

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #1- Carmel Clay Parks Foundation

February 23, 2016

1:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Mark Westermeier (CCPR), David Hocutt, Mac Williams, Sue Dillon, Dan Dutcher, Mark Varnau

Copies to: Participants, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and discussions of issues and opportunities facing West Park. This included:
- A. Need to be mindful of bees, monarchs and pollinators in general as the park plan progresses and operations and maintenance procedures are considered.
  - B. There were some strong ecological first steps in the original park including the pond and prairie maze. There are also some lessons learned from what didn't work or could have worked better.
  - C. The park serves blue bird populations.
  - D. The spray and play areas could be augmented to better serve older users than current design.
  - E. There is an opportunity to integrate and reconnect people with nature in a playful atmosphere.
  - F. The park could have larger swaths of nature, balanced by more programmed people spaces.
  - G. West Park could help raise environmental awareness with educational programs, including those for bees, monarchs and other pollinators. There are good models out there for tagging/tracking that could be deployed as well as milkweed and monarch weigh station programs.
  - H. The park was originally designed to accommodate 4 grid fields and 4 diamonds for sports but this is no longer a need due to adjacent Dad's Club and school facilities.
  - I. Jill's Hill could have something more dramatic on top (i.e. Stonehenge).
  - J. The eastern 5 acres are being overrun by Bradford Pear saplings and other invasives. A plan to address this should be part of the master plan, including staff education so right tools are used for the right conditions/locations.
  - K. A solution is needed for the heavy dog use that runs loose and doesn't always follow established laws. Give them a place to run the right way and enforce the laws.
  - L. Concern that burning as a management tool could impact pollinator habitat, especially the black locust in the eastern 5 acres.
  - M. There should be a proactive pollinator approach that aligns with funding (i.e. CP 42 mix that could align with federal programs and yield \$200-300/acre for next 10 yrs).
  - N. Blue bird viewing generates large numbers of visitors that need support amenities and need to be considered in proactive event management.

- O. West Park could better educate through nature programming and facilities.
- P. Public art would be a positive addition to West Park.
- Q. There are large groups of Hispanic families that use the park's turf areas for soccer. Similar for other west side ethnicities.

II. Next Steps

- A. Additional stakeholder and community meetings will occur on 3/22.

SEH of Indiana believes that this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should notify the writer at once. Unless objections are raised within seven (7) days, we will consider this account accurate and acceptable to all.

**If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Gregg Calpino at 219.513.2503.**

GEC

p:\ae\c\ccpar\133691\1-gen\14-corr\2016-2-23 stakeholder meetings\2016-2-23 west park stakeholder 2 meeting minutes - seh.docx

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #2- Environmental Agencies and Organizations

February 23, 2016

2:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Mark Westermeier (CCPR), Erin Baird (Indiana Wildlife Federation), Carol Cavell (Trees Indiana), Julia Kemnitz (US Fish & Wildlife Service), Daren Mindham (City of Carmel), Michael Popa (Hoosier Environmental Council), Chris Roberts (Trees Indiana), John South (HCSWCD), Aaron Stump (Indiana Wildlife Federation), Tom Swinford (DNR, Nature Preserves), Leslie Webb (Carmel Green Initiative), Nichole Speth (City of Carmel DOCS), Steve Apfelbaum (AES), Neelay Bhatt (PROS)

Copies to: Participants, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and discussions of issues and opportunities facing West Park. Steve Apfelbaum then presented preliminary ecological findings from data analysis and site tour on 2/22/16 and discussed with the group.
- II. The following items were discussed by the group:
  - A. It was confirmed that the entire park, not just the additional 45 acres is being planned.
  - B. It was confirmed that no pre-determined capital and O&M budget has been established for the plan. The budget will be established by the plan, which will likely be implemented in phases.
  - C. There was discussion about the potential impacts of future climate change on the park. The team acknowledged that the plan is mindful of such matters.
  - D. There was discussion about the level of use that the “circle” gets compared to other areas of the park, suggesting that more turf areas could be considered for natural areas if it wasn’t heavily used.
  - E. The team confirmed a commitment to native plantings and strategies to combat invasive species, including the Bradford Pear that is proliferating the eastern 5 acres.
  - F. There was discussion about the potential to remove some agricultural tiles to restore wetland habitats in appropriate areas.
  - G. There was a stated desire to focus on drought tolerant species in light of potential climate change.
  - H. It was acknowledged that current soil conditions, including extensive compaction from excavation activities during the original park development has impeded new tree growth. Approach to address this, including cover crop strategies, were discussed.
  - I. It was acknowledged that the current soils would have likely supported mixed deciduous forests historically and that wet prairies would work well in much of the park. It was further suggested that future plans align with soil patterns and acknowledge the site’
  - J. It was suggested that a floristic inventory be developed to guide future restoration.

