



MEMORANDUM

TO: Clark Lilly, M-NCPPC Department of Parks
CC: Patricia McManus, M-NCPPC Department of Parks
Mark Gionet, LSG Landscape Architecture

FROM: Dave Norden, LSG Landscape Architecture
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DATE: Revised January 25, 2011

PROJECT: Kemp Mill Urban Park
LSG JOB NO. LSG Job No. 28084.00
M-NCPPC Contract 290453

RE: Minutes, Public Meeting 3 held Wednesday January 12

On Wednesday January 12, 2011 M-NCPPC and LSG held a third community meeting at Kemp Mill Elementary School in Silver Spring, MD. A list of 30 attendees is attached to this document. The following is a summary of feedback given by attendees from the community. Please notify the author of any corrections or additions.

The community meeting convened at 7:15pm with an introduction of the project team by M-NCPPC project manager Clark Lilly. Project Manager Dave Norden from LSG Landscape Architecture gave a presentation which reviewed existing site conditions, feedback given at two prior community meetings, and the subsequently developed Program of Requirements. Mr. Norden then presented the recommended design, describing various proposed elements, enlargements showing the playground and pond components, and describing the connection of each aspect to previous community feedback received.

Following the prepared presentation, the design team answered questions and noted comments from citizens in the audience. Montgomery Parks staff responded to questions about funding and the construction schedule and short-term plans for addressing potential site issues. Printed graphics of the recommended design were displayed in the gymnasium for review.

Design Concept Summary (all figures approximate):

- *Existing Features*- The current pond is 21,000 square feet (SF). Existing play features total 5,100 SF.
- *Recommended Design*- The proposed pond feature is 13,000 SF in area. The proposed playground area totals 7,600 SF.

Summary of Comments

1. Playground Area:
 - a. Provide a larger play area, if possible, with additional equipment. Don't save every tree.



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- b. The swings are very important and popular. Provide more swings and exceed the six existing (four belts, two tot) if possible. People sometimes wait in lines for the tot swings.
 - c. The mobile wobbler is not a good activity for multiple children.
 - d. Provide spring toys in the playground, including a fire truck and bouncy cars.
 - e. Accurately estimate the quantity of individual play opportunities provided.
 - f. Provide for proper drainage around the playground perimeter.
 - g. Provide adequate quantities of benches of varying heights in the playground area.
 - h. The rubber surfacing is a nice feature.
 - i. A fence around the playground is a good idea, but make sure the fence does not block visibility for parents.
 - j. The adjacent Sligo Creek trail provides exercise equipment, so it may not need to be included in the park, especially if it reduces the amount of play equipment. This equipment might not be well used.
 - k. Make sure that the basketball court is designed to accommodate older teens, not just younger kids.
 - l. The park isn't just for kids. Older people want more than a playground.
2. Water Feature:
- a. Provide methods to control the geese and goose droppings on the paths and lawn areas. Confirm with data or case studies that the methods proposed in the plan will actually work.
 - b. People enjoy sitting on the benches and watching the ducks and waterfowl and want wildlife to remain. Staff clarified that the methods proposed are intended to reduce the waterfowl population to more manageable levels, not eliminate it entirely.
 - c. Consider and address treatment of the pond water chemistry, including build up of minerals, salts and algae. Maintenance efforts will be needed to keep the water clean.
 - d. Minimize use of deciduous trees and lawn areas near the pond to reduce debris from leaves and grass clippings that will fall into the pond and clog the filtration system. Provide barriers everywhere to keep trash and debris out of the pond.
 - e. Consider providing fish. Montgomery Parks staff clarified that the design does not include fish.
 - f. Consider providing some tactile method to warn people who intentionally go into the pond that there is a deep area of the pond.
3. Site Accessibility:
- a. Consider providing fence and a gate to direct pedestrians to the park entrances as entering from Arcola Avenue and Lambertson Drive.
 - b. Address people cutting across the lawn to enter the park at the intersection of Arcola and Lambertson. Evaluate whether the entrance points along Arcola and at the corner of Lambertson should be adjusted.

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- c. Widen the sidewalk along Lambertson Drive.
 - d. Make sure all walkways are wide enough for two people to walk side by side.
 - e. Make sure the grades are gradual enough to push strollers and that there are accessible routes for older park patrons without stairs.
4. Maintenance:
- a. How will maintenance of the park be addressed until the new park and pond is built, especially to control goose droppings. Consider removing water from the pond during nesting season.
 - b. Several people expressed interest in volunteering to help clean up the park.
 - c. The interim measures to improve the drainage have not solved the flooding problem in the adjacent office building.
5. General Comments:
- a. The proposed design has responded well to community comments from the previous two meetings and is a balanced plan.
 - b. If the project needs to be phased due to budget constraints, the community would like to be consulted regarding priorities for phasing.
 - c. The lighted walk through the park is a good idea. Consider providing a user activated alarm or call box.
 - d. Provide stormwater management measures to meet regulations.
 - e. Do not provide a dog park.
 - f. Consider posting signs for a smoke free park (even though the regulation would not be enforced.)
 - g. People of all ages use the park, and many walk to the park.