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March 6, 2023

Public Meeting – Meeting Minutes

Odenton Library Community Park – Project # P584400

A Public Meeting was held for the Odenton Library Community Park project at the Odenton Library on Tuesday, February 28, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The following individuals were in attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address/Affiliation</u>
Emma Pfefferkorn	Anne Arundel County Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Project Manager
Bruce Bruchey	AA CO Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Redeat Lodamo	Brudis & Associates, Inc. (BAI)
Jeremy Gipe	BAI
Julie Hummer	Anne Arundel County Council
Jacquelyn Barry	Anne Arundel County DPW
Sam Meyers	Anne Arundel County Office of Planning & Zoning (OPZ) – Long Range Planning
And approximately 76 members of the surrounding community	

The following describes the content of the meeting.

- Project Manager Emma Pfefferkorn from AA County DPW kicked off the meeting by introducing the name of the project (“Odenton Library Community Park”) and design phase (Schematic). She noted that Meeting Minutes will be shared with the public and additional comments and questions can be submitted online at the County’s website for up to (2) weeks following the 2/28/23 public meeting.
- Emma went over the agenda of the project and introduced Councilwoman Hummer and the overall Odenton Library project team.
- Jeremy Gipe, the design engineer from Brudis & Associates presented the 30% schematic design and noted the project location on an aerial image with the limits of the parcel shown. Jeremy recounted the project goals and explained how concepts were originally developed after the Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee provided a list of possible amenities for a new park area. Coordination with the Library led to development of concepts, from which the final concept was selected. Our team used the final concept to inform the current schematic design.
- The environmental features on the parcel were also discussed, including the stream, stream buffer, wetland, wetland buffer, forest area, forest conservation easement, specimen trees, steep slopes, and 100-year floodplain.

- The trail designed for this project minimizes the impact to the environmental features as much as possible. The trail design avoids impacting specimen trees to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, the meandering trail through the woods will include approximately (20) Story Trail boards along its length providing literary opportunities for the park to tie into the library.
- In addition to the trail, the design currently includes a playground, (2) pickleball courts, a bocce ball court, pedestrian boardwalk, gazebo, pavilion, viewing decks, bike racks, benches, and story trail.
- Currently, this project is early in the design phase which will continue until approximately October 2023. Bid and Award and Permitting would take place in the months after. The anticipated construction date would be sometime Spring of 2024.
- The meeting concluded with important DPW contact information and a Questions and Answers session, as follows.

Questions and Answers:

Q1: My family owns the property at the edge of the park. The pickleball courts could affect my brother in law in the worst way. The noise from the pickleball courts could trigger his anxiety and nervousness. Sound from pickleball could be 25 decibels louder than a Wilson racket hitting a tennis ball. Who is going to maintain the courts? What sound barriers will there be? What affect will the sound have on the library? Will there be security cameras?

A1: The County has maintenance funds and the County will take care of the maintenance. There will be no sound barriers around the pickleball courts. There is fence around the pickleball courts. There have been several community meetings which generated the preference to have pickleball courts as part of the park. There are no security cameras proposed. Also the noise might not be as bad as what you have read online.

Q2: What about the fence around my property?

A2: There is no fence planned around the property.

Q3: Transportation-wise, has there been consideration for traffic?

A3: There is no expansion planned at this time. There have been no traffic studies done.

Q4: People who live south of the park – are there any plans to provide connectivity

A4: That is not part of this project at this time.

Q5: Why were some people informed of the meeting and others not? I found out through facebook.

A5: A 300' buffer was drawn around the property. Those within the 300' buffer received notification of the project, as well as all of the major heads of nearby HOAs. If you were outside the buffer, you may not have received the mailed notification.

Q6: Were other locations considered for this project? Across from MD 170 there is a huge concrete field that is abandoned.

A6: At this time there are no other properties that can be used for park. The area indicated along MD 170 is a private property.

Q7: How will construction affect well water?

A7: This project is not expected to impact private water wells in the vicinity.

Q8: Can the playground be designed for people with disabilities?

A8: Yes, the planned playground will be ADA accessible.

Q9: Will speed bumps or a raised crosswalk be used?

A9: A crosswalk is proposed, and we can consider a raised crosswalk.

Q10: Can we add more pickleball courts?

A10: We are planning on (2) pickleball courts at this time.

Q11: Can we have signage about history – like railroad history? Is there any green infrastructure or solar included?

A11: We will accommodate to add historical signage.

Q12: Is it necessary to build pickleball courts here? Can we consider having a senior activity center here? For socializing and slow exercise. There are a lot of seniors here.

A12: We don't have space in the first phase. Additional space may be used in the next phase for something like this.

Q13: Can we have a cover over the playground?

A13: Other parks in the area have done this. This is something we can look into.

Q14: Was the pavilion located there for a reason?

A14: It is located there as a center of the park and could be the center when the future phase of the improvement is implemented.

Q15: Are we considering putting pickleball courts elsewhere?

A15: Not at this time.

Q16: There are middle schools that drop off at the library. Are we considering moving the dropoff?

A16: That is not currently in the plans.

Q17: Is the project cost covered from County's general budget? Is there any extra excise on residents?

A17: There is no extra excise.

Q18: Why don't we put the trail on the abandoned railroad to the south?

A18: The County does not own the property of the abandoned railroad.

Q19: Is there any plan to connect the bike trail along Odenton Road?

A19: That is a question for the Office of Transportation. There is nothing to connect to there now and is not part of this project plan.

Q20: Can the tree plantings be native?

A20: Yes.

Q21: What is the total length of the trail? What is happening to Phase 2?

A21: It is about ¼ miles long. Phase 2 is not part of this project at this time.

Q22: Could there be consideration for multi-purpose courts instead of pickleball courts?

A22: The County typically does not do those kind of courts due to logistics and safety reasons.

Q23: Is there consideration for implementing green infrastructure on the project?

A23: The green infrastructure feature involves proposed permeable pavement, bio-swale, and a pervious surface on the playground.

Q24: Can you give us a general idea of the other phases?

A24: The feasibility report and master plan is available online for more information. We don't have any schedules however.

Q25: Can we draw a yellow line down the drive along Winmayer Ave? There may be extra traffic for the park.

A25: We will consider this.

Q26: Is there a separate paved trail along the road?

A26: Yes there is an existing paved trail along Winmayer Ave.

Q27: Do we have costs?

A27: Funding is available on the County's budget site.

Q28: Is the county pursuing rights for the railroad?

A28: Not at this time.

Q29: Is there any talk of widening MD 175?

A29: Not at this time.

Q30: Why does the Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee have influence on these decisions?

A30: The OTCAC follows the Master Plan which incorporates these elements.

Q31: How are the comments and concerns from tonight going to be vetted?

A31: We are taking the input from tonight and after working with parts of DPW and discussing with the design team, we could be making changes to the plans.

Q32: Are we consulting with an arborist?

A32: We do have an environmental consultant on the design team.

Q33: Along Telegraph Road there are vacant properties with just concrete pavement. What is that?

A33: That is owned by private people looking to develop it.

Q34: Can the park be called “Odenton Railroad Park” instead of “Odenton Library Park”?

A34: “Odenton Library Park” is just what it is called currently for the purpose of implementing the project. A suitable name could be selected in the future with consultation with stakeholders.