Schucks Road Community Input Meeting
Harford Technical High School Cafeteria
200 Thomas Run Road
Bel Air, MD 21015-1699
Monday, December 1, 2008 – 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Minutes

Those in Attendance: Rob Bailey, Recreation Specialist V, Parks & Recreation
John Easterling, Senior Associate, GWWO, Inc. / Architects
Stacy Fisher, Principal, Site Resources, Inc.
Ronald Kauffman, Facility Planner, Harford County Public Schools
Roxanne Lynch, Director, Government & Community Relations
Arden C. McClune, Chief, Capital Planning & Development, Parks & Recreation
Joseph E. Pfaff, Director, Parks & Recreation
Kathleen Sanner, Director, Planning & Construction, Harford County Public Schools
Richard C. Slutzky, Council District E
Jeff Stratmeyer, Engineering, Department of Public Works

Donna Bannon, 1701 Stephen's Place
Tom Barnaba, 702 Lanark Court
Rick & Dianna Battaglia, 504 Schucks Road
Tim Battaglia, 1314 Sweetbriar Lane
Mark & Valerie Bedsaul, 412 Schucks Road
Pat & Dean Bedsaul, 208 Schucks Road
Dennis & Eileen Clarke, 2409 Edwards Lane
Nick Conits, 423 St. John Street
Stacey & Aaron Crowl, 308 Schucks Road
Jamie Filiaggi, 1307 Christopher Court
Dan Hagan, 516 Hanna Way
Jesse Hall, 507 Schucks Road
Meghann & Eric Hoskins, 302 Schucks Road
Roland & Michele Jewett, 2205 Lyns Court
Michelle Labanowski, 860 Schucks Road
Kristen & Tom Long, 119 Schucks Road
Karen Long, 1413 Landis Circle
Jackie Ludwig, 2360 Edwards Lane
John Mallamo, 2402 Eagle View Drive
Len Nicewonger, 1215 Grimsby Court
Karen Otto, 1633 Schucks Road
Chris Streett, 820 Schucks Road
Dick Streett, 840 Schucks Road
Ken Their, 1334 Banyan Circle

Overview: Arden McClune, Chief of Capital Planning & Development, reported that the Schucks Road Park has been in the planning stages for about 4 years and that Harford County Department of Parks & Recreation and Harford County Public Schools are in partnership on the combined project of an elementary school and a recreation complex. The park will be in a central location to serve three (3) recreation councils, i.e., Hickory/Fountain Green, Forest Hill, and Emmorton who all contributed money to the parkland acquisition. The property was purchased in 2002 / 2003.

Introductions: Arden McClune introduced Joe Pfaff, Dave Goodwin, and Rob Bailey (Parks & Recreation staff), Kathy Sanner and Ron Kauffman (Harford County Public Schools staff), John Easterling, and Stacy Fisher.

Kathy Sanner reported on school site:

- The Red Pump school (tentative completion – 2010) will be used as the prototype to build the Schucks Road School
- Schucks Road School attendance & boundary areas are unknown at this time
- Schucks Road School layout:
  - Will not need to stack the school
  - Differences:
    - Red Pump School has Special Education program
    - Schucks Road School will have special programming for Autistic children
- The Schucks Road School site has some challenges:
  - The shape of the lot is uneven
  - The site is outside the public water & sewer area which is a very large permit issue. A pre-treatment plant on site will process waste before it is discharged.
- A roundabout will be shared by Parks & Recreation and the Board of Education property.
- The school site will have a level playing field and a playground. Most of the recreation functions will be located on the Parks & Recreation portion of the site.

Arden McClune reports on the recreation site (tentative completion August 2011):

- The 2 properties are separated by a stream. A bridge will be built to connect the two sites.
- A roundabout will be installed to slow the traffic on Schucks Road and eliminate left turns.
- The school facility and recreation facility will occupy the site at different times of the day which will help control traffic congestion.
- Long term plans include an indoor recreation center on the park site. This may include an indoor track and other recreation facilities and would be built when funding is available.

Stacy Fisher reports:

- The recreation park is identical to what was presented a couple of years ago to include tot lots, playground area, ball diamonds, and parking.
- A storm water management and septic system is planned to include private water & well.

Arden McClune reports on traffic solutions:

- Traffic is a major concern. To alleviate the problem at the Route 22 intersection, the following is planned:
  - Left turn lane would be lengthened.
  - Traffic study is being updated and DPW has been requested to do an additional intersection analysis for improvements.
  - DPW, Planning & Zoning, and Highways will review the traffic situation for road improvements.
  - The project has no plans to go south on Schucks Road towards Wheel Road.
- Updates to the public will be available as project moves along.
- Site plan approval from the County will be necessary.

