

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #1- Carmel Clay Schools, Carmel Dad's Club and Area Park
Agencies

March 22, 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), Ron Farrand, Roger McMichael (Carmel Clay Schools), Jack Beery (Carmel Dad's Club), Matt Dickey (Zionsville Parks and Recreation), Melody Jones (Westfield Parks and Recreation)

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. There are two adjacent middle school playgrounds that could complement West Park programming evenings and weekends or other times when school is out. Schools would be open to greater promotion of these resources.
 - B. There are some paths on school master plans but to date not a lot of walkers to/from school from immediate neighbors. Some "walking trains" existing in nice weather as alternative to buses.
 - C. Schools would support trail connectivity to West Park as long as fields/facilities are protected. Same with Dad's club.
 - D. Dad's Club fields are primarily for soccer, have been recently upgraded, are irrigated and focused on high quality competitive use. Roughly 2800 kids in spring with another 2700 in fall.
 - E. Dad's Club has experienced some conflicts with animals and snow mobiles, potentially addressed by a north gate. Golf cart damage to irrigation has also been experienced.
 - F. Westfield is focused on completing planned trails, possibly a dog park and a 17 acre primitive camping/adventure park this year. They are also focused on acquiring more passive open space to complement current active facilities.
 - G. Zionsville has been 90% focused on passive facilities through donations, augmented by some youth sports facilities such as Lions Club Park. They do have a sledding hill smaller than Jills Hill. Community demands has recently been for BMX/bike addition to skate park, integration of long boarding into skate park. They are working on a 55 acre mountain bike park and comprehensive trails plan. 116th and 106th Street connectivity important and waiting on Carmel to finish their links.
 - H. It was noted that Jill Perelman's father was a forester and that could be a nice tie to her legacy.
- II. Next Steps
 - A. CCPR staff will conduct intercept surveys in West Park in April.
 - B. The three day design charrette will occur 5/2-4.

West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #1

March 22, 2016

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

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West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #2- Interest Groups, Neighbors and Users

March 22, 2016

1:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Neelay Bhatt

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Neelay Bhatt (PROS), Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Naomi Bechtold (Parks Foundation), Emily Rulo (Huntington Chase HOA), Ann-Marie Rohe (Chaos is Bliss Blog)

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. Strengths
 - Running paths
 - Exercise walks – liked the natural look of the park and having preserved the green space
 - Used the playground heavily – love it because the structures are spread out but within line of sight
 - Provides independent play and exploration opportunities for kids
 - Loved the visual effects of the water play features
 - Often walk over and bike over to the park as well
 - Went up the hill to watch fireworks the year there was a drought
 - Camped out over summer camp outs too and really love it – would love to see more of it
 - Food trucks are wonderful for all ages
 - B. Opportunities
 - Indoor facility space would be appealing – don't need to duplicate the MCC but could look at different types of indoor uses
 - Indoor adventure facility would be very appealing to the older youth, families, team building etc.
 - Rock climbing, trampoline etc.
 - Ice skating in winter would be awesome; cross country skiing
 - E.g. Elkhart, IN has a splash pad that converts to an ice rink in winter
 - Special events in the park for astronomy related programs during the year e.g. leverage
 - Opportunities for older children would be great
 - Movies for older kids – older kids night
 - Concerts for teens / tweens

- Playground equipment geared to very young kids – need to upgrade it to older kids as well
- Outdoor challenge courses would be very appealing
- Skate-less skate park in St. Louis could easily be replicated here indoors
- Mile markers at the park would be very helpful
 - Build different loops for various distances as well
- Being a female and jogging through the woods could be a concern – need to provide more safety measures e.g. panic buttons, real time app etc.
- Build buffers from soccer field to the park as well to prevent unauthorized use and cross over
- Parking can be an issue during special events, shelter rentals for big groups, days with food trucks etc.
- Like the conservation aspect of the park and would like to keep that balance between active and passive recreation
- Really like the pond and the interpretive education through signs etc.
 - Birds nest or on the trails etc.
- More structural art in the park
 - Temporary rotating displays
 - Partners with kids for creating art displays as well
- Build activities for kids to do in the park
- Outdoor fitness equipment in Westfield is very helpful too
- Make it easy to find information about the park and all parks in the system

C. Top Priority

- Add outdoor winter time activities
- Indoor / outdoor adventure activities for everybody
- Mile markers

II. Next Steps

- A. CCPR staff will conduct intercept surveys in West Park in April.
- B. The three day design charrette will occur 5/2-4.

