

RECREATION COMMITTEE

MAY 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were Tom Mackin, Jim Matuszak and Rick Rettig. Also present were Jon Eckel, Service Director and Brody Walters, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

RIVERFRONT CONCEPTS

Mr. Rettig stated that when he initially saw the plans for Riverside Park he had concerns about what appeared to be an event stage. However, he pointed out that it is not an elevated structure. He said that he has also heard concerns about the trees, but the trees on the plan are overdrawn and do not depict the actual size, depth and dimension. Mr. Walters stated that Tim Bockbrader, the landscape architect who authored the two concepts being presented to the Committee, was present to answer questions. Mr. Walters said that the original concept drawing was based more on art than engineering and Mr. Bockbrader was tasked with developing and refining the concepts from that drawing in a more practical and cost effective arrangement. He said that the plan has changed a little due to costs and topographical issues. He stated that the Administration is asking that the Committee give support to either Concept 1 or Concept 2 to allow them to further identify materials and methods and allow them to get concrete cost estimates.

Mr. Mackin said that constituents have asked him several questions such as if you are standing at the top of the hill, will the trees block your view of the river. Mr. Bockbrader said that these drawings do not show elevations, and as you drive or walk by, you would be looking underneath the canopy of the trees. Mr. Mackin asked if they have anticipated the flooding or ice situation that happened along the river this year. He said that we do not want to be redoing this every few years. Mr. Rettig said that when we had the ice situation he personally checked this area and there were no issues. Mr. Mackin asked about the Blue Star Memorial and the cannon. Mr. Bockbrader said that both features will be preserved and they plan to incorporate the Blue Star Memorial in a better space. He said that in both concepts there are similarities but Concept 1 is more organic and Concept 2 is more formal. He said that both concepts would have the overlook area with benches to encourage people to view the river. He described the transverse walkway and explained the slope and where the railing would be required because of ADA laws.

Kitty Gibson, 26939 Duxbury Lane, expressed concerns about people parking on residential streets near the park. Mr. Rettig stated that this was always meant to be a walking or pedestrian park. Mr. Mackin added that parking is a factor to be considered and it would not make sense to encourage events where parking is needed which should give some comfort to those concerned about what events will be planned at the park. Mr. Rettig said that he told the Administration it is not his intention to move Rock the Docks and he envisions something more along the line of the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra. He said that he has never heard that the City wants to have rock concerts at the park. Ms. Gibson stated that the homes along Front Street would lose their view of the river. She asked if the Army Corps of Engineers has been involved in this. Mr. Walters explained that we are not at that level of detail yet, but the City will consult with the Army Corp of Engineers and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Katina Holland said that three years ago a \$26 million dollar plan was introduced that had an amphitheater and nobody wanted it. She said she likes the idea of the access down

the hill, but she feels it should be left green and open. Mr. Mackin said that an amphitheater implies seating for 5,000 but this is just a couple of tiers. He asked if a guy playing a guitar and 50 people listening would be acceptable. Ms. Holland said it would not be and that it would be commercialized. She also stated that Mr. Mackin told her the path along the river is a done deal.

Mary Turain, 670 Oak Knoll Drive, said she is in the Perrysburg Garden Club and also worked with the Blue Star Memorial. She said that they are very interested in maintaining the Blue Star Memorial.

Ron Stewart, resident for 80 years, said that the Mayor proposed the roundabout and moving the statue so you could get a view of the river and now it will be blocked. He said that we should only put in the path and we are asking for trouble doing anything else.

Mr. Rettig said if we end up with a parking problem, it means we have made a very popular park. He said that this is a passive park, it is not being utilized, and he would like to give it back to the citizens.

Cory Leroux, Eckel Junction Road, said that he loves this idea. He said Perrysburg is a destination and people come to festivals and the Farmers' Market. He said that he doesn't see the amphitheater as being a big issue. He said he is a veteran and he appreciates keeping the Blue Star Memorial. He said that this plan takes away the negatives from the plan three years ago.

Gene Phlegar, W. Fifth Street, said that Council just cut the street tree budget in half and now they are adding trees. He asked how they plan to maintain the trees. Mr. Eckel explained that the street tree budget was not cut in half; the funding was changed so the assessment was cut in half. Mr. Mackin said that City Council has shown that they do not do park improvements until they can take care of them.

