

Centre Region Council of Governments
AD HOC REGIONAL PARK COMMITTEE
*A Joint Meeting of the Centre Regional Recreation Authority
& the Ad Hoc Regional Park Committee*

(Draft) Meeting Summary from Thursday, January 15, 2009
held in the COG Forum Room

Mr. Klees called the January 15, 2009, Jt. meeting of the Ad Hoc Regional Park Committee and the CRRA to order with the following individuals in attendance:

Ad Hoc Regional Park Committee: (5 of 6): Messrs. Klees, Rosenberger, Mascolo, Warner, Luck

CRRA/CRPR Board (5 of 6): Ms. Mascolo, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Harpster, Ms. Matason, Dr. Ricketts

Others:	Mr. Brumbaugh, College Twp. Manager	Mr. Kurtz, Assistant Borough Manager
	Mr. Erickson, Patton Township Manager	Mr. Steff, COG Executive Director
	Mr. Woodhead, CRPR/CRRA Director	Mr. Jeff Hall, CRPR Recreation Supervisor
	Mr. T. Roth, CRPR Aquatics Supervisor	Mr. Alan Popovich, HP Architects
	Mr. Todd Smith, ELA	Mr. Scott Hunsaker, Councilman Hunsaker

AD HOC COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION / ELECTION FOR 2009

Mr. Klees asked Mr. Woodhead to serve as Temporary Chair for the elections.

Mr. Woodhead asked for nominations for officers for 2009.

Mr. Rosenberger nominated Mr. Klees for Chair; Mr. Mascolo seconded. Mr. Klees was unanimously elected as Chair for 2009.

Mr. Mascolo nominated Mr. Rosenberger for Vice Chair, Mr. Luck seconded. Mr. Rosenberger was unanimously elected as Vice Chair for 2009.

Mr. Klees then resumed chairing the meeting. He asked if the meeting schedule presented was good (it listed the 3rd Thursdays of each month; the same as 2008). The meeting schedule was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Mascolo and second by Mr. Luck.

Mr. Klees asked everyone to introduce themselves for the consultants.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

The November 20, 2008 meeting summary was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Luck and a second by Mr. Rosenberger.

WELCH POOL RENEWAL

Mr. Roth introduced Mr. Popovich, HP Architects; Mr. Hunsaker, Councilman Hunsaker; and Mr. Smith, ELA Group, consultants who have been working on the Master Site Plan for the Welch Pool. He reminded everyone that the original studies began in 1997 - 1999 when we had feasibility studies done. In 2007, the Master Site Plan was started and today we are working to finalize this plan so we can advertise and send out information for construction bids.

Mr. Hunsaker reviewed the process where they originally presented 5 options and that Option #3 was approved by the General Forum. He reviewed the amenities that were included in Option #3.

Mr. Popovich talked about how the amenities would fit on the site. He indicated that there were

three things that govern the general development of the pool site:

- 1) availability of parking- cooperation with the State College Area School District allows all the land on the site to be used for features.
- 2) the existing infrastructure such as the storm drainage, the bus lane, the access road
- 3) the topography within the site.

He then reviewed some of the pluses in the layout:

- 1) Utilizing a drop off area and ADA spaces.
- 2) Strengthening the entrance so that it would be a corner site by eliminating some other entrances to Westerly Parkway.
- 3) Situating the buildings so you can see the amenities of the pool from the street.
- 4) Optimizing the available land including pushing back the perimeter.

Ms. Mascolo asked, if we have a layout of the changing rooms for the shared use with SCASD? These details have not yet been finalized. Mr. Popovich continued to describe the layout of the pool area.

