

**Dowdy Park Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, April 15th, 2014

Nags Head Town Hall

**Committee Members Present:** Susie Walters, Elizabeth Teague, David Elder, Ben Cahoon, Tyler Dunsmore, Teresa Kerber, Kerry Sanders

**Discussion on aerial of property and adjacent areas:**

- Property purchase has not been finalized and won't until April 30. Current owner is allowed to store materials there.
- Town will look for any existing site plans or building permits that may be available for the site.
- Site needs general clean up.
- Need to integrate connection to school within overall site plan.
- Could re-use existing park areas but let's not limit ourselves to working around what's already there. Parking areas can be adjusted in order to achieve the maximum use of the property.
- Is it possible to have shared use agreement for school parking lot, to minimize need for using park space to park cars?
- Explore use of re-enforced turf products for grassed parking areas.
- Minimize on-site parking to extent possible – wouldn't anticipate all park users driving and there is other parking nearby (school, YMCA, Bonnet Street Access).
- Keep a park like impact to surrounding area. Want edge treatments along park site.

**Discussion of Building:**

- Ben Cahoon got to go onsite and look around the building; found potential for reuse:
  - Concrete floor and walls still intact.
  - Steel roof joists with expansive area under roof.
  - Plumbing and electrical wouldn't conform to current codes.

- Could gut it to remove bowling alley flooring, drop ceilings and other finishes to create a shell of approximately 60' by 120' of covered useable open space, if cmte thought is was worth keeping.
- If all doors were taken out it could act like a picnic shelter and provide shade. Possible uses:
  - Stage
  - Picnic tables
  - Farmers market
  - Use walls for public art (even if temporarily)
- Building not ideally located...takes up a lot of room in central area, which might be used for fields or open space.

**Other:**

- Want to incorporate art ...re-cast bumper cars as sculpture for kids to play on. Create tie-in to history of site.
- What do people envision as the "front" of the park? Where should the gateways or entrances be located?
  - Want visibility but not access onto US158;
  - Bonnet Street with sensitivity to neighborhood – keep an edge treatment along the street side of property.
  - Tie in to Bonnet Street as a corridor: YMCA to beach.
  - See the north edge as the "front" and main entrance.
- Need to clean up everything that we can as soon as possible and mow...allow interim use and don't create barriers for use.
- Could use existing fencing for interim dog park.
- Work with YMCA and the school and work with other community partners but keep park use open to public.
- Meet on-site at next meeting (assuming Town closes on property at end of month).