

MEETING SUMMARY

To: Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association (& Project File)
From: Arlington County, Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources (PRCR) Staff
Date: 04/03/2008
RE: 03/24/2008 Design Meeting

The first meeting to reintroduce the Big Walnut Park project to the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association was held Monday, March 24, from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in Room 201 of the Lee Community Center at 5722 Lee Highway.

PRCR Staff Attendees:

Christine Simpson, Landscape Architect
Kevin Stalica, Park Area Manager

Community Attendees:

Approximately 15 members of the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association along with the president of the Langston Civic Association attended the meeting. A sign-in sheet was made available to document those attending and is available upon request.

1. Overview – Where We're At

Staff provided a brief overview of the project, re-orienting everyone to the previous concept plan. This was followed by a review of where the project previously stopped. At the time work on the project ceased, PRCR staff had scoped the project and generated a concept plan that primarily focuses the first phase on the upper, terraced, western side of the park. This is in the location of the park's existing play features. A second phase including a volleyball court, benches and a connector path is also shown on the plan. Copies of the concept plan were passed out and are available upon request.

Sizes, shapes, orientation, and character of these components have yet to be determined. If the project receives funding, the current design effort by PRCR staff will focus on realizing these conceptual components with the community, understanding that some adjustments to the components may be made.

3. Budget

The PRCR division of Parks and Natural Resources has committed to contribute \$35,000 towards the project dependent on the community receiving Neighborhood Conservation funding. The project will go forward to the NCAC Spring funding round on June 12, 2008 with a request for \$315,000. Together, \$350,000 would be enough to fund the designs proposed for the west (uphill) side of the park only. It would not be enough money to include the east (lower) side of the park, therefore

staff sought direction from the civic association on funding and design feature priorities for the park.

4. Priorities and Decisions

The civic association made the following decisions regarding funding and design features.

- The concept plan should focus on Phase One only; Phase Two will be removed from the concept plan.
- Play areas should be maximized with two areas for tot and school-age play.
- The 19th Street entrance is a secondary need and improvements to the entrance could be eliminated if funding was not sufficient for the above priority. The civic association would also like to consider the needs of the adjacent community and will take into consideration their input on any improvements to the entrance.

In addition to these decisions, staff will also take the following recommendations from the community into consideration.

- Look at several parks that were recommended as having features the community liked. These include Cabin John Park, Chestnut Hills Park and Alcova Heights Park.
- Include a variety of play features such as climbers, spinners and other equipment that will provide a variety of challenges to different age groups.
- Maximize the west (uphill) side of the park as best as possible without intruding on sledding hill use in the park.

5. Wrap Up & Next Steps

Working from decisions made at the meeting, staff will develop an updated concept plan. This plan will be submitted for the NCAC spring funding session. Staff will present the plan to the Tara-Leeway Heights civic association at the May 19, 2008 civic association meeting for approval.