



Greenville Recreation & Parks Department

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Date: August 16th, 2011

Time: 6:00 p.m.- 7:20 p.m.

Prepared By: Lamarco M. Morrison, *Parks Planner*

Location: Mt. Calvary Freewill Baptist Church, 411 Watauga Avenue
Greenville, NC 27834

Attendees: See attached Sign-In Log

The Greenville Recreation and Parks Department facilitated a public input meeting to discuss the Dream Park Master Plan. The purpose of the meeting was to get input from the community and stakeholders on what improvements are needed to the park. The following topics were discussed:

Opening Comments (County Commissioner Melvin McLawhorn)

- 1). Mr. McLawhorn opened the meeting with an overview of the agenda and program followed by the introduction of City Officials and stakeholders.

Introduction (Gary Fenton, Director of Recreation and Parks)

- 2). Mr. Fenton, Director of Recreation and Parks, introduced the project team and discussed the purpose of the parks master plan – to identify and graphically document the proposed changes for future development, phasing and cost estimating.

Project Scope (Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner, and Mark Gillespie, Parks Superintendent)

- 3). Mr. Morrison gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the project scope. The following topics were discussed during the presentation:
 - Existing Conditions – Site is 2.64 acres and bordered by residential, commercial, and institutional uses.
 - Park Classification – By definition Dream Park is a mini park based on the acreage (1-4) but does not meet the requirements of what elements the park should have.

- 4). Mr. Gillespie discussed the Capital Needs Assessment (CNA) that was conducted by staff for the Dream Park. The purpose of the CNA is to identify facility deficiency needs; the initial study revealed that the probable cost to fully develop the park would be approximately \$690,100, but the study recommended a master plan to get a more accurate cost estimate.

Project Goals and Schedule (Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner)

- 5). Mr. Morrison discussed the initial project goals but noted that the goals could change based on comments from the stakeholders. The initial goals discussed are as follows:
- Maximize the use of Dream Park by providing park elements and programs for youth and seniors;
 - Provide a family friendly park that serves the neighborhood as well as the southwest Greenville community;
 - Create an oasis in the neighborhood that promotes an active lifestyle and good health, and
 - Bring Dream Park up the NRPA standard.
- 6). Mr. Morrison discussed the preliminary project schedule. The following tentative meeting dates were discussed:
- Public Input Meeting # 2 – late September 2011, Concepts Presentation (specific day in September to be determined)
 - Public Input Meeting # 4 – late October 2011, Final Master Plan Presentation (specific day in October to be determined)
 - Park Commission Presentation – November 9th, 2011
- 7). Mr. Morrison discussed the project deliverables; the deliverables are: rendered master plan, written master plan document, probable cost statement, and phasing plan.
- 8). Mr. McLawhorn opened up the programming session by taking questions and comments. The following comments were made by attendees:
- Recreation and Parks should meet with middle school children to get input on the proposed playground area/ park since they would be the primary users.
 - There is a desire to make improvements to the City Pool and perhaps increase the size.
 - The Dream Park history should be detailed in the master plan and maybe commemorate Dr. King in the design in some way.
 - There is a desire to make Dream Park a high priority in order to get funding.
 - Basketball was an issue in the past and there was a consensus from the group that there is no desire to bring that park element back.
 - Mini golf should be included in the design.
 - The City should look at Greenville Police Department for park security.
 - The American Legion building should be improved so that it can serve as a community center.
 - There should be a space design, perhaps a small amphitheater, that can be used for programs, small outdoor performances/venues.

- The City should consider a design for community space at the Greenville Community Shelters to enhance the park and take advantage of shared space.
 - The community garden should be further planned with input from experienced gardeners.
 - Recreation and Parks should partner with grass roots organizations to run community service programs with an emphasis on getting men involved with community service.
 - It was requested that the City keep the community involved in the design process and do more outreach.
 - The City should explore grant opportunities from local, State, and Federal agencies e.g. Redevelopment grants.
 - There should be more publicity and exposure of the park; many people in the immediate area do not know that park is there and that it is a City Park.
 - Restrooms should be a programming element for the park.
 - The American Legion is planning for building renovations; the City should work with them in their planning efforts.
- 9). Mr. McLawhorn and Mr. Christopher Taylor gave closing remarks followed by prayer.

The content of the above referenced meeting minutes are considered accurate, and a permanent record unless a written request for revisions are submitted within ten (10) days of issuance.

End of Meeting