



MEMORANDUM

TO: Emma Pfefferkorn & Bruce Bruchey

FROM: Jonathan Norman, RLA

SUBJECT: Brooklyn Heights Teen Center Park Preconstruction Meeting

DATE: March 1, 2024

On Wednesday, February 28, 2024 @ 6:00 pm, a virtual Preconstruction Meeting was held via Zoom for the Brooklyn Heights Teen Center Park project. The attendees of the meeting were:

Presenters/Panelists:

Emma Pfefferkorn, PE – DPW, Anne Arundel County
Bruce Bruchey - Department of Recreation & Parks, Anne Arundel County
Randall Daugherty – DFI, Inc.
Jonathan Norman, RLA – Pennoni

Attendees:

Citizens residing within 300 feet of the project as well as HOA's within 300 feet of the project.

The Brooklyn Heights Teen Center Park proposes walking paths, a multi-purpose field, basketball court, an adaptive baseball/softball field, a dog park, a community garden, a meditation area, a future community center building, and SWM facilities. Also proposed are improvements to the existing parking lot. The parking lot will be increased from 61 existing parking spaces to 66 proposed parking spaces. This project also proposes a water line extension from the park to 11th Avenue.

At the beginning of the meeting, the park project was introduced and presented by Emma Pfefferkorn. Jonathan Norman presented the proposed improvements to the park. After the presentation, the meeting was opened for questions from the public in attendance.

Questions and answers from the meeting are as follows:

Question from Sharon Kight: Can you send the slides to the attendees?

A: The presentation will be posted on the Rec and Parks Capital Improvement Projects website for public viewing.

Question from Dr. Shawn Ashworth: Do we know how large the community center

will be, and what will be included in it?

A: We do not know yet how big the building will be. We have left room for an approximately 25,000 SF building. It will contain community use spaces, meeting rooms, and office space for community organizations. Also, there will be a recreation component, possibly a gymnasium. We are in the process of putting the programming together as we work with the architects on the design.

Question from Anonymous Attendee: Hi! I'm concerned about the shared driveway with the school and library. Are there plans to evaluate the impact of increased traffic on the driveway and ways to address any unforeseen issues that arise?

A: In terms of the construction impact, we are definitely taking that into account. We're advising our construction team of limitations on use of the driveway. We are limiting when people can deliver materials to the site because we do not want to impact arrival and dismissal times for the school at all.

In terms of the the larger community center, as we get into this the design, evaluations on traffic will be reviewed and considered.

Question from Linda Harris, Legislative Assistant to Pete Smith: Please send Councilman Peter Smith the slide presentation.

A: This presentation will be sent to Councilman Pete Smith.

Question from Sharon Kight: What is Future for the building?

A: This is a future community center building. It will be managed by the Department of Recreation and Parks. We are currently working out what the specifics are for the building.

Question from Sherman: What will happen to the trees on the hill?

A: The trees on the hill will largely be left alone. There is a minimal area of clearing adjacent to the multipurpose field that will take place. In essence those trees are largely staying as is.

Question from Meredith Chaiken: Is there a way to access the park from Ritchie Highway?

A: No, not directly. The only access is off of 11th Avenue by way of the shared driveway with the school and library.

Question from Sue Vizcarra: Is the community center the final project on this timeline?

A: At this time that is the only other planned project for the park behind the school.

Question from Anonymous Attendee: Is this information available at the Brooklyn Park Library (perhaps as a display)? Also, are you doing any outreach to the parents and students at Park Elementary?

A: We don't believe that there is information available specifically at the Brooklyn Park

Library. We can talk to them and see if we can if they'd be interested in having some print outs. The best place to get the information about this project is going to be on the Department of Recreation and Parks website, under their capital improvement projects. Our typical outreach process for a capital improvement project includes personal notifications to any residents within 300 feet of the project project's parcel. We also notify any nearby HOA'S, etc. We did do outreach at the elementary school. in fact, Rec and Parks had representatives at the back-to-school night.

Question from Anonymous Attendee: Any thoughts to include an area within the community center for seniors?

A: It is a little bit early on the design input for the Community Center. We would love to get some user feedback at that work group session on March 20th. We would note that the park itself does have a quite a bit of passive recreation of some community gardens, meditative walking paths, etc. There are some passive uses there as well. That may be helpful.

Question from Kambre: Along with the meditation area will there be mental health/wellness programming for teens?

A: We would defer on that one. We don't know if our recreation division has thought about programming for that particular part of the park or not. We obviously have some time to get that programming in place.

Question from Anonymous Attendee: Is there a basketball court or plans for a court?

A: Yes. There is a basketball proposed for the park.

Question from Kt Zawodny (she/her) - AACPL, Brooklyn Park Library: Brooklyn Park Library manager here - we are happy to share info :)?

A: Thank you for that. We appreciate your participation, and we definitely appreciate you sharing the information. We will contact you so we can talk about how to do that.

Question from Anonymous Attendee: How are the homeless going to be rerouted from the area of trees on the hill behind the homes on Seward?

A: Recreation and Parks has to address that situation periodically where we have unhoused persons camping in the park. We're reaching back out to the community organizations that we work with. As the contractor starts work up there, we're going to attempt to notify and move those folks again out of the park as the construction begins.

Question from Anonymous Attendee: Is the local community being given the opportunity to take an active role in the construction through employment opportunities?

A: This project does fall into our local hiring program. If you wouldn't mind, we'd love to learn more about your question and also put you in touch with our Department of Labor folks who may be able to assist you further in that. We would love to hear more and be able put you in touch with the right people.

Question from Belinda Wimbush: Will the contractor be responsible for cleaning roadways?

A: The contractor will be responsible for making sure that the construction site stays within the construction site. If there are instances of dirt leaving the site through the driveway. Absolutely, the contractor will be responsible for that.

Question from Belinda Wimbush: They are notorious for letting trash run into sewers?

A: We do take a pretty rigid view on trash and on erosion leaving the job sites. We do have environmental inspectors that inspect our job sites. We do try to run a pretty tight ship on those 2 fronts. But certainly, if there are issues, we'd love to know about it. Please do take down my email and let us know if you do notice issues with trash leaving the site.

Question from Roberto: Being that we have a large Spanish speaking community in Park - I was wondering if this information is being shared in Spanish?

A: if somebody would like the presentation in Spanish we certainly can get it translated. we'll put that up on the web page to share it with public.

Question from Meredith Chaiken: I would like to have the translated presentation please.

A: We will absolutely put that up on the Department of Rec and Parks. Capital Improvements projects website.

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Enclosure

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