III. Next Steps

- A. Additional stakeholder and community meetings will occur on 3/22.

SEH of Indiana believes that this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should notify the writer at once. Unless objections are raised within seven (7) days, we will consider this account accurate and acceptable to all.

**If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Gregg Calpino at 219.513.2503.**

GEC

p:\ae\c\ccpar\133691\1-gen\14-corr\2016-2-23 stakeholder meetings\2016-2-23 west park stakeholder 2 meeting minutes - seh.docx

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #3- HOA Representatives and General Public

February 23, 2016

3:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Mark Westermeier (CCPR), Dee Fox, Bob Kravitz, Judy Magnus, Tina Malone

Copies to: Participants, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and discussions of issues and opportunities facing West Park. The following items were discussed by the group:
- A. The playground is very popular and heavily used.
  - B. The park needs more trails and more trails that link the park to adjacent neighborhoods and schools.
  - C. The park could use more shelters, which are popular with families. Potential revenue source if people aren't currently paying for them.
  - D. Kids like using the sledding hill and the water play is fantastic.
  - E. Add more nature-walking trails with a purpose, possibly with interpretative stations about Carmel and scavenger hunts.
  - F. Leverage 4H in the county for tree/forestry learning. Nearest location is Noblesville.
  - G. Take a close look at traffic patterns in the park:
    - 1. Parking is full
    - 2. A lot of dogs
  - H. Add more hike/bike trails with signage about user groups.
  - I. Elicit input from the BMW tournament about what would make Carmel attractive to return.
  - J. Tennis facilities are insufficient in the community.
  - K. There is nothing to do in the park in winter besides the hill.
  - L. Pickle ball is a growing activity to be considered.
  - M. Kids like the big playground slide.
  - N. Fish is very popular in the park.
  - O. Food trucks are very popular and crowded.
  - P. Keep the park nature-oriented as a place to unwind. Nature experience is rare today.
  - Q. Don't make the park an entertainment venue.
  - R. Don't be too prescriptive with programming and events.
  - S. Monon Center is not always popular with west side kids due to fees and conflicts with kids outside the community. Need a west side alternative.
  - T. Kids like climbing.
  - U. Park could use at least one more tire swing – current one is very popular.
  - V. Add more benches in existing woods along trails.
  - W. The new woods should have trails and stations like Eagle Creek.
  - X. There are too many off-leash dogs. Needs more signage to control behavior.

- Y. There are no signs about bikes (rules/regs, where to park).
- Z. There needs to be more to connect kids with outdoor interests like water and fishing.
- AA. Suggested ideas – bullfrog pond and footbridge at Idlewild Park in PA.
- BB. Consider a pedestrian bridge over 116<sup>th</sup> to University HS.
- CC. Consider archery in the park.
- DD. Maintain wide open spaces for casual recreation (kites, Frisbee) and sports practice.
- EE. Consider adding a maypole and tetherball.
- FF. Label the plants in the park like a botanic garden to educate park users.
- GG. Consider a year-round skating rink.
- HH. Add a sunflower garden for birds with birdhouses designed/built by schools.
- II. Add glider swings.

II. Next Steps

- A. Additional stakeholder and community meetings will occur on 3/22.

SEH of Indiana believes that this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should notify the writer at once. Unless objections are raised within seven (7) days, we will consider this account accurate and acceptable to all.

