

Meeting Minutes

Youth Focus Group Meeting
JMT Project No. 22-02994-001

PARTICIPANTS

Benjamin Reed, Abby Lewis, Reagan Ward, Dajan Ahluwalia, Annamarie Radzinski, and Juliana Burke

Planning Team: Monica