Mr. Hunsaker then reviewed some of the amenities, and that when people come into the pool area they will have a sense of “Wow!” There are three separate areas of leisure opportunities in the pool area. He then presented an updated business analysis projecting the revenue and the level of participation. He recommended that a Capital Replacement Fund be created and maintained for items that need replaced in the future. He spoke for the design team and agency staff to say that in order to meet the construction schedule, we need to be going to bid by late spring or early summer. Mr. Mascolo asked for copies of the numbers from Mr. Hunsaker. Mr. Woodhead asked the joint meeting members if they would approve the consultants going ahead to get the information ready for bid preparation. He then asked if there was discussion concerning anything inside the pool fence. Mr. Mascolo thought it was premature to have the consultants move ahead when we don’t know what will happen with the school board. Mr. Woodhead indicated that there was a public meeting schedule for tonight (15 Jan 09) to update the community on the Welch Master Site Plan. He referred to the draft agreement for the “Shared Parking” and reviewed the yellow sheet that listed those items the school district and the Authority had agreed on and what was still up for discussion. He indicated that at the School Board meeting on Monday evening they assigned a subcommittee to meet with several members of the COG committee to work out the issues. He was hopeful that an agreement was close to being reached. He asked who would represent the COG? Mr. Klees, Mr. Rosenberger, Ms. Mascolo, and Mr. Hurley would meet with the school district representatives. The meeting should be soon so that the school district could discuss the options at their January 26 meeting. (This meeting was held on Jan. 20.)

In an effort to obtain a clear picture of what the Authority and Ad Hoc Committee members could agree to, Mr. Klees asked some questions. Of Mr. Hunsaker, he asked how problematic for customers is it that the closest parking is 387 feet away from the pool gate? Mr. Hunsaker doesn’t think it is an overwhelming obstacle especially with the nearby drop-off and ADA parking spaces. It would be better to have them closer, but the proposed parking is acceptable. It is good that the shared parking is “bundled” and not spread across the South Building site.

Mr. Klees asked if the group wanted to focus on #11 that deals with resolving the primary shared spaces for the interim and then for a permanent basis - the radius of the parking from the pool gate. Mr. Luck reflected that the school district wants this to be flexible since they are not finished with their Master Site Plan, they don’t want to commit to anything. A discussion followed including Mr. Mascolo voiced his concern that with another election we could be dealing with a different board with a different view of the parking for Welch Pool. He related he thought the pool should be placed in another location. Although others were not happy about the parking situation and would like to have more control over the land where the pool is located, they indicated that it would cost too much and would result in a lot of lost

time if the pool was moved to another location. Mr. Luck suggested that a footprint of the pool and parking should be completed instead of the interim parking and permanent parking. This would keep the parking close to the pool and allow the school district to plan around the footprint. Mr. Rosenberger suggested that the document be revised to indicate nothing else could be built between the pool and the parking and it would have to be on the South Side of Westerly Parkway. Mr. Klees reviewed that the group wanted to stay with parking within 387 feet and require South Side parking with nothing else but grass between pool and parking. Mr. Luck suggested an additional option that when the school district's Master Site Plan is finished, the school district turn the pool property over to CRRA. There was some discussion as to whether the school could legally do that.

A discussion then revolved around whether the consultants should proceed and get the documents ready so they could go to the bid documents. Mr. Luck moved that the committee give the consultants the green light but he then withdrew his motion based upon the consensus of the committee members.

Mr. Woodhead will try to set up a meeting with the school board representatives for Tuesday night, January 20, 2009. Mr. Woodhead asked if the committee was comfortable with what was inside the fence. The consensus was that the design inside the fence was fine. Ms. Mascolo, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Klees, and Mr. Rosenberger will represent COG when they meet with the school board, January 20, 2009. Mr. Mascolo will also be attending but as a member of the public, not as a municipal representative.

OAK HALL MASTER SITE PLAN

Since the meeting in December, Pashek Associates has completed an extensive analysis of sports field needs. On January 27, 2009, at 12:15 pm at the Ferguson Township building, Pashek Associates will present one draft of a "field layout plan". They will review the results of their analysis and the proposed layout for Oak Hall and Whitehall parklands.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Park Planning Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, January 27, 12:15 PM at the Ferguson Township Building meeting room.

The proposed date for the Oak Hall Parklands Community Meeting is Tuesday, February 10, 7:30 PM. At the College Township Building.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Ad Hoc Regional Park Committee is Thursday, February 19, 12:15 pm in the COG Building Forum Room.

Mr. Warner moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Mascolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Ishler, CRPR Office Manager

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