**If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Gregg Calpino at 219.513.2503.**

GEC

p:\ae\c\ccpar\133691\1-gen\14-corr\2016-2-23 stakeholder meetings\2016-2-23 west park stakeholder 3 meeting minutes - seh.docx

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #4- Parents of Children with Disabilities and CCPR Inclusion

Supervisors

February 23, 2016

4:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Mark Westermeier, Aimee Rich (CCPR), Amanda Swearingen, Becca Wickman, Mike Gould (neighbor)

Copies to: Participants, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and discussions of issues and opportunities facing West Park. The following items were discussed by the group regarding play environments in light of children with disabilities:
  - A. The playground needs space for younger, safe play. West Park is sometimes intimidating but Founders Park is much better. River Road also successful.
  - B. More open space for free-form play.
  - C. Incorporate ground-based features to augment taller ones. Things like tunnels and sensory panels.
  - D. Paved trails are good for mobility challenged kids. Hills and mulch are challenges.
  - E. Good models allow kids to get to the top of play features through careful grading. Allows kids to start at the top.
  - F. Glad to see CCPR so inclusive.
  - G. There are very few water parks with wheelchair access.
  - H. Shade is typically lacking in playgrounds.
  - I. Need to have equal high and low features.
  - J. Playgrounds have to have the appropriate level of easier and challenging features.
  - K. Boardwalk is very popular. Kids like the ducks and wetland/nature.
- II. The group discussed potential concerns from the neighbors immediately north of the new 40 acres:
  - A. There is interested in preserving the existing woods and natural character.
  - B. Interest in a dog park in the open land closest to 116<sup>th</sup> was expressed.
  - C. The neighbors would want to see details about any trails proposed for this parcel and would want to compare with City trail plans.
  - D. There were questions about existing standing water in the woods and the status of potential wetlands on the property. It was noted that National Inventory wetlands are present on current mapping and that the nature of park soils and observed hydrology and vegetation suggests additional wetlands may exist. These would be mapped once the park plan and related development is better defined.
- III. Next Steps
  - A. Additional stakeholder and community meetings will occur on 3/22.

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #4

February 23, 2016

Page 2

SEH of Indiana believes that this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should notify the writer at once. Unless objections are raised within seven (7) days, we will consider this account accurate and acceptable to all.

**If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Gregg Calpino at 219.513.2503.**

GEC

p:\ae\c\ccpar\133691\1-gen\14-corr\2016-2-23 stakeholder meetings\2016-2-23 west park stakeholder 5 meeting minutes - seh.docx

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #5- HOA Representatives & General Public

February 23, 2016

1:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Neelay Bhatt

Minutes by: Neelay Bhatt

Present: Neelay Bhatt (PROS), Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Bill Gallihugh (Crooked Stick West), Nancy Harkness (HCMGA & DNR Tree Steward), David Hocutt, Jill Meisenheimer (Williams Mill & Citizens for Responsible Zoning), Chris Potts (Saddle Creek), Mike Rogers (Saddlebrook on Shelborne)

Copies to: Participants, Gregg Calpino, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and discussions of issues and opportunities facing West Park. The following items were discussed by the group:
  - A. Infrastructure has to be upgraded and replaced
  - B. Incorporate and integrate the new purchased 45 (40 acres + 5 acres) into the remaining park plan.
  - C. First community meeting focused on PLAY / Second Meeting focused on Ecology / Third meeting will be on March 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - D. What elements need to left as-is versus what else can be updated / modified or added?
- II. Saddlebrook on Shelborne Community Member Feedback:
  - A. Strengths
    1. Love having movies at night
    2. Love the hill and using it during winter months
    3. Connectivity from Shelborne to the park is very much appreciated
    4. From the ecology, what areas can be preserved versus modified?
  - B. Concerns
    1. Wetlands and very old trees – safety concerns with people walking around there at night
      - a. Don't add in a path that would come too close to Saddlebrook on Shelborne that may bring in people too close to the homes
    2. Maintain the aesthetics as they are and keep the education component as is
    3. Have seen some invasive species in the wood area at the back and would be great to have nature trails at the back
    4. Keep a shield / buffer and develop the natural trail feel similar to Cool Creek Park
    5. Remove the ash from the dead beech trees to avoid safety concerns
    6. Parking situation is challenging and depending on what the new uses are there, additional parking will need to be evaluated
  - C. Potential Ideas
    1. Grow the snow hill / bring in a snow machine and maybe even evaluate sponsorship
    2. The play area in place is hard from a visibility standpoint for parents and result in safety / security concerns with teenagers indulging in troublesome activities

