

SIMONE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
119 EAST LAFAYETTE STREET NORRISTOWN, PA 19401
PHONE: 610.239.7601 FAX: 610.239.7606
W W W . S I M O N E C O L L I N S . C O M

MEETING NOTES

Project:	Woodlawn Park Master Plan	Project No.:	21073.00
Location:	Upper Moreland Firehouse Meeting Room 227 Davisville Rd, Willow Grove, PA 19090	Meeting Date/ Time:	06.22.2022 6:30-7:30 PM
Re:	Focus Group Meeting 4 Adjacent Neighbors	Issue Date:	07.05.2022

ATTENDEES:

Peter Simone, Simone Collins (SC)

(See attached Meeting Sign in Sheet for list of attendees)

Sarah Leeper, SC

Michelle Armour, SC

GENERAL NOTES:

INTRODUCTION

- Peter Simone introduced members of the SC team.
- Attendees were introduced to and updated on the status of the Woodlawn Park Master Plan project.
- Input from the brainstorming session and general discussion were as follows:

Attendees were asked to first focus on potential positive things that might result from a new park.

POTENTIAL POSITIVES

- More green
- New and better walking trail
- Community involvement
- Better functionality
- New playground
- Accessibility –walk, bike, wheelchair, access to playground
- Well-maintained space
- Removal of driveway (behind Forest Ave residences)
- Parking lot
- Restrooms
- Improvement of fencing currently around the site

- People-only zones (create dog-only zones)
- Safety
 - Space for all ages
 - Lighting
 - Visibility of anything that will attract people
 - Better security
- Events and activities
- Better basketball courts
- Better fields (soccer, baseball)
 - Lighted

Next, attendees were asked to discuss potential negatives from a new park.

POTENTIAL NEGATIVES

- Traffic
 - Attracting traffic from outside
 - Dangerous driving
 - Ex. Nobody stops at stop sign at Woodlawn Ave and Silver Ave
 - Parking issues
- Light pollution
- Noise pollution
 - Dog park on the other side of neighbors' fences
 - Late night sports
- Loss of green space
- Fireworks – unofficial
- After-hours use
 - Need to enforce a curfew – give neighbors down time from activity
 - People currently go in at night
- Lighting after hours
 - Resident's bedroom faces basketball courts
 - Light shining in window or being too bright
- Environmental impact on neighboring properties
 - Ex. Water runoff – water in basements (residents who live on Woodlawn)
 - Ex. Development of existing tennis courts has caused flooding in neighbors' basements
- View obstruction
 - Losing view of nice sunsets, stars
- Crime
 - Restroom building - will need police presence
 - Currently is drug use in neighborhood
 - Drug activity - teenagers
- Litter/trash
- Parking too close to houses
- Oversized community center
- Turf field that needs to be locked – taking up green space and locking park users out

- Lack of maintenance
 - Ex. Fence to Forest Ave was falling apart and was not fixed until a car ran into it
 - Ex. Graffiti
 - Ex. Playground equipment
 - Ex. Broken picnic table with nails sticking out
 - Ex. Dead trees on property (Woodlawn Ave)
- Redirecting traffic
 - Parking on both sides
 - Changing direction of traffic
- Changing from neighborhood park to a community-wide destination

CONCEPTS

- Trails/Paths
 - Decent walking trail around the park
 - Bike trail for kids to ride big wheels and bikes
- More connection to nature
 - Nature trail
 - Bird watching
- Plant trees where the school building was
- Woody's Fishin' Hole, Part 2 (Mason's Mill Park)
- Sports/Active Recreation
 - Baseball – keep field and put teams on it
 - Soccer – bring club back
 - Basketball
 - Relocated (and use current area for parking)
 - Different height basketball nets / adjustable nets
 - Pickleball
- Other recreation
 - Foursquare
 - Bocce – activity for adults
 - Cornhole
 - Chess tables
 - Outdoor laser tag
 - Outdoor fitness stations – equipment and queues
 - Rock wall (playground)
 - Sledding in winter (ramp to get back up hill)
 - Turf field with track around it to kick ball around
- Playground
 - Updated playground
 - Move playground toward street for better monitoring
 - Even just out or down a little bit – currently in a dip
 - Shade over playground
 - Inclusive play equipment
- Picnic area/pavilion

- Small pavilion for tables/shade
- Grills
- Teenagers - space for older middle schoolers/younger high schoolers (tweens/teens hang out space)
- Sprinkler/spray pad
- Beer garden
- Dogs
 - Dog space
 - Dog/people hang out space
- Open space – unstructured
- Water refill station
- Benches
- Keep park how is, but with improvements

CONCERNS

- Nature space is good, but may attract more critters
- Need to prioritize updates for adjacent neighbors as process goes on
 - Property lines, survey
- Do not want a pool – only use for 3 months of the year
- With added activity/programming and possibility of people coming in from outside of the community, increased security presence needed – patrols, monitoring
- Rental space – when rented out, the space will restrict use for neighbors who use the park daily – maybe not the best place for rentals. Other parks are better suited – Mason's Mill and Lorimer
- Make path flatter so people can ride scooters – gravel is not easy
- Clear sight lines through the park
- Funding – what are taxes going to do and where does the other money (besides grants) come from?
 - SC response: Unlikely that these improvements alone would drive up taxes. Where this fits into the list of priorities is based on what the community wants.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Any talk of bumping out the grade with a retaining wall to increase level space (on Woodlawn Ave side)?
 - SC response: This would add expense.
 - SC response: There is an opportunity to use the grade change creatively for the play area.
- How long will this take?
 - SC response: The plan will be done end of year. Commissioners will decide whether to adopt the plan. The first round of grants could be Spring of 2023, with additional grants in 2024. We could see some improvements in 2025 (at the earliest). This will probably be done in phases.
- Demolition cleanup, putting down soil and seeding – timetable?
 - SC response: Not sure, but our guess is in the next several weeks.
- There is no street lighting on Woodlawn from the driveway to Division Ave. Used to be lit by the school. When will new lighting go in?
 - SC: Not sure, but we will investigate it and take that into consideration.

Upcoming Meetings

- Committee Meeting 4: Initial Concepts – Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 7:00-8:30 PM
 - Review Focus Groups and Key Person Interviews
 - Review refined concepts for presentation at Public Meeting 2
- Public Meeting 2: Initial Concepts – Wednesday, September 14, 7-9 PM

This report represents the Professional's summation of the proceedings and is not a transcript. Unless written notice of any correction or clarification is received by the Professional within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

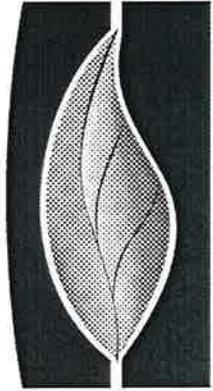
Sincerely,

SIMONE COLLINS, INC.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Armour".

Michelle Armour



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MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

Project: Woodlawn Park Master Plan

Location: Upper Moreland Township

Topic: Focus Group Meeting 4 – Adjacent Neighbors

Project No.: 21073.10

Date: 06.22.2022

Time: 6:30-7:00 PM

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10. Janet Jensen	<input type="checkbox"/> 308 Forest Ave W.E.
11. John Stevenson	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 FOREST AVE W.C.-
12. Guy + Jackie Primor	<input type="checkbox"/> 502 Division Ave
13. Megan Sichan	<input type="checkbox"/> 346 Forest Ave
14. Rebecca + Alex Hiele	<input type="checkbox"/> 405 Woodlawn Ave
15. Nikki + Eric MacMillin	<input type="checkbox"/> 344 Forest Ave
16. Linda McNamea	<input type="checkbox"/> 304 Woodlawn Ave (lmcnamea@gmail.com)
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20. Liz Beckowski	<input type="checkbox"/> 401 Woodlawn Ave
21. James Koch	<input type="checkbox"/> 403 Woodlawn Ave
22. Jolyn Mulay	<input type="checkbox"/> 312 Forest Ave.
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24. Julie Hood	<input type="checkbox"/> 101 504 Division
25. ALTHEA SCOTT	<input type="checkbox"/> 210 13364 Union
Willow Grove Bible Church	<input type="checkbox"/> 212 Everett Ave.

Please check box if you would you like to receive Project Updates and Meeting Reminders.

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