

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

December 18, 2007

The Parks and Recreation Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at the Milton Library. Present were committee members Elaine Carbone, Charles Fleetwood, Chair Deanna Duby, Kathryn Greig, Mayor Post, Town Manager George Dickerson, Guests Scott Hoffman of Cabe Associates and Matt Spong of Landscape Architectural Associates. Absent (because of illness) was committee member Denise Suthard.

The chairperson introduced Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Spong, who discussed the development of the master plan for the Memorial Park renovation. Mr. Hoffman is with Cabe Associates, the firm that is engineering consultant to the Town of Milton. Mr. Spong is a landscape architect who has been retained by Cabe Associates to develop this plan for the park. He and his firm have varied experience in designing park space. Among the projects they have worked on are the designs of parks in Seaford, Laurel and Rehoboth Beach, the Mispillion Greenway in Milford, the Village of Five Points, and the Georgetown Circle.

Mr. Hoffman laid out the proposed schedule for this project. The committee will give input at this meeting about elements that will be a part of this renovation and what the committee's priorities and concerns are. In four to five weeks, Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Spong will bring back the concept plan for the park and get the committee's response. They will then make revisions to the plan, finalize it and, within another four to five weeks, present it to the full Town Council for approval. Once the plan is approved by the Council, Cabe Associates will prepare the Requests for Quotes from bidders on both the new park equipment, and the new gazebo. Potential bidders will prepare their bids within thirty days, and the contracts will be entered into for the work.

Mr. Spong and Mr. Hoffman discussed the plan, and the committee responded. We discussed the following items:

1. Parking for the park: The large parking area behind the library is leased to DNREC, so major changes there are not really feasible. We pointed out where additional parking is available within proximity to the park, and a couple of places where we might pick up a few additional spaces. There was consensus that no major expansion of parking is possible, or really necessary.
2. Playground equipment: The committee, at its last meeting, had reviewed the types of equipment and styles, and they reviewed pictures of that equipment. Ms. Duby announced that she plans to meet with elementary principles in town, just to get an idea of their experience with specific types of equipment, so that

we can learn from their experience with various types of equipment. All equipment will comply with ADA and Consumer Product Safety Commission requirements. The material for the "fall zones" around the playground equipment can be rubber strips or mulch. There seemed to be a consensus that mulch would be better. The land under the mulch needs to be prepared so that there will be sufficient drainage so that in a flood situation, the mulch does not all float away. The location of the equipment will be in the same general area where it is now.

[On the subject of flooding and/or land preparation, the Mayor and Town Manager announced that the rip/rap project, in which stone banking will be installed to prevent erosion on the river banks, will begin in mid-January and should be completed by March at the latest.]

Gazebo: The committee asked that the size of the gazebo be expanded --- probably to 30 feet, that there be a good sized deck on the front, and that it be moved out toward the point in the park, near where there is currently a memorial garden. The electric power to the gazebo will be increased in capacity. Mr. Fleetwood asked that the designer consider some lighting for the concert-in-the-park performers, to be placed in trees, to avoid pole lighting close to the performers, which attracts bugs.

Flagpoles: The current flagpole location will not change, but, thanks to a donation from the VFW, the flagpole itself will be replaced and two new poles will be added. There will be one tall flagpole for the U.S. flag, and two shorter ones for the Delaware flag and a POW/MIA flag. The lighting for the flagpoles, which is currently not operational, will be repaired, and possibly the landscaping around the flagpoles will be updated.

We will request a review of all lighting by Delmarva Power, so that we have sufficient lighting throughout the park, particularly so that visitors who are there at dusk when the park closes, will be able to find their way out of the park safely as night falls. Mr. Hoffman said he will review the trenching for the electric system, and look at capacity issue.

There will be new signage in the park, stating the rules, opening and closing times for the park. Another sign will thank all private donors of funds to assist in this renovation. The designer will look at possible places for the signage, so that visitors will see the rules at all possible entrances to the park.

Committee member Kathryn Greig, who is also the president of the Milton Garden Club, asked that we increase the number of places in the park where there is water accessibility. She asked that there be a water location near the train house, where there is a garden, and also near the gazebo, and the garden

near the footbridge. The committee indicated a strong desire to have an irrigation system in the park, but recognized that because of funding limitations, that might have to wait until a stage two of park updating.

The committee also wants new grills near picnic tables, new trash receptacles, and new or renovated picnic tables. We agreed that we don't want a separate area for picnic equipment, but continue to have them interspersed throughout the park, so that tables can be used for seating at events like the Horseshoe Crab Festival and Bargains on the Broadkill.

Dog Park: A number of citizens have asked for a fenced dog park, so that dogs can be allowed to run without leashes. The Mayor indicated that he had talked to a number of dog-owners about this, and he proposed that the Town establish such a park near Memorial Park, near the water tower. The committee agreed that would be a good location, and that a dog park should be established there.

We tentatively scheduled two upcoming meetings, to receive the concept plan for the gazebo (January 30) and the remainder of the plan, including playground equipment (February 7). Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Spong indicated that they might be able to get enough done on the plan that we could cover both at the January 30 meeting. Ms. Duby will confirm these meeting dates with the committee, once meeting space is located.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.