- a. Reduce closed slides to avoid vandalism / graffiti etc.
- b. Lions Park in Westfield has created a play area for older versus younger children and could be emulated
- c. Love the water feature but they are very outdated but could be updated similar to Zionville's park with man-made creek along with the splash pads as well
- d. Could evaluate potential for integrated climbing and slide opportunities etc.
3. West Park doesn't encourage kids and adults to do things together
4. Love the idea of a multi-generational playground / need to get adults active and outdoors too e.g. Dennis the Menace Playground in Monterrey and Boston has designed a park with brightly colored ping pong tables / corn holes etc.
5. Indianapolis ([www.playgroundequipment.com](http://www.playgroundequipment.com)) has a playground / fitness trail and equipment on it for older people and a place to bring in multi-generational audiences together
6. Grandparents take kids to the park and need more shade structure and benches to sit so they can stay in the park longer
7. New play scape at the Children's Museum where kids can't fall but are easily visible and no one is scared (\$75,000)
8. Camping spot for boy scouts / people for fairly easy but overnight camping would be great with the woods and the overall experience out there
9. Plays / Theater in the park could be brought back
10. More special events / summer programming in the park would be great to continue
  - a. Summer Camp is great on the West Side as well
11. Raze the house and build a physical facility (indoor space) to host summer camps etc.
  - a. Maintain the natural aspect of the park but build a facility (themed liked Indiana) that allows for 80% cost recovery overall as well
  - b. Indoor community recreation space with a large enough footprint that can have opportunities for year round recreation
12. Connor Prairie – steal the flags game that kids enjoy a lot in a natural setting
13. Leverage the height to create a suspension bridge and create a destination area within the park
14. Discrete labels to ensure interpretive education
15. Decide and establish a policy if this is a dog park / off leash or not
16. Naturalists in the park such as those at Cool Creek Park and add some nature programming at the park
17. Mile markers in the park to help people make their own route
18. Some art in the park and make it friendly and enticing to walk in the park with painted squares etc.
19. Bike racks

### III. Next Steps

- A. Additional stakeholder and community meetings will occur on 3/22.

SEH of Indiana believes that this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should notify the writer at once. Unless objections are raised within seven (7) days, we will consider this account accurate and acceptable to all.

**If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Gregg Calpino at 219.513.2503.**

GEC

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #5- One Zone Chamber of Commerce

February 23, 2016

3:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Leon Younger

Minutes by: Leon Younger

Present: Leon Younger (PROS), Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Mo Merhoff (President), John Schuler (Business Issues Committee President)

Copies to: Participants, Gregg Calpino, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and discussions of issues and opportunities facing West Park. The following items were discussed by the group:
- A. Have all of you been to the park?
    - 1. There is a sense of place here in Carmel
    - 2. Other communities are following Carmel's lead
    - 3. People want to live here and because
    - 4. Yes, I was included in the United Way group and it was naturally attractive
  - B. What do you like most about the park?
    - 1. It is a really gather place and needs to be enhances
    - 2. We need to incorporate some level of natural areas to go back to
    - 3. The demographics for the area are too close to Westfield and they don't get parks publications
    - 4. It is a very high level of diversity
    - 5. Different types of schools that are
    - 6. 700 acres of space loosely connect
    - 7. We need to have something to do beyond nature
    - 8. WE need to have some indoor elements that west siders to go to
    - 9. We need to have family space
    - 10. More than a nature space that needs to be 365 years a year
    - 11. We need to make it a destination park that everyone is proud
    - 12. We need to have a another park
    - 13. We have 8years left on Central Park left
    - 14. Do we keep the bond going after 8 years
    - 15. We are a class two city and we have a bond bank now
    - 16. 250 bond issue for infrastructure that is planned
    - 17. We need something under roof and we have need to have some level of indoor space
    - 18. We need to go beyond kids and include adults as well
    - 19. We need to have more adults activities as well
    - 20. They like a futsal court for pick-up games
    - 21. We could have a combination
    - 22. We have 120 acres instead of just adding on

