

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, January 22, 2008
Concept Plan for the Duvall Field Renovation

7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Molinatto, Wojahn, Catlin, Perry, Stulich, Mark Cook, Hampton and Mary Cook.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Elisa Vitale, Planner, City of College Park; Steve Halpern, City Engineer; Bob Stumpff, Director of Public Works.

Mayor Brayman opened the Public Hearing at 7:38 p.m. and invited Ms. Vitale to give an overview of the project. Ms. Vitale stated this public hearing was for the preliminary design plan for the Duvall Field renovations. The project began about three years ago when the City received assistance from M-NCPPC to develop a conceptual plan. Several alternatives were developed and presented to the community (Boys and Girls Club, Recreation Board, North College Park Citizens Association, and adjoining property owners). The community asked for a walking trail around the park, exercise nodes, play area improvements, upgrades to the blockhouse and concession building, improvements to the restroom facilities, and consideration of a remote restroom facility. The concept plan was developed and approved by the Mayor and Council. Staff went to bid to hire a consultant to do the final design and engineering. The City hired CPJ and Associates and G. E. Fielder and Associates. They used the concept plan as a starting point and worked with the community to develop the preliminary design plan that is being considered tonight.

The plan includes an exercise path around the perimeter, exercise nodes, field improvements, a new concession building oriented to improve sight lines, a new picnic area, additional parking spaces, and relocation of the playground so it is closer to the fields and blockhouse. The remote restroom has been dropped from the plan. It is anticipated the implementation of the project will be phased. There is funding from a variety of sources. The consultant recommended doing the fields first, the concession area second, the playground third, and parking last. The North College Park Citizens Association took a position to support the concept plan but requested that as many trees as possible be preserved.

Councilmember Catlin asked how many trees would be removed. Ms. Vitale responded that level of detail is not available in this preliminary design plan.

Councilmember Mark Cook asked about the timing of the project. Ms. Vitale stated the timing has not yet been determined, particularly with regard to the fields.

Mayor Brayman expressed concern about missed sports seasons. He asked about adding storage space above the blockhouse. Ms. Vitale stated that level of detail is not included in this preliminary design plan.

Mayor Brayman invited public comment on the concept plan.

Lisa Lazur, 9204 50th Place: She lives on 50th Place behind the concession stand. She likes the idea of the renovation, but is concerned about the 8-foot high board-on-board fence. She does not want a solid fence on the side of her property. It would make her yard look like a prison and presents a security concern because it decreases visibility. She requested that different fence types be considered. She requested someone meet her at her house to show her where the fence would go. She expressed concerns about the drainage ditch near the senior area.

Jan Wedding, 9020 50th Place: She is concerned about illegal parking on neighboring streets when there is a game. She says people park on both sides of the street, even where there is permit parking. She does not have any problem with the renovation plan. She sees people urinating on the fields and on trees and bushes instead of using the restrooms so she is concerned about removing the remote restroom. She discussed speeding issues on Blackfoot. She suggested making certain streets one-way.

Kevin Phelan, 5011 Blackfoot Place: He distributed a diagram concerning fence location on the southeast corner of the field. He is concerned about building a paved path where the trees are and tree preservation. He has spoken with the consultant about moving the path but was told that was impossible. He also stated the plan calls for removal of the south end border fence, which he believes presents a security concern.

Mary Lintner, 5030 Laguna, President, College Park Boys and Girls Club: Stated this project is very important to the Boys and Girls Club and would give the community a huge uplift. They will take the urination problem seriously and address it with the coaches. Storage above the blockhouse would be a big help. Having a regulation size field would also be great.

There being no further public comment, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk