

Homeport Farm Park Advisory Committee Minutes September 30, 2008

1. Introductions

- a. Gingerville Community was not on initial invitation list. Glenn Gibbs was invited as the representative. Karyn will contact those who did not attend.
- b. Proxy/substitutes can attend the meetings as representatives of the organizations.
- c. Each member should return to their organization to update them on activities and for recommendations
- d. The goals of the Committee are:
 - Provide input from all communities as to the future of the Park
 - Develop the Plan for Homeport Farm
 - Facilitate the development of the Park based on the Plan
 - Become the basis for the Friends of Homeport Farm Park

2. Review of the Draft Concept Plan (not necessarily discussed in this order)

- a. Community Gardens. The Community Garden Advisory Committee wants to begin with the Organic, then expand to other areas, with the goal of future plots organic by choice. The exact layout of the plots will be further refined by the lay of the land as well as ease of getting water to the sites.
- b. Driveway and Parking:
 - This is a priority for this year to provide access to the park. Access to the park will be from the entrance circle of the community. A curb cut out is already built in anticipation of the park entrance. The existing access from Homeport Drive and the drive ways through the Community Reforestation Area will be eliminated in the future.
 - Parking. The lots will use pervious technology. Only one lot will be used per year, with rotation between lots determined by usage and the impact/compaction generated. Exact location of the lots will be determined during the engineering phase. In addition, the Committee should determine if the placement make sense based on usage. The buildings may also have parking for a few cars, and/or ADA spots specifically for the groups using the buildings. Community Gardens would have their own parking and would not use the lot.
 - Are 30 spots enough? Use of the alternate lot or along roadway could be a possibility for the infrequent occasions of large numbers of park users.
 - The driveway should extend to the top of the walkway for unloading of boats. There should be sufficient room for both unloading and turning cars around. A small cul-de-sac may be a good option.
- c. Water infrastructure is a priority for this year. The Department will determine if current wells are sufficient and how to get water to the garden areas.
- d. Septic systems must be evaluated. Portable Toilets are an option for the early years.

e. Boat storage

- The storage area is approx. 7000 sf. The initial design is based on a recommendation from the Annapolis Rowing Club to store their shells (approx 20, 60' long) and equipment.
- The storage building would be available for others to use—the exact operations of this needs to be decided.
- The Department is not planning to have a rental concession at the site. The storage would be for groups (ARC, CPA) or for individuals renting space for their private boat.
- The boat rack by the water is not required and probably would not be used. This can be removed from the plan. A area relatively cleared of underbrush would be sufficient.

f. Dock

- ARC requested two 70' floating docks attached to a fixed pier to accommodate their shells. A third floating dock could be incorporated into the pier, but may not be necessary.
- Most of the comments from kayakers have indicated that a beach landing is preferred. The floating docks would be available for those who wish to launch from there. The jet-dock system is another option, used in many state and national parks.
- ARC has requested having their motorized safety boats moored continuously from March – November at the dock.
- The exact dimensions, location and orientation of the docks will be determined.

g. Public Access and Security

- Access would be for individuals and families, gardeners, and groups leasing the buildings (environmental, water-based, and community groups).
- General park hours throughout the County are dawn to dusk. Exceptions are made by the Director. Examples from other parks: late events at Quiet Waters, restricted hours at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, closed on Tuesdays at Downs Park. Exact hours of operation needs to be determined, based on proposed uses.
- Security would be as with other parks—a locked gate and posted signs. Groups leasing the buildings may opt for security alarm systems.
- There are no plans for staff to be assigned to the Park on a permanent basis. Amount of visitation and funding would determine if this is a future possibility.
- Plans for Department sponsored public programs will be determined by use of parks, interest in organized programs, and funding. Programs would focus on the central features of the Park: hand-carried boats, gardening, restoration projects. Groups leasing the buildings would be encourage, perhaps even required, to offer public programs.

h. Restoration Projects

- Restoration includes reforestation, meadow management, shoreline stabilization (referred to as living shorelines) and regenerative storm water conveyance systems. The Homeport Community is responsible for their Reforestation Area. The restoration at the Park will be a combination of community oriented projects, mitigation requirements, and Department initiatives. The exact acreage and extent will be determined as the plan is developed.

- Storm water will be controlled by various methods including innovative road and parking designs to minimize run off, water and soil conservation practices at the garden, vegetative buffers and rain gardens around buildings, parking, gardens, etc. Replication of the successful projects at Wilelinor will be considered as part of the shoreline stabilization and water management program.

i. Woodchip trail

- Has been realigned to follow the top of the bluff. It would be a narrow walking path with occasional benches and picnic tables. The exact location of the benches and picnic tables would be determined during trail construction. Eagle Scouts, the County's Lasting Gifts Program, and community service volunteers could provide these amenities.

j. Building rehabilitation

- This will be a priority for 2010 funding. The County will work to get the buildings up to code. A bond bill is being introduced for \$100,000 which will require a \$100,000 match. The match can be from the organizations leasing the facilities as part of their upgrade of the buildings to meet their needs, as well as in-kind donations of labor or materials.
- Buildings will be offered to groups such as the South River Federation, Annapolis Rowing Club, Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Community Garden Advisory Committee, Master Gardeners, etc for office space, meeting rooms, workshop areas. These groups would enter into formal lease or operating agreements with the County.

k. Lighting

- Plans to have lighting around building in case of evening meetings
- Annapolis Rowing Club has requested having low-level lighting by storage shed and dock for twilight use of docks.

l. Other ideas

- Playground—perhaps climbing rocks rather than swings and slides
- Memorial gardens, meditation gardens

3. Timeline [Fiscal Year (FY) runs July 1-June 30]

- FY2009: Roadway, Parking, Water & Septic. Waterway access walkway and beach landing. Community Gardens. Relevant stormwater management.
- FY2010: Building renovation. Permanent pier and floating docks. Additional Community Gardens. Restoration projects. Relevant stormwater management
- FY2011: Restoration projects, including shoreline stabilization and regenerative storm water systems.

4. **Next Meeting:** First Thursday of each month: November 6 and December 4. 7:00 pm in the Department of Recreation and Parks Large Conference Room.

5. **Tasks for Next Meeting:** Visit Homeport Farm Park: Select the two or three amenities of your choosing and find examples of what you would like to see at the park. Review the Annapolis Rowing Club proposal.