



**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:	<b>Woodlawn Park Master Plan</b>	Project No.:	<b>21073.10</b>
Location:	<b>Woodlawn Park Upper Moreland Township</b>	Meeting Date/ Time:	<b>06.21.2022 7:30-8:30 PM</b>
Re:	<b>Focus Group Meeting 2 Active Sports Groups</b>	Issue Date:	<b>07.28.2022 (revis.)</b>

---

### 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.
- Input from the discussion was as follows:

#### BASKETBALL

- Facts
  - Not many lit courts in the area for summer leagues
  - Age range K-12
  - Almost 400 kids
  - Use of middle school gym - \$27K per year (attendee to send info to SC)
  - Pay to play (rent hourly)
  - Time frames – fall to winter, playing through 3 time periods
  - All revenue from dues, some sponsorships (no fundraising)
  - Courts are difficult to get in winter – challenges in working with school district
  - Use 2 HS gyms, MS, primary, calvary – 5 separate gyms
  - Basketball club competes with other organizations at schools
    - Karate (private org?)
    - Aftercare w/ YMCA
    - Gymnastics

- School band
- **Courts**
  - Used to run CYO summer league here
  - Lights don't work
  - No neighbors there – lights would be fine
  - If renovated and lit, would be useful
- Mason's Mill has basketball and volleyball
  - Lights go off when park closes
- Scheduling is the biggest issue
  - Go school to school and get use approved
  - Use spreadsheets to organize
  - Complicated – the way school district handles schedule changes
- Dues – approximately \$140-170
- Assistance for low-income kids
- Coaches struggle with younger age groups
- Concepts
  - 2 basketball courts, lit if possible
  - A couple of benches would suffice
  - Indoor courts with 2 sideways courts
  - If had 2 gyms for exclusive use, they would be used 7 days/week
  - Basketball/volleyball combo
  - Outdoor volleyball
    - Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) currently runs volleyball
    - Upper Moreland Township does not currently have volleyball there is momentum to add it.
    - Age range 4<sup>th</sup> grade to HS
    - Would not matter where new courts are. Just need:
      - 2 courts together
      - Parking
      - Concessions
    -
  - Neighborhood courts – not sure about programmed league
  - A space not impacted by school district schedule changes

## SOCCKER

- Facts
  - Pileggi Clubhouse
    - Soccer group has keys, alarm code
    - The township uses the clubhouse as well for recreational activities
  - Soccer Fields
    - Pileggi Fields flood
    - Club currently pays \$10,000 per year to rent turf field at HS
      - Lined only for eleven vs. eleven
      - Other clubs have turf fields lined for 9v9 and 7v7

- Other grass fields within the township are lined for four vs four, seven vs seven, nine vs. nine, and eleven vs. eleven
  - Soccer club pays \$15 per player for use of grass fields
  - Club has access to Pileggi, Middle School, Boileau, Fern Village, and Woodlawn in the Fall.
  - Club has access to Pileggi and Middle School in the Spring.
- General Information
  - Age range 5-16
  - Gender ratio about 55/45 – male dominant
  - In-house and travel groups – 2 sets of kids
  - 500+ kids play for club
  - Players also play in MS and HS
  - Fields are utilized nights and weekends
  - Primary Season – fall (there is demand for year-round)
    - There is an Intramural and Travel Spring league as well. Not as many players as in fall.
    - More teams are starting to play in winter
      - Futsal facility in Southampton
        - Courts are the size of a basketball court
      - Elkins Park – Sofive indoor soccer facility
      - Coaches/teams are paying out-of-pocket for indoor facilities to practice in winter
  - School use is primarily after school, but if they have a later game or another even soccer gets bumped
  - Soccer works with lacrosse in the Spring for use of the turf field– soccer pays year-round and lacrosse spring only
  - Woodlawn is currently used for Intramurals
  - Soccer owns the goals and nets used at the grass fields (Middle School, Pileggi, and Boileau)
  - Practices – coaches bring own equipment
  - Kids tore up goals at Woodlawn, so club removed them and put up pop-up goals
  - Has a shed at the MS
- Concepts
  - Turf as opposed to grass.
    - Lined for 7v7, 9v9, and 11v11 so could accommodate all travel players.
    - Would not need to reschedule games or cancel as many practices due to rain
  - Lights – important. Would need until 9:30pm at the latest
  - Could fill a facility year-round (ALL sports could)

## **FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING**

- Facts
  - Field at Mason's Mill is used for games only.
- Concepts
  - Field use for practice (at Mason's Mill or elsewhere) would alleviate issue.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Facts
  - HS baseball does not practice at Woodlawn, just plays games on Saturdays
  - School District
    - The school district has control of the schedule – first say
    - Taxpayer money went into building what the school district controls – frustrating
    - SD pays overtime to keep doors open when someone is not scheduled
- Concepts
  - Indoor storage
  - Security
    - Fencing
    - Something to deter kids from ripping up courts (like in Memorial Park)
  - SD could hire a custodian to open doors after hours – reduce cost
  - Community Center
    - Sports
    - Summer camp
    - Senior programming in mornings, youth leagues in evenings
- Concerns
  - Lights
    - Pushback on lights – no matter which sport
      - SC response: The technology is advanced. Basketball will probably not get a big pushback.
    - If there were a lit field, use would probably go until 9pm. Current HS field use is until 9:30, but there is no access before 6:30pm.
    - North Penn fields' lights were just put in. Not a beam of light was allowed outside of the track. Light pollution not a problem as in the past.
  - Mason's Mill
    - Township focus has been on township interests vs. club interests
    - Softball has asked to play at Mason's Mill, but it's reserved for bigger softball leagues
    - Football field at Mason's Mill is used for games – not allowed to practice there because of concerns over wear and tear. Low-lying, doesn't flood.
- Other questions/comments
  - What is initially happening here?
    - SC response: Soil to be put down, area seeded, complete the plan by end of year, get money to leverage with grants to go after funding
  - SC question/comment: Do the different sports groups ever get together to meet?
    - If the clubs come in as a group to BOS and coordinate your needs, maybe you represent more votes.
    - Getting the clubs together in terms of all of the needs and people being served – can show that this is important.
    - A community center is expensive
- Next Steps

- Each org could send a letter to the township (send to Pat Stasio or to SC to share with township)
  - How many kids served
  - Cost of paying for field/court time
  - Mission
  - Numbers
  - Statistics
  - Organizational needs
  - What resources needed (be specific – lit fields, etc.)
  - Why important
- Can have constituents' parents write testimonials to the commissioners or Pat Stasio
- Elected officials will respond to public pressure

#### **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