

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.:	21073.10
Location:	Woodlawn Park Upper Moreland Township	Meeting Date/ Time:	06.21.2022 6:00-7:00 PM
Re:	Focus Group Meeting 1 Community Center Group	Issue Date:	07.11.2022

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, and attendees introduced themselves.
- Attendees were introduced to and updated on the status of the Woodlawn Park Master Plan project.
- Peter explained that a community center and athletic field are major questions for this plan.
- Input from the discussion was as follows:

Building

- Facts
 - Must go outside of community for an indoor community space – difficult because in Abington, must be a resident
 - Many dance studios in the area that do not have a space for their recitals
- Concepts
 - Shared space that everyone can use at some point
 - Classrooms
 - Facility for rentals – ex. bridal showers
 - Kitchens
 - Hold fundraisers for organizations
 - Stage
 - Attendee to send minimum square footage required for a stage to SC
 - A space for arts, STEM, etc.

- Smaller building, like a clubhouse
- Does not need a full-blown center, but it does need restroom and secure storage
- The opportunity to fund raise – ex. paint a mural – make unique to the community and get investment of groups
- Community center in NJ as an example – open air, attendee rented it. Attendee to share photos with SC
- Concerns
 - Attendee asked if a new building would need to be where the previous structure was.
 - SC response: Could be a blank slate.
 - Two stories seems like a lot
 - A smaller version is something that neighbors would prefer.
 - Something kids can use during the day and then by sports on weekends

Football and cheerleading

- Concepts
 - Willow Grove Bears need an indoor space:
 - snack stand,
 - running water,
 - electricity,
 - restroom,
 - kitchenette
 - Indoor practice space (turf or not) to run offense/defense (walk through)
 - Announcer's booth
- Facts
 - Currently playing at Mason's Mill
- Concerns
 - Concerned about idea of new field being at Mason's Mil. Currently have a snack shed, no running water there.

Baseball/softball

- Facts
 - Indoor space – Little League has own facilities.
 - Junior and Senior teams use the field at Woodlawn
 - Little league – owns their own complex. Do not pay for use of SD fields because grandfathered in – not for much longer
- Concepts
 - Snack stand
 - Bathrooms
 - Something between two fields (stand?)
 - A place to store equipment (if org's could take care of their own fields)

Drama Program w/ Parks & Recreation (Drama Rama)

- Facts
 - Over 60 kids in every performance
 - Must fight for one of four stages from SD (only fit on 2 of the 4)

- Have demand – 4 full summer camps
- Concepts
 - Stage
 - Indoor bathrooms
 - Snack stand
 - All ages – make it communal
 - Elementary school aged kids
 - Senior citizen production – Golden Age Club
 - Holiday sing along

Basketball

- Facts
 - All 6 hoops are never used at once – maybe four used at once
 - First week of spring and first week of school is packed
 - Not well maintained / asphalt in poor condition
 - At Chester Park – Friday night at 7:30 there were 75-100 kids playing serious basketball
- Concepts
 - *4 well-maintained courts (may be well used)*

Teens

- Facts
 - Southampton has a community center that serves teens
 - About 15 min drive
 - Indoor and outdoor
 - Basketball
 - Pool tables
 - Baseball, softball
 - All sports

Restrooms

- Facts
 - Local kids go home to use the bathroom
 - Kids in leagues that do not live here can use port-a-potty, but most people “hold it”
 - Upper Moreland teams use this field
 - Ball games can be 3-4 hours
 - Kids from outside of Willow Grove come to play here – would need restroom.
- Concepts
 - Changing station
 - Safety
 - RR open only during games
 - Have an attendant to monitor, like at Masons Mill?
 - Timed or automated locking systems
- Concerns
 - Security - the community has seen issues with behavior between 7pm and 7am

Turf field

- Facts
 - Another turf field in Upper Moreland is heavily programmed and locked when not in use
 - Charges for use of turf field
- Concepts
 - Artificial turf field – usually lit.
 - SC response: A single field might fit here, but probably not a double

Parking

- Facts
 - Church parking lot and both sides of Division Ave get parked on
 - More parking in last year or so
 - Traffic on Division Ave is wild
- Concepts
 - Slowing traffic on Division Ave – neighbors would love that.
 - SC: Goal would be to take up as little of the park as possible. Possibilities:
 - 90 degree parking off of Division Ave
 - Traffic calming
 - Raised crosswalks

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Facts
 - Changes since building has been down (from neighbor on Forest Ave)
 - Wind has been “absolutely wild” – tunnel effect
 - More noise. Ex. Games are much more audible (isn’t necessarily a bad thing – this neighbor likes hearing the games)
- Concepts
 - Covered area for shade
 - Maintain walking path
 - Water
 - Remove existing access drive
- Concerns
 - Concerned that a community center here would mean the Woodlawn neighborhood loses its park
 - Already tough w/ through traffic
 - A structure will need parking, and any parking will make people come from outside of the neighborhood.
 - No easy way to get here except for roads with one side of parking.
 - Just structure and parking does not add value
 - SC response: The question is, is this right place for a community wide community center? We have gone over different sized buildings on the plan and what each would mean. The idea of a community center has been a conversation in the Township for years.

- Concern that the funding for this project done obtained through green space grants. A percentage needs to remain green space. Would a community center put this funding at risk of being revoked?
 - SC response: We do not think the funding would be at jeopardy – there can be enough green park space.
- Access drive along back of Forest Ave residences - people jump over fences. Everyone on Forest would love to have that drive removed so that the building and drive do not come right up to neighboring properties
 - SC response: Buffering for neighbors is important in this plan.
- Other questions/comments
 - Example in PA of an existing park like this that has a community center of a large capacity? 9 acres, fields, building, parking?
 - SC response: Probably, but do not know where. We can design anything.
 - Alternative location for community center
 - Masons Mill as a location for a community center?
 - SC response: Would need to do a feasibility study –recommended by SC 15 years ago.
 - Other potential locations for a community center
 - Office Max across from Giant
 - YMCA would have been a great location
 - YMCA runs own programs – rental of space is cost prohibitive

Upcoming Meetings

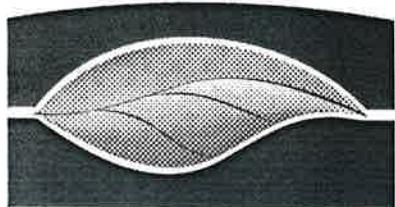
- Committee Meeting 4: Initial Concepts – Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 7:00-8:30 PM
 - Review Focus Groups and Key Person Interviews
 - Review refined concepts for presentation at Public Meeting 2
- Public Meeting 2: Initial Concepts – Wednesday, September 14, 7-9 PM

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



Michelle Armour



SIMONE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
119 EAST LAFAYETTE STREET NORRISTOWN, PA 19401
PHONE: 610.239.7601 FAX: 610.239.7606
WWW. SIMONECOLLINS.COM

MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

Project: Woodlawn Park Master Plan

Project No.: 21073.10

Location: Upper Moreland Township

Date: 06.21.2022

Topic: Focus Group Meeting 1 – Community Center

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

	Meeting Attendee	EMAIL	
1.	Tanya Spaetti	MrsSp80@verizon.net	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Brett Guerin	brett.guerin@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.	Max Blanton	mblantonmail@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Mike & NORA	NMRosenBAUM 85@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Nikki & Eric MacMillin	NikkiLynne.Stephanou@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.	Katie Hamilton	khamilton821@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.	Heather Liebers	heatherliebers@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Tressa McCallister	tressamccallister@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9.	Steve Semen	SJSEmen@gmail.com	<input type="checkbox"/>