



Vilas Park Master Plan
Schematic Concept Plan Review Meeting
RRG/CPAG Meeting #3
Chat Transcript – April 22, 2020

from JAMES LORMAN to everyone:

is that a detention pond east of the new entrance?

from Ben Yahr (privately):

Dan- maybe you guys talked about this at the last meeting, but I'm curious about the relationship between the City parking lot, that serves the County Zoo?

from Jason Valerius (privately):

Can you answer Jim's question now?

from JAMES LORMAN to everyone:

ok!

to JAMES LORMAN (privately):

Thanks, Jim - We can address your parking questions at the end of Dan's presentation as we move into the discussion section.

from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

I really like the walking path connection to So. Orchard St.

from Catherine Jagoe to everyone:

The tennis courts are definitely heavily used in the summer. Glad to see at least 3 retained here.

from Ann Rivlin to everyone:

I agree. I think the research being conducted is missing the tennis players.

from Catherine Jagoe to everyone:

So no skating at all in this plan?

to Catherine Jagoe (privately):

Not on the lagoons, it would be near the shelter



to Catherine Jagoe (privately):

there have been discussions about the ability of Parks to sustain ice on the lagoons as the client changes but it certainly has been address in the other concepts.

from Catherine Jagoe to everyone:

So on the lake itself?

from Ben Yahr to everyone:

And hockey rinks.

from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

Very little is gained by shrinking the parking by So. Orchard ST.

from Ann Rivlin to everyone:

Where in the feedback received for this project has pickle ball been suggested?

to Ann Rivlin (privately):

I beleive some of that direction came from Parks as part of an assessment of their programming but given previous comments we will likely review tennis as a need in the park

from Ann Rivlin (privately):

I would think so. There's significant demand for the Vilas tennis courts during the summer.

to JAMES LORMAN (privately):

sorry Jim, I grabbed the wrong comment. Yes, there is a potenal stormwater basin at the lot to meet current parking lot treatment guidelines

to JAMES LORMAN (privately):

I will address that next

to Wendy Fearnside (privately):

i saw you speaking wendy but didn't hear anything on our side

from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

I am aware that people can't hear me either on the cmputer or over the phone.

from Jason Valerius to everyone:

To Ben's point, the parking design could be deemphasized a bit in presentations, and we can also explain the foundational assumptions for this design process regarding parking.



from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

I like the expanded parking by Drake and Orchard Streets. I am concerned about parking and vehicular access dominating the area around the beach in Concepts B and C.

from KC to everyone:

We discussed the option of a shuttle with a remote parking lot. Do we have any update on this and how it might influence the design? I think the follow up document made it still an outstanding item. Sorry if I missed this in the presentation!

from Daniel Schmitt to everyone:

Casey- The Shuttle discussion has not been able to be explored due to Metro Transit's current focus on Bus Rapid Transit and specific programming is outside the overall scope of the master plan. Generally the initial comments from Metro were that it would be a possibility but would not likely allow for direct elimination of parking area if it was allowed, but could help reduce traffic flow as some cars would not need to enter the park to look for parking.

from KC to everyone:

Thanks!

from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

I agree with Ann regarding the need for a playground on the north side of the park. Also, people really want to keep the Shoe.

from Daniel Schmitt to everyone:

The shoe is meant to be included but is moved in each comment however doesn't show up for some reason. We can make sure those are highlighted

from Ann Rivlin to everyone:

Thank you--I was hoping that the remembrance garden would reflect the dedications on the benches. I thought eliminating the dedications would be traumatizing for the families.

from Ann Rivlin to everyone:

Why not break up the presentation? Have lagoon plans A, B, and C, Wingra overlook plans A, B, and C, etc. Rather than overall plans A, B, and C.

from Paul Dearlove to everyone:

I have to leave the meeting soon, so wanted to voice support for Concept B while I have the opportunity (ex: multi-use path off the lake edge, main beach house location, distribution/selection of amenities, etc.). That does not mean I wouldn't borrow ideas from the other design concepts. I am least enthused about Concept C for a number of reasons, but mostly because it maintains a prominent roadway right along the lake edge and disbursed parking.



from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

I would like to see mix and match options, including elements from the current park that are not included in the concepts and some additional ideas.

from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

I apologize, but I have now lost phone audio as well as audio on the computer.

from Ann Rivlin to everyone:

Is it possible to have the boardwalk plan in Concept B that also allows for ice skating?

from Ann Rivlin to everyone:

Does the opening to the lake in Concept A improve the health of the lagoon?

from Paul Dearlove to everyone:

I believe making an open-water connection between the main lake and the lagoon will only encourage carp spawning and do little to improve the health of the lake or the lagoons.

from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

I agree with Catherine about the different experience without traffic on the Drive, and would personally support eliminating the Drive in the plan. At our VNA meeting, however, people were concerned about the impact of traffic diverted to Drake St.

from Catherine Jagoe to everyone:

I think commuters would take Monroe to Regent instead, rather than taking smaller streets.

from Ann Rivlin to everyone:

I would think complaints about the current lack of access might provide some helpful information here.

from Catherine Jagoe to everyone:

Current traffic is taking Vilas Ave because they don't know the closure is there. But that would likely change if it was closed permanently.

from Paul Dearlove to everyone:

Will the chat comments be included as part of the input record?

from JAMES LORMAN to everyone:

as per Paul's question - can we get a copy of the actual chat comments?



from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

I will be presenting a summary of the concepts at our VNA Council meeting tonight, and asking some questions. I hope I have better luck with the format at that time!

from KC to everyone:

Is it possible to do a 3D Google Earth / Rendering of the shelter locations so people can get a sense of the views for any public input in the future?

from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

I am concerned about the shelter design, as Elver Park model is very far from the largely open and flexible concept that came up at our neighborhood meeting.

from Ben Yahr to everyone:

Can you clarify whether/how the plans you sent to this group can be shared with the public?

from Ann Rivlin to everyone:

I really think there needs to be a concept that retains a playground in the current shoe playground location.

from Jason Valerius to everyone:

James - I had one more comment about your question about parking lots and other paving near the water. There are two issues there - aesthetics and ecology, and we should consider both. We should be looking for opportunities to cleanse pavement runoff before it hits the water, whether that pavement is 20' or 100' away from the water.

from Jason Valerius to everyone:

thanks for the feedback, Ann

from Jason Valerius to everyone:

and everyone!

from Daniel Schmitt to everyone:

Thank you all for the feedback.

from Wendy Fearnside to everyone:

Question: Will the lagoon look like the park in Tennessee in any of the concepts. To me, that looks more like a nature park than like an urban park that provide open space, views and some limited access to nature.

from Jason Valerius to everyone:

meaning you like the more natural look, Wendy?



from Catherine Jagoe to everyone:

Ditto Tag's words! Thank you!