Greg Bade, Cedarwood Lane, said that he supports what they are doing, although blocking the view would be a concern.

Mr. Mackin said that the trees are an issue and he would leave it to the landscape architect to address that.

Chris Barry, 341 W. Front Street, said that the trail would definitely be an improvement but he expressed concern about other improvements since this is a wildlife corridor.

Jon Orser, 125 E. Front Street, said that nobody wants this other than a couple of people and the developers who will do the work. He encouraged them to stop plans along the riverfront.

Mr. Mackin said that this is different from the grandiose plan that was discussed a few years ago. He said that there are a lot of people in Perrysburg that want more access to the riverfront without stepping on the natural beauty that is there. Mr. Rettig said that he has heard that this is a beautiful park, but if you exclude the Maumee River, there is nothing there. He said that this is an exclusive park and he wants it to be an inclusive park. He said this plan is derived from ideas contained in the P3 report which is an extensive report and the idea that no one wants this done is not based on fact.

Charles Pflegaar, 401 W. Front St., said that he is not totally opposed to making the park nicer, but he is concerned with how people are going to get across the street. Mr. Mackin said that they can work with the Administration and perhaps a lighted crosswalk like the

one at Coe Court and Fort Meigs Road would be appropriate. There was also discussion regarding the multi-use path. Mr. Walters said that it will be 10' wide and is designed for bicycles, pedestrians, strollers, etc. Mr. Pflegaar also had some questions regarding the noise ordinance.

Dawn Hoover, 1481 Rivercrest, is a member of the Perrysburg Garden Club and she said that she is grateful to hear that the Blue Star Memorial will remain at the park. She had some questions regarding whether they should move forward with some plantings and Mr. Mackin asked if Mr. Bockbrader would discuss this with Ms. Hoover.

Juan Artiaga expressed concerns that once they begin to dig they would find artifacts and he feels the money should be spent to repair roads or to treat the water.

Mr. Rettig asked the Committee about the Administration's request to support Concept 1 or Concept 2. Mr. Walters explained that once a concept is chosen, Mr. Bockbrader can develop a 3D model that is an incredibly helpful tool and it would help address some of the concerns that have been raised. It would also allow a more accurate cost estimate to be prepared.

Mr. Mackin said that he likes Concept 1 and would recommend moving forward with it with some caveats including: the Blue Star Memorial, the trees, keep or enhance the environmental components as much as possible, and protecting the vista.

Mr. Matuszak said that if he had to pick one he would choose Concept 1 but he doesn't like the terraced seating with the stage or amphitheater. He said the park is not supposed to attract people based on group activities. He suggested using the skeleton of Concept 1 but instead of the terraced seating and stage add a picnic area, not tables, with a shelter that reflects the architecture of Fort Meigs using timber and logs.

Mr. Walters said that the concept of an amphitheater means different things to different people. He asked for clarification on whether it is the design of the amphitheater that is not well received or if the concern is what activities it will bring. He said that this plan does not include what he would define as an amphitheater; it is more of a sun structure.

The Committee spent a considerable amount of time considering the specific wording for a motion. The Committee agreed 2-1, with Mr. Mackin and Mr. Matuszak voting yes and Mr. Rettig voting no, to vote down both Concept 1 and Concept 2. They agreed that the Administration should move forward with the framework of Concept 1 consistent with the concerns raised regarding the trees, the garden areas, and the stage areas and that more detailed plans be presented with one concept showing the amphitheater area and one excluding it and perhaps including a picnic area consistent with Mr. Matuszak's comments.

APPOINTMENT TO PRAC

Aaron Findling was present to be considered for appointment to PRAC. Mr. Findling said that he was born and raised in Maumee and in 2011 he and his family moved back to the area from Colorado. The Committee thanked him for his willingness to serve and agreed 3-0 to recommend that he be appointed to PRAC.

WOOD COUNTY PARK GRANT

Mr. Eckel requested permission to apply for the Wood County Park Grant. There are three levels to this grant and Mr. Eckel stated what each grant would be used for if they are successful in obtaining it:

0-\$5,000: Australian Pines to replenish what Columbia Gas removed on the Davis property

\$5,000-\$10,000: Sun shades for Rotary Park

\$10,000 +: Resurfacing of the tennis courts at Municipal Park

The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval to apply for the Wood County Park Grants.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig
Chairman, Recreation Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.