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West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #3- Interest Groups, Neighbors and Users

March 22, 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), Michael and Deb Roccaforte (Larkspur HOA), Claire Lane (Hamilton Co. SWCD), Father Jarrod Russell (Holly Trinity Greek Orthodox Church), Megan Dillon (IDNR)

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. From SWCD perspective, there are opportunities to enhance wildlife habitat and employ best practices that could be interpreted for resident/home application. Also opportunity to link kids with nature programs.
 - 1. Nature playgrounds
 - 2. Outdoor classroom spaces (up to 30 kids with shade/shelter).
 - 3. Immerse kids in nature
 - 4. Community gardens
 - 5. School field trips
 - 6. Potential winter programming.
 - B. From IDNR's perspective, there could be potential cost share programs pertaining to:
 - 1. Pollinators
 - 2. Educational programs
 - 3. Improved access
 - 4. Best practices for detention ponds to showcase applicability at neighborhood scale
 - 5. Eradication of invasive species
 - 6. Improved native seed mixes with IDNR input
 - 7. Assess health/quality of existing woods to guide appropriate restoration approach
 - C. Holy Trinity noted that the park could be great for youth ministry events focusing on outdoors
 - D. Neighbors see the park as a recreational complement to what already exists in the neighborhoods (play, basketball hoops, etc.) and not a place to replicate it.
 - 1. Want something better/higher standard
 - 2. Consider parking implications
 - 3. Explore partnerships with adjacent schools
 - 4. Improve bike/ped access, including 116th Street safety
 - 5. Food trucks are good
 - 6. Enhance winter experience with fire pits, winterized shelters, cross country skiing
 - 7. Potential community gardens in the west pasture.
 - 8. Potential dog park or more clear, consistent standards for all users.

II. Next Steps

- A. CCPR staff will conduct intercept surveys in West Park in April.
- B. The three day design charrette will occur 5/2-4.

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West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #4- University High School

March 22, 2016

3:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Michael Klitzing (CCPR), John Walls (Athletic Director), Chuck Webster (Head of School), Stacey Summitt-Mann

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. University HS bought 80 acres from Jill Perelman, received another 30 acre donation. Jill's mission important to the school.
 - B. Current West Park uses/interest in West Park include:
 1. Waterways and woodlands education programs
 2. Assistance maintaining the woodlands
 3. Year of Service – Partnerships through implementation
 4. Trail use – needs bike racks
 5. Environmental science classroom – 1 year, 16 kids, smaller projects
 - C. Would be ideal to have a shared design for park and school driveways on 116th, including a formal crosswalk or possible pedestrian bridge/underpass
 - D. School likes public use of their facilities with permission (i.e. tennis courts)
 - E. Big events in the park use the school's parking lot (i.e. reunions) – dangerous having masses crossing 116th w/out formal facilities
 - F. There was a question about future 116th Street plans by the city and potential to revisit school zone limits to engage more crossers, including bikes
 - G. Faculty would like to see their grounds and West Park as an outdoor laboratory with small outdoor classrooms.
 - H. Jill wanted a nature center as her legacy. Wetlands and amphibian focus, plus pollinators/insets of the prairie could be good focus. She also had passion for Native American culture.
 - I. Consider park drainage implications on adjacent school property as watershed is linked.
 - J. There is currently very little interpretive signage in the park pertaining to the environment.
 - K. School has long range plans for larger west side facility to fill service gaps. Could include additional gym and outdoor fields on the east end of the 30 acres. Not yet funded.
 - L. The school would like to be part of a larger linked trail network that includes the park and school/Dad's properties as well as Hamilton Co. open space to the north/east.
 - M. Support for enhanced winter amenities, including:
 1. Expanded sledding hill
 2. Skating ribbon