Jeff Stratmeyer reports:

- Traffic remedy plans:
  - Right turn lane at Route 22.
  - Queuing lanes back up at the signal at Route 22
  - Harford Community College is planning to expand. The Department of Public Works will be working with Harford Community College, Parks & Recreation, Harford County Public Schools, and State Highways to try to correct the traffic problems at Route 22 with a more comprehensive improvement.
  - State Highways is already doing an analysis of Route 22 and Schucks Road.
- Drainage:
  - South end of Schucks Road:
    - In various areas, there is no crown and the ditches are too small

- A study is being done to see where the problems are. The topographic survey is complete and The Department of Public Works will schedule a community meeting in January or February to seek input on the drainage concerns prior to moving forward with the design.
- Will look into the culvert on Edwards Lane. The culvert on Edwards Lane will be upgraded in conjunction with the culvert on Schucks Road just to the north of Edwards Lane. This project is just beginning design.

Community Concerns:

- Traffic & Speeders

  Response
  - Jeff Stratmeyer reported that community opposition prevented widening Route 22 in the late 1970s / early 1980s.
  - Looking to widen Thomas Run Road to handle additional traffic from the expanded Harford Community College.
  - Jeff Stratmeyer will check to determine if the bridge will be widened? The culvert (bridge) just to the south of the property was repaired approximately two years ago. While narrow, the width is adequate for this category roadway and there are no current plans to reconstruct it.
  - The traffic study will involve the roundabout location on Schucks Road, Prospect Mill Road & Route 136, and the Wheel Road intersection.
  - The roundabout may deter speeders.
  - Jeff Stratmeyer has contacted the Sheriff's Department and requested increased patrols along Schucks Road. They are concerned about the safety of both their officers and the public because there are no shoulders along the roadway and limited areas to pull offenders over. Regardless, they understand the concerns and will try to oblige the request as best they can.
- Drainage

  Response
  - The waste coming from the school is pretreated.
  - Experts will determine if the volume of water is too excessive for the site.
  - Jeff Stratmeyer plans to create a larger side ditch on Schucks Road to channel the water.
  - Storm Water Management should ensure that the drainage problem is not made worse by the school and park development. The stormwater management facilities will be sized to handle the 2, 10 & 100 storms.
- Roundabout; infringing on private property

  Response
  - The septic reserve prevents two entrances.
  - Cannot have access to site off Route 22 since there is a private property between Route 22 and the site.
  - Jeff Stratmeyer reported that the roundabout cannot be moved too close to Route 22 and that it is already off center away from private property.
  - Arden McClune reported that she would attempt to have the roundabout adjusted to minimize impact on the properties on opposite side of the road.
- Too many schools already in the area

  Response
  - Harford County Public Schools does not want to bring children up Schucks Road to get to school.
  - Finding classrooms for children is becoming increasingly more difficult.
  - Property is becoming more expensive.
  - The alternative to building another school would be to teach children in portable classrooms.
- Why can't extensions be added to the existing schools?

  Response
  - The schools are already very large and the sites would not support the extra construction.
  - Harford County Public Schools explores all the issues before making the decision to build a new school.
- School Boundaries: What studies have been done to shift children to other schools

  Response
  - Kathy Sanner reported that the criteria used to determine the need for redistricting:
    - Length of the bus ride for the children.
    - Cost of bussing for long distances.
    - Geographic studies.

- Left hand turn signals are not activated on Route 22 & not long enough
  Response
  - This is a State Highway issue.
  - Jeff Stratmeyer will check on this.
  - Jeff Stratmeyer has contacted SHA and they are checking with their signal shop. As of the writing of these minutes, he has not received a response but will continue pushing this issue.
- Route 136 & Schucks Road – 200-acre farm is future school site
  Response
  - Kathy Sanner reported that this is a rumor. Harford County Public School has not been advised of this as a potential site.
- Perc tests continue to fail for property owners. How is it the school's perc test passed?
  Response
  - Stacy Fisher reported that perc tests can be variable even within one parcel. The site has passed Health Department standards for perc in the areas proposed.
- Will there be field lights?
  Response
  - No field lights are planned at this point. If the recreation councils desire lights, they would need to raise money to install and operate lighting.
  - There will be lights on the parking lots for safety reasons.
- Will there be a restroom facility?
  Response
  - Initially, port-a-pots will be placed at the site with a restroom storage building or indoor recreation center erected in the future.
- Will the liquor store remain?
  Response
  - Kathy Sanner reported that, by law, since the liquor store was there before the school site it may remain.
- Why wasn't all the property on the school site purchased by the County?
  Response
  - Arden McClune replied that the County only purchases property that is offered to them.
  - Len Nicewonger reported that he was instrumental in acquiring the property for the school and recreation site. Hickory/Fountain Green, Forest Hill and Emmorton Recreations paid a considerable amount of money towards the purchase.
- BRAC – Estimated date 2011
  - Kathy Sanner reported that the State does not consider students which may move to Harford County as a result of BRAC at this time.
- Wildlife Preservation
  Response
  - Very little of the existing forest on the properties will be removed. Additional trees will be planted along the stream valley to provide habitat. There will be other landscaping on the property
- Trees planted on private property adjoining site
  Response
  - Plantings and fencing will be installed around the private property closest to the site.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Development Advisory Committee Meeting, January 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 220 S. Main Street in the second floor conference room.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Sapp