, etc.
 - Please do rubberized materials or something other than wood chips.\
- 6) Following the meeting, some community members wrote emails with additional questions and concerns. Below is a summary of the questions/concerns in those emails.
- Also it occurred to me this morning to ask whether you are planning to include bike racks to encourage people to bike to the park. This would really help facilitate park usage in a "green" way. And, is there going to be a water fountain?