



Meeting Minutes

Dowdy Park Design – Committee Meeting January 14, 2015, 3:30 pm Nags Head Board Room, Nags Head, NC

Design Team & Committee Members Present

Commissioner Susie Walters
Kelly Wyatt
Teresa Kerber
Kerry Sanders
Chris Dewitt
Ben Cahoon

Andy Garman
Ralph Barile
David Elder
Holly White
John Delucia

A meeting with the Committee members, Planning Department staff and the Design Consultants began at 3:30 pm on January 14, 2015. The meeting was held to discuss the progress that has been made since the Design Charrette that occurred November 21, 2014. The meeting began with a brief summary of the discussions and desired site features that arose from the Public meeting and subsequent Committee Design Charrette. At the conclusion of the Charrette, Albemarle Associates and VHB began to develop programming elements in order to develop three conceptual site lay-out configurations with varying uses, features and activity areas. The objective was to provide graphic depictions of the desired park features with various site lay-out configurations. It was also to help depict space requirements for various uses and to solicit additional input from the Committee.

Chris Dewitt then made a presentation to the Committee that recapitulated the feedback from the Community and Committee and discussed interconnectivity between this site and adjacent facilities such as the Bonnett Street Beach Access, existing sidewalks, the Elementary School, YMCA, and the Nags Head Woods Preserve. The presentation culminated with three conceptual Park designs depicting various Park configurations and activity features.

Upon Completion of the presentation, the Committee began sharing their opinions regarding the various options, site configurations, features and other elements shown on the conceptual plans. Discussions regarding the parking area resulted in a preferred location to be parallel to Bonnett Street as opposed to Wrightsville Ave. It was thought that the Bonnett Street location was further from any residential uses and avoided potential conflicts with School traffic and busses. It also would provide a more centrally located parking area for Park users.

Two concepts illustrated dual grass event/lawn areas and one illustrated a larger central lawn. The discussions regarding dual lawn areas or a single large lawn resulted in the desire by the Committee to keep the dual lawns so that when events are occurring in one area, open park space is still available in others. The desire to create topographical features around and between

these lawn areas and other site elements was discussed and the desire to create landscaped berms and some site topography was again reiterated.

Discussion of the pavilion locations and restrooms resulted in the desire to have these elements separated and not placed within the same building. The Committee desired the "Nags Head" style architecture for the restroom building and Pavilion structure. Tensile structures were deemed not desirable for the Park. Orientation of the Pavilion was discussed. The desire was to orient this pavilion and lawn area to be in a NE-SW direction so that sound was directed toward the southwest. It was felt that this orientation provided better protection from the sun and wind and would complement the other site features.

There was considerable discussion regarding formal playground areas as opposed to play structures distributed throughout the site. The direction that the Committee wanted to pursue was a formal, contained playground for the small children (2-5) with other play structures for older children positioned such that they were less formal but still viewable from the small children playground. Incorporating these play structures for the older children was to include utilizing the created topography, berms, and created spaces for locations of these elements. The location of play areas positioned away from roadways and unfenced, but still contained was expressed.

A brief discussion regarding pursuing a splash pool resulted in the Committee's desire not to include this element into this park. Reasons included initial costs, maintenance costs, operational requirements, water treatment vs. public water use, how it would be managed, and liability to the Town.

The Committee discussed half-court basketball vs. full-court basketball and decided to include only a half court basketball area that could also include a vertical wall element to serve as an art panel and as a practice wall for tennis. It was also discussed that there needed to be some activities for older adults such a Bocce court, gaming tables, or a horse shoe pit. Uses for seniors could also be part of programming (yoga classes, etc.) and not necessarily constructed elements.

Other items that were discussed included:

- Use of LID stormwater techniques throughout the Park
- Use of solar power and rain gardens
- Construction of berms and topography
- Landscaping considerations for berms regarding uses and maintenance
- Utilizing wider walkways
- Utilization of pervious pathways in garden areas (crushed granite, etc.)
- The Butterfly and children's gardens were desired
- The creation of embedded and scattered picnic tables and benches
- The use of grade transitional elements (low walls, bench seating, etc.) to support artistic endeavors
- Freestanding art and sculpture areas scattered throughout the Park
- The incorporation of fitness stations along pathways
- The development of orientation and wayshowing elements to illustrate internal Park element and surrounding Town facilities / attractions
- Use of landscaping at various gateways into the Park
- Desire to have Event Plaza configured to support fairs, farmers markets, art shows, etc.

The Town staff gave an update of the upcoming submittal for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant for the Park.

For the upcoming open house (January 27, 2015), the Consultants will present a revised power point presentation and then break into an informal Committee open house with one-on-one discussions. Graphic boards of the concepts and perspectives will be available for review by the Public. Comment sheets with each of the concepts will be provided for people to provide feedback. Following the open house, the study team will develop a final plan concept for presentation to the Committee and Board of Commissioners in February. Based on input from the Committee and Board, refinements to the final plan will be made and the final report (which will include cost estimates) will be completed.

The meeting lasted until approximately 5:50 pm and then adjourned.

By: John M. DeLucia, PE 0/15/15