

## **HENDERSON PARK MASTER PLAN – Public Interest Meeting #1**

Minutes from: 12.02.09 Public Interest Meeting #1

Attendees: DeKalb County – Revonda Moody, Sue Pickens, Bob Sims, Daryl Young

Silverman Construction Program Management – Marti Watts

jB+a, inc – Steve Provost, Raigan Carr

Community Participants – Susan Farrar, Leonard Howell, Belinda Sullivan, Jon McKenna, Tim Timmons, Dorothy Timmons

Location: Tucker Recreation Center, Room #2  
4898 LaVista Road, Tucker GA 30084

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

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Meeting agenda and community interest form were distributed as public participants entered the meeting.

Revonda Moody, DeKalb Park Planning and Development, welcomed public participants and introduced program manager, Marti Watts, of Silverman, and consultants from jB+a, inc.

Marti Watts gave an overview of Silverman Construction Program Management's responsibilities to the County and to the Henderson Park Master Plan Project.

Steve Provost, gave an overview of the project and jB+a's role as consultant. He then explained that the contract was for the design of a Master Plan for the new 6.724 acquisition but that jB+a would look at the entire park so that the new acquisition would function within the full Henderson Park. He then explained the intent of Public Meeting #1 and role of the public at the meeting. Steve emphasized the importance of public input at the start of the design process and mentioned the various ways to submit interests and concerns; participation in group discussion and submitting interests and concerns to the County who will then forward the information to the consultants. Steve then introduced Raigan Carr of jB+a to present the site analysis graphics.

Raigan explained the research that had been done up to this first public meeting, and described the various analyses prepared utilizing a variety of graphics. Graphic drawings included aerial photography of the entire Henderson Park Property, aerial photography of the newest 6.724 acre parcel, topographic survey of the new parcel, and site analysis graphic which included slopes, hydrology, vegetation, potential access points, views, vehicular access, pedestrian circulation, etc. Raigan responded to a question posed by one of the community participants who asked, in essence, "What has jB+a had already planned for the site?" by indicating that no planning had been done. jB+a wanted to get feedback from the community prior to conceptualizing any form of master plan for the park. A re-emphasis on the importance of community input was then sited; "This is not our park, it is your park and for it to be a successfully designed park we need your input."

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

### **Group Discussion Needs / Wants / Desires**

- Would like to see the park site kept as natural as possible "We really enjoy the natural areas."

- Would like to have more / improved walking trails on the park site, and also have them tie into the existing Henderson Park
- Would like to have a Community Garden. "It would encourage intergenerational use"
- Would like to have better pedestrian connections to the existing park and to the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Would like to have more picnic areas with small shelters, tables and grills
- Would like a play area that would accommodate older (10-15) children, perhaps swings.
- Need adequate parking to accommodate expansion of park
- Would like a group pavilion where soccer teams or birthday parties could gather.
- Would like to make sure the community is kept involved in decisions involving the park master plan.
- Would like to see upscale / "immaculate" maintenance of the park, "Up to standard, or better"

*(Note: The two (2) items mentioned below are not part of the current contract as they pertain to the existing Henderson Park, but have been noted for County record.)*

- Would like to see better pedestrian connection between soccer fields
- Would like to see a bridge across the waterfall.

#### **Issues / Concerns**

- Concern about adjacent neighbors – would like to make sure low glare, cut-off lighting was installed in the park.
- Concern about emergency access – would like to make sure all areas of the park are accessible to emergency vehicles.
- Concern about the increased traffic on Henderson Road due to the expansion of the park
- Concern about the neighbors – Want to make sure that any decisions involving the park keep the adjacent neighbors in mind (lighting, noise, traffic, proximity of uses, safety, etc.)

Public Meeting #2 is scheduled for January 20, 2010 at the same location. jB+a, inc will present a Preliminary Master Plan, developed from the information gathered at Public Meeting #1, to the public. As with Public Meeting #1, 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.