- C. What do you think the needs of residents for this area of the community are that the benefit this area of the community?
1. The survey the chamber may have done some for apts are now developing apts. CJ Hart and John success is they own and operate. Steve Pittmen. Justin Moffit is another one.
  2. The village of west clay just got passed
  3. We have to think that development is different now
  4. They are moving
  5. Boomers don't want large housing and that is not we have to focus on that
  6. Go look at the new design downtown is where everyone is going
  7. Brookshire are going to the tear down stage and people are looking for more options
  8. How many people can walk to West Park?
  9. The neighborhood to the south could walk to that area
  10. You can cut to Cox Hall on a trail
  11. The demographic is younger now
  12. The connectivity to the park is difficult to get to
  13. No place to sit at the playgrounds and no shade
  14. Lake Mendota in Madison Wisconsin and unique trails and meeting
  15. They have a nature preserve their and paddle boats
  16. The biggest park we need to discuss
  17. We need to go see a park that can ice skate and like a ribbon rink
  18. We have a small enterprise element and it is a park that supports Grand Park
  19. Business want a sense of place and will locate and it is allied
  20. The employment is below 4 % and it is difficult to get staff to fill jobs
  21. Show us a quality community
  22. Unique and a place for a meeting that has something else for them to do
  23. We have a favorable housing stock and price and great schools
  24. When you cross over 146 street the taxes are
  25. Grand Park
- D. What do you hear most about the park?
1. We need a place to gather and talk
  2. A cricket pitch
  3. We need great green space
  4. We have to lean of the city to provide the green space so Developers are so hit on
  5. Be bold!! Be outside of the world
  6. Repurposing the playground

II. Next Steps

- A. Additional stakeholder and community meetings will occur on 3/22.

SEH of Indiana believes that this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should notify the writer at once. Unless objections are raised within seven (7) days, we will consider this account accurate and acceptable to all.

**If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Gregg Calpino at 219.513.2503.**

GEC

West Park Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting #2

February 23, 2016

12:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino, Jon Ruble (SEH) Mark Westermeier, Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Baljit Bhatt (Westside Resident), Dan Dutcher (Foundation President), Jim Engledow (Park Board President), Matt Snyder (Township Board Member), Jeff Worrell (City Councilor), Neelay Bhatt (PROS), Steve Apfelbaum (AES)

Copies to: Participants, Tom Poulos, Leon Younger, file 133691

- I. Meeting began with introductions and recap of 1/26/16 public meeting and subsequent community input received by staff or on the project website. This included:
  - A. Desire for more inclusive play.
  - B. Minimize development and preserve the woods.
  - C. Encourage year 'round use.
  - D. Some program facilities but not as busy or elaborate as Monon Center.
  - E. Preserve water play program in the park but augment for multi-generational use including benches etc..
  - F. Include multi-generational play.
  - G. Maintain natural aesthetic.
- II. The following additional items were discussed:
  - A. The west side is very diverse with unique programming needs. There are many multi-generational families that fluctuate in size with 3-4 month seasonal visits.
  - B. Food is a connector and/or unifier that bridges linguistic barriers (i.e. Food Truck days). Unite with culinary experiences
  - C. West Park is viewed as a nature escape (woods, ponds, prairies, etc.)
  - D. There is heavy use of the lawn areas for unprogrammed uses such as kite flying.
  - E. There are some challenges connecting with all west side users due to postal code issues and other factors that necessitate creative outreach methods to maximize inclusivity. Outreach to churches in the area – Greek Orthodox Church / Jewish Congregation / other places of worship
  - F. Emphasize ecology theme - spirit of educating
  - G. Find the right balance between going to nature and being active
  - H. Playground at Central Park will be large enough to accommodate up to 200 kids simultaneously
    - o Will cater largely to 5-12 year olds and separate area for younger kids
    - o Some electronic component along with a splash pad as well
    - o Opening summer 2016

III. Steve Apfelbaum presented preliminary ecological findings from data analysis and site tour on 2/22/16 and discussed with the group.

IV. Next Steps

A. Additional stakeholder and community meetings will occur on 3/22.

SEH of Indiana believes that this document accurately reflects the business transacted during the meeting. If any attendee believes that there are any inconsistencies, omissions or errors in the minutes, they should notify the writer at once. Unless objections are raised within seven (7) days, we will consider this account accurate and acceptable to all.

**If there are errors contained in this document, or if relevant information has been omitted, please contact Gregg Calpino at 219.513.2503.**

GEC

p:\ae\c\ccpar\133691\1-gen\14-corr\2016-2-23 stakeholder meetings\2016-2-23 west park steering committee meeting minutes - seh.docx