



1 HARRY S TRUMAN PARKWAY
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Homeport Farm Park Advisory Committee Minutes January 8, 2009

Advisory Committee Members

Joe Duval
Tom Gallagher
Nendy Lawson
Gerald Loren
Scott Mobley
Karyn Molines
Kincey Potter
Ron Schaefer
Liz Vander Heuval
Greg Welker

Also in Attendance

Bob Rubenkonig
Erik Michelson
Judy Mauriello
Jim Wick
Jane and Cliff Willey
Walter Jacobs

- 1) Introductions of members and visitors
- 2) Approval of December 4, 2008 minutes was tabled until February meeting
- 3) Site visit. Bob Rubenkonig was gracious to allow us to start at his house. Erik Michelson took photos of the site. We started at the southern driveway, walked to the house and continued down the path to the cartop boat launch area on Church Creek. We returned to the field and walked along the edge of the Conservation Property. We wondered down the slope slightly to view the regenerative stormwater conveyance system along the stream. We walked up the northern driveway to the barn and into the Community Gardens location. Some people ended returned to their cars while others walked to the entrance circle to see the curb cut where the new access road will start.

Here is a list of comments:

- Everyone was pleased by the size and number of trees planted by the developers
- Currently the fields are mowed by the developers. The Department will be taking over this responsibility. The fields will be mowed once or twice a year. Karyn will be coordinating with the Southern Maintenance Division to establish a maintenance routine.
- The most southern meadow is the region has been identified on the Subdivision Plat as a location of archeological significance. The Department does not have the Archeology Report. Generally this information is not shared with the general public due to the sensitive nature of archeological resources. Karyn will contact the Cultural Resources Division of Planning and Zoning for further information
- In the meadow to the left of the drive (if facing the creek) had some obvious topography and would be a likely location for demonstration stormwater systems, wetland creation, and reforestation.
- The area near the house at the top of the path to the creek was identified as the area where a boat drop-off and turn around would be located.

- Rather than having a designated parking lot the Committee will investigate having parking integrated into the driveway (“Roadside Parking”)
- No cars would be allowed to drive down to the creek’s edge. Authorize vehicles for maintenance, safety would be permitted.
- The path leading to the creek may need some stabilization depending on amount of use. This should be monitored carefully by staff, park users, and cooperating organizations to prevent erosion impact.
- There will be access for cartop boats to launch into Church Creek. The type of structures, shoreline protection, docks, or launching facilities will need to be discussed by the Committee as part of their recommendation to the County.
- The launch area is relatively open with adequate room for temporary boat placement as paddlers get into or out of the water. Some minor clearing of greenbrier, wineberry and other vines may be required to facilitate access.
- A natural surface walkway will travel around the perimeter of the property. The exact location may be determined ahead of time although waiting to see where visitors tend to walk may be useful.
- Fencing may be required to prevent visitors from going down the hill to Church Creek.
- There will be no public access to the existing stormwater management system in Church Creek, except during special programs that discuss the techniques and features of the system.
- The buildings on site would be brought up to code (there is a \$100,000 bond bill for this purpose) and used for educational workshops, meeting space, offices. These would not be rented as houses, but would be made available for rent or lease to environmental and community groups.
- Additional repairs will be contingent on funding and interest of environmental and community groups.
- The buildings may contain the public restrooms depending on what is allowed by code. Additional restroom facilities may be required. The Committee will need to discuss their recommendations for restrooms.
- The northern driveway leading to the barn is very narrow with beautiful large pine trees. Widening the lane without damaging tree roots would be very challenging. The lane could be converted as the walking path. The new driveway could go along the outside of the trees along the edge of the meadow.
- The barn needs to be evaluated and stabilized. It could be used to house maintenance equipment, gardening supplies, or converted to space for gardening workshops.
- Walking along the area of the new entrance road and the Community Gardens, the berm creates a useful barrier between the park and the community. This area is also much more level than the other meadow—a better location for the gardens.
- If gardens are developed this year, parking would be at the barn area. Minimal clearing of vegetation would be required.
- By the entrance circle would be another area of reforestation which would also help to buffer the park from the community.
- It was noticed that the development has a paved pathway that ends at the park entrance. The Committee should discuss whether to connect the park paths to this path.
- The site visit ended as the moon rose over the tree line.

Minutes based on notes by Karyn Molines. Within the group other discussions may have occurred. Please notify Karyn of any additional comments, corrections, or clarifications.