3. Warming shelter/year-round indoor space
 - N. Consider environmental art creation/installation possibilities in the park.
 - O. There are summer camp opportunities shared between school and CCPR. ½ day workshops, multi-sport, Square One (smaller kids). Bridge/safer 116th crossing would help.
- II. Next Steps
- A. CCPR staff will conduct intercept surveys in West Park in April.
 - B. The three day design charrette will occur 5/2-4.

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West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #5- Interest Groups, Neighbors and Users

March 22, 2016

3:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Neelay Bhatt

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Neelay Bhatt (PROS), Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Kari Arens, Tim Kopp (Saddlebrook on Shelborne HOA), Mike Kostrzewa, Rade Lukic, Jasper

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. Strengths
- Bike to the park – enjoy the trails a lot
 - Snow shoeing / cross country skiing has been a lot of fun as well
 - Adult recreation opportunities
 - Love the trails / playgrounds for our kids
 - The pond and watching the fishermen is a very popular activity as well
 - Love the natural feel of the park – its not too busy and love that we can wander and have a passive recreation experience
 - Parking is up front and helps people get away from the noise
 - Appreciate the diversity of offerings in the park – helps us disconnect and get engrossed in nature
 - Trails heavily used for running and runners appreciate the shade as well
- B. Opportunities
- Circular paths and walking paths get underwater quickly when it rains
 - Sheets of ice form during winter which is very dangerous
 - Like Cox Hall, West Park must clear their paths after the snow
 - Not enough shade around the playgrounds as well
 - Preservation of the park is important – have a good balance of offerings right now
 - It's more active for the young kids but not much for older teens or adults for recreation activities
 - More challenging climbing – adventure activities
 - Fitness machines and equipment etc. would be very helpful especially if they are consolidated

- Group activities for kids to socialize e.g. pick up basketball or pick up soccer (add a goal post or two)
- Ensure long term maintenance and longevity of the equipment
- Pet management or incorporate an off-leash area at West Park if people want the dogs to walk around freely – with the pets etc. coming out there
- Family driven events would be very helpful – easter egg hunt, summer movies in the park, camps etc.
- Parking will become a concern with if additional structures are being developed
- Allow opportunities and space for unstructured programming and recreation opportunities
- Not a proponent of indoor recreation space at West Park
- Conservatory at Cox Hall would be very helpful

C. Single Most Important Priority

- Leave it as-is but maintain it
- Incorporate additional natural trails
- Identify more activities for adolescents
- Need additional indoor recreation space at West Park or on the west side
 - Must be done reasonably and upsetting the integrity of what is there

II. Next Steps

- A. CCPR staff will conduct intercept surveys in West Park in April.
- B. The three day design charrette will occur 5/2-4.

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West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #5- CCPR Staff

March 22, 2016

4:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Neelay Bhatt

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Neelay Bhatt (PROS), Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Michael Allen (Park Maintenance Director), Kurtis Baumgartner (MCC Director), Eric Mehl (MCC Assistant Director), Shauna Lewallen (Recreation Manager)

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. Strength

- Biggest user groups are moms with young kids
- Currently programmed for kids 10 and younger

B. Opportunities

- Multi-use classroom for nature programming and close to nature
 - Focus on space, flooring and acoustics
- Making the park useful year round including adding year round meeting space
 - Recreation Unlimited is very popular
 - Could build an indoor playground for all ages
- Love the idea of the indoor adventure park
- Individualized shade structures would be very helpful
- Integrate art sculptures in the park too
- Extra parking is necessary here as well
- Dumpster enclosure required
- Wi-Fi in the park / tie in with technology
- Build multi generation playground amenities for parents with kids
 - Expression swing – parent / child playground
- Expand playground footprint and not let it get boxed in by hills
- No sand in the playgrounds
- No mulch next to the splash pads
- The fall line next to the sewer – bring the rest room closer to the sewers
- Fitness equipment at the park and building a fitness course
- Linear skate park with concrete picnic tables / green space around it etc.

