

HENDERSON PARK MASTER PLAN – Public Interest Meeting #2

Minutes from: 01.20.10 Public Interest Meeting #2

Attendees: DeKalb County – Revonda Moody, Sue Pickens, Bob Sims, John Beteman

Silverman Construction Program Management – Marti Watts

jB+a, inc –Raigan Carr

Community Participants – Susan Farrar, Belinda Sullivan, Jon McKenna, Tim Timmons, Dorothy Timmons, Jenni Wasmer, Debora Fuice, John Sherrod, Jon McKenna, Fred Conrad, Yared Alemu, Marie Spies, David Vining, Bruce Nutter, Mike Holcomb, Allen Edwards, Kendall Newson

Location: Tucker Recreation Center, Room #7
4898 LaVista Road, Tucker GA 30084

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

Revonda Moody, DeKalb Park Planning and Development, welcomed public participants, gave an overview of the meeting and introduced Raigan Carr, Landscape Architect and Consultant from jB+a, inc.

Raigan gave an overview of Public Meeting #1; reviewing the topographic survey, aerial photo, and site analysis for the 6.7 acre park site. Additionally, bullet points indicating needs, desires, issues and concerns that had been gathered at the first public meeting were also reviewed. Raigan then explained how the graphics presented and information gathered at the previous meeting were utilized to develop the park master plan concepts that would be presented during this meeting.

The Preliminary Master Plan Concept Options were then presented.

Preliminary Master Plan Option 1

- Existing driveway entrance utilized for park entrance to bring parking up into the site. Twenty Eight (28) parking spaces located on the interior of the park
- Parking is to be expanded at the existing soccer parking lot to include an additional twenty (20) parking spaces for a total of 48 parking spaces.
- Community Garden to be located on the eastern sector of the park
- Two (2) playgrounds are to be centrally located within the park around a parent's plaza area. Separate play areas for "tweens" (10-12 year olds) and smaller children (5-10 year olds) are to be provided. A lawn area will separate the two uses and also offer additional space for unstructured play. The paved plaza area will include sunshades, benches, and trash receptacles.
- A restroom facility is located at the internal parking area between the community garden and the playground areas.
- A larger group pavilion is sited in the western sector of the park near the expanded soccer parking to provide an area for gathering, family picnics, etc. It is located within close proximity of the parking area.
- An overlook platform in the northeastern section of the park is provided.
- Smaller picnic shelters located along the multi use trail will provide picnic table, grill, and ash bins.

- A paved 8' wide, ADA compliant multi-use trail will connect all activities within the 6.7 acre park site, provide connections to the existing Henderson Park, and allows for emergency access to all areas within the 6.7 acre park.
- A 4' wide soft surface trail is graphically depicted on the Preliminary Master Plan. The exact location of the trail will be determined in the field. This trail is not ADA compliant.
- A 5' wide concrete sidewalk is provided along the frontage of the 6.7 acre provide linkage to the existing park and also to surrounding neighborhoods.

Preliminary Master Plan Option 2

- Allows for the park to conserve more greenspace.
- Parking is kept to a minimum within the park. Existing driveway utilized for limited access into park, extends approximately 120' into the park from Henderson Road. Provides parking only for the Community Garden (7 parking spaces).
- Parking is to be expanded at the existing soccer parking lot to include an additional fifty two (52) parking spaces for a total of 59 parking spaces.
- Community Garden to be located on the eastern sector of the park
- A single play area for "tweens" (10-12 year olds) is centrally located within the park, sunshades will be provided.
- An outdoor classroom located among mature trees is also centrally located.
- A restroom facility is located on the multiuse trail between the community garden and the playground area.
- A larger group pavilion is sited in the western sector of the park near the expanded soccer parking to provide an area for gathering, family picnics, etc. It is located within close proximity of the parking area.
- Smaller picnic shelters located along the multi use trail will provide picnic table, grill, and ash bins.
- A paved 8' wide, ADA compliant multi-use trail will connect all activities within the 6.7 acre park site, provide connections to the existing Henderson Park, and allows for emergency access to all areas within the 6.7 acre park.
- A 4' wide soft surface trail is graphically depicted on the Preliminary Master Plan. The exact location of the trail will be determined in the field. This trail is not ADA compliant.
- A 5' wide concrete sidewalk is provided along the frontage of the 6.7 acre provide linkage to the existing park and also to surrounding neighborhoods.

Note: After the first public input meeting County representatives and consultants received an email request for the inclusion of a dog park within the 6.7 acre park site. Due to the timing of the receipt of email and the fact that it had not been discussed in a public forum, the dog park was not included on the Preliminary Master Plan Options. The following pertains to the discussion that commenced regarding the inclusion of the dog park.

Dog Park Discussion

Key issues to look at when siting a dog park

1. How is it going to be used? How often is it going to be used?
The County anticipates that a dog park located at Henderson Park will be heavily used because there are no additional dog parks in the area and very few within the County. A 1.5 acre fenced area is the minimum recommendation for a dog park that will get the type of use we are anticipating. An additional .5 acre area would need to be allotted to provide parking for dog park use. A total of 2 acres (29%) of the 6.7 acre site would be dedicated solely to dog park use.
2. What are the physical conditions of the location? Slope / gradient?
Dog parks should be located on shallow slopes if intended to be grassed and can be somewhat steeper if located within forested areas to minimize erosion and water quality

issues. The locations requested for the dog park are the flattest areas on the site and also the same locations requested by the community garden users. However, as mentioned before, we anticipate high use. The 2 acres needed to accommodate the fenced area and parking would take away from additional park elements such as the community garden.

3. What are the adjacent uses?

Of the two requested dog park areas the better location would be on the eastern property line. However, a residence is also located on the property. Dog parks can get noisy and it would be best to locate a dog park in an area where noise would not be an issue, perhaps in a more isolated area.

Note: Upon receiving the dog park email, Consultants were asked by the County to locate potential alternative locations within the larger existing Henderson Park. Two alternative dog park locations were presented during Public Meeting #2. (See Attached Graphic) Each location provided a larger space to accommodate a 2 acre fenced dog park on slopes that were conducive to dog park development. Parking lots currently exist near the proposed sites and parking expansion would be favorable. Siting a dog park at either location would bring weekday / daytime activity to an area of the park that normally sees activity predominantly on weekends thus increasing the safety of the park by bringing more people to a currently isolated area of the park.

The floor was then opened to the public for group discussion. Interests and concerns were expressed as follows:

Comments

- Prefer adding parking to the existing soccer area.
- A younger playground option is good
- Maintenance is needed to remove invasive species.
- Would like the 8' wide multi-use trail to have a centerline marked.
- Would like for the 5' concrete sidewalk to extend so that it ties into other sidewalks being planned <http://www.hendersonroad.com/20071209emailsidewalks>
- I prefer Option 2 because it preserves more greenspace
- I like Option 2 but would like to see the playground / plaza area from Option 1 included.
- I prefer Option 2 and would like to see the overlook included.
- Consider using Scout Troops for trail maintenance
- Would like to see markers on nature trails.
- From DeKalb County Police - Would like to see mile markers along trails, painted markings, or the trail color coded for easier user location in the event of an emergency.

Questions

- I have a concern about the speed along Henderson at the park entrances; can anything be done to slow traffic down?
There is the potential for a flashing traffic signal and / or signage. County traffic engineering department will review.
- Will there be lighting within the park?
County standard is that parks are open from dawn until dusk, so no lighting will be provided. However the pavilion will have power, water and lights.
- Would it be possible for the outdoor classroom to be used for movie night?
There are several parks within the County that have a "screen on the green" type setting. Not sure if Henderson would be included because of its size. Hundreds of people show up for movie nights.
- How will the Community Garden work?
Individuals will pay a fee to the community garden to have a garden lot. The community garden in turn will pay the County a fee for water. The Community garden will maintain

everything within a fenced area and the County will maintain what is outside that fenced area.

- Would it be possible to give the community garden area a little more space in option 2?
Yes, trail will be located to allow more space for community garden expansion, but will still maintain a substantial buffer between adjacent residence and park activities.

By majority vote Option 2 was selected to be further developed toward the Final Master Plan for Henderson Park with the following minor revisions to be included:

1. Include playground / parent area from Option 1
2. Include the overlook area from Option 1
3. Include the outdoor classroom from Option 1
4. Dog Park is to be included at the alternative location in existing Henderson Park. This location is behind the soccer fields on Livsey Court (Crescent shaped area – refer to attached graphics).

Public Meeting #3 is scheduled for February 24, 2010 at the same location. jB+a, inc will present the Final Master Plan, developed from the information gathered at Public Meeting #2, to the public. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

If there are any additions or corrections to these meeting minutes, please contact Raigan Carr of jB+a as soon as possible at 678.247.0727.