

Dowdy Park Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 25th, 2014

Nags Head Town Hall

Committee Members Present: Susie Walters, Elizabeth Teague, Isabel Cooper, David Elder, Ben Cahoon, Chad Stewart, Lisa Strydom, Tyler Dunsmore, and Kerry Sanders

Guests attending: Cindi and Olan Downing. Olan attended to work on his Civics badge for boy scouts.

1. All members were welcomed and introduced themselves to the committee
2. Background information was provided by Susie and Liz regarding the 2012 Parks and Rec Plan and the parameters for the committee
3. Responsibilities of the committee were discussed regarding input for elements of the park, the process and potential phasing and funding. Once elements are determined, a professional park design consultant will be contracted to assist with potential park designs. The park is likely to be designed in phases due to financial concerns. Hopefully, funding for the design consultant will be approved during the budget process for FY 15. Design options will be presented for community input.
4. Concerns and Expectations were discussed and outlined below:

Concerns:

- Safety concern with Bonnett Street and US 158
- Programming/staffing (Duck events)
- Parking lot location and entrance at Bonnett St.
- Parking capacity
- Joint use with the YMCA and School for parking with trade-off/exchange for occasional use
- Partnership with the YMCA re: programming
- Parking on Bonnett St
- Existing building??possible re-use
- Context, surround area
- Sidewalks

Expectations:

- Greenery/Trees
- Japanese tea-garden, space for tranquility
- Walking track with exercise stations to be used by all ages (Dare Co. Center/ KDH Turtle Pond)
- Dog park area
- Central Park – set aside areas for water park/splash park/pad

- Check in with YMCA facility plan
- Skate park future at the YMCA??
- Un-programmed green space to play on
- Place tiny stage on the edge
- Bathrooms
- Concerts in the park series
- Pilates/Tai-chi/Yoga in the park
- Free park? (Paid for by Nags Head taxpayers)
- Lighting important for whole park
- Lit tennis court for evening play (OBTA)
- Schedule for planning....any way to address immediate hazards to allow some use?
- Have some access right away – get public engaged – show something positive
- Build community
- Interim use of the space
 1. Clean up
 2. Remove hazards
 3. Eliminate eye-sore
 4. Put down grass seed
 5. Use asphalt area for bike riding/learning to ride/bike workshops
 6. Clean vines from fencing
 7. Grassy area
- Signage “Future Home of Dowdy Park”
- Facebook page for input
- Naming memorials/donations /plaques for stations and walking path
- ADA compatible – see Dare Center
- Land Use Plan and commercialization
- NH Adopt-A-Bench Program – no advertising
- QR codes
 1. Link to other sites and resources
 2. Sponsors
 3. Visually non-invasive

5. Next Steps:

Park Clean-up

1. Volunteer workday
2. Remove Hazards
3. Photo op
4. Site visually exposed
5. Mural on building
6. Creative space for graffiti

7. Signage

8. Put plan in mural

- Next Meeting- catalogue the low cost, short-term, immediate needs

Additional concerns/requests/ideas/needs

- Use an ~~interim~~^{interim} to assist
 - Music – book with Jazzfest time
 - Outreach ?
 - How to recruit?
 - ID Town Parameters and safety concerns
 - Liability?
 - Old site plans
 - Dimensions
 - Re-use of building/renovation/waste water systems
 - Health Dept
 - How to snag kids into plan process?
 - All pieces of neighborhood get initially connected – desired lines – Bonnett Street access/plcnic
 - Shade
 - Change-over days
 - Sidewalk/entrance connection
 - School zone provides lower speed
 - Multi-use path & crosswalk
 - Side walk and light phasing improvements (push buttons at crosswalk)
 - Park will help to slow people down – signage/design tricks to calm traffic/lighting, color, treeline
 - Pirates Quay: underutilized, parking, may help businesses
 - Pay homage to ferris wheel (look at Wright flyer sculpture on the Beach Road)
 - Surf Movies
 - Interactive sculpture (Tom Sawyer – Chattanooga)
 - Go Cart playground elements
 - Carnival playground theme
 - Interim plan (possible dog park/uses)
 - Getting people involved
 - Volunteer clean-up day
 - Budget process prep
 - ✓ • Maps with dimensional detail
5. Next Meeting – April 15th at 3:00 p.m. – Nags Head Town Hall

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00