- Intergenerational playground
 - Agents of Nature Gaming options in the park
 - Dedicated space for RC / Drone use
- C. Top Priority
- Indoor programming space
 - Indoor adventure center
 - Maintenance yard / compound
 - Splash pads
- II. Next Steps
- A. CCPR staff will conduct intercept surveys in West Park in April.
 - B. The three day design charrette will occur 5/2-4.

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West Park Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting #7- Neighbors and Users

March 22, 2016

4:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH), Michael Klitzing (CCPR), J.D. Williams (LDS Church), Amy Magan (Westons), Vince Johnston (Crooked Stick West HOA)

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. Current positive West Park uses/interest include:
 - 1. Pond and trails around it and the park
 - 2. Play and sprayground area
 - 3. Picnic areas
 - 4. Multi-use lawns
 - 5. Rustic areas in back, great for dogs
 - 6. Kite flying, rockets
 - 7. Pick-up soccer
 - B. Pond is great but water is stagnant and in need of aeration/movement
 - C. West Park is nice as is but could be spruced up to be nicer
 - D. Stone blocks on Jill's Hill are dangerous for winter use
 - E. Church is interested in youth groups
 - 1. Large groups with shelter
 - 2. Would be interested in park clean up – up to 30 kids
 - 3. Hosting church breakfast of 100+
 - 4. Generally looking for service opportunities
 - F. Interest in a model boat basin or areas for RC airplanes
 - G. West Park lacks shade, especially in playground area
 - H. Plant the right trees based on specific site conditions
 - I. Add sidewalks and trails to link 116th/Shelbourne to West Park
 - J. Make better use of trail along northwest side of new acreage
 - K. Add new playground that is different in what it offers and who it serves. Incorporate seniors. There are good European and Asian models.
 - L. Consider a simple, fenced dog park
 - M. Consider something like Holiday Park Nature Center
 - 1. Allows use in poor weather
 - 2. Could provide space for CCPR classes on west side
 - N. Consider west side facility with pool access – not necessarily in West Park
 - O. Consider west side library branch through collaboration

- P. Keep the park as natural as possible – it's the most appealing aspect of West Park
 - Q. Keep some primitive trails
 - 1. Aggregate
 - 2. Forest trails
 - R. Add benches to boardwalk nodes. Same for forest trails
 - S. Attract butterflies back
 - T. Have police on bikes to patrol the park
 - U. Add more toilets
- II. Next Steps
- A. CCPR staff will conduct intercept surveys in West Park in April.
 - B. The three day design charrette will occur 5/2-4.

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West Park Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting #3

March 22, 2016

12:00 pm (Eastern)

The Meeting House - Village of West Clay

Meeting Chair: Gregg Calpino

Minutes by: Gregg Calpino

Present: Gregg Calpino (SEH) Mark Westermeier, Michael Klitzing (CCPR), Baljit Bhatt (Westside Resident), Dan Dutcher (Foundation President), Judy Hagan (Park Foundation), Neelay Bhatt (PROS)

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

- I. Meeting began with introductions and recap of 2/22/16 public meeting and subsequent community input received by staff or on the project website.
- II. The following additional items were discussed:
 - A. Need to explain to the community what a charrette is and how specifically how and when they can contribute.
 - B. Important to stress how a balance will be achieved in the master plan.
 - C. Need to consider West Park in broader context of school properties, Dad's club, etc. so West Park can focus on what is there vs trying to do it all for all users.
- III. Gregg Calpino and Neelay Bhat previewed their public meeting presentations to the group and integrated suggested edits.
- IV. Next Steps
 - A. CCPR staff will conduct intercept surveys in West Park in April.
 - B. The three day design charrette will occur 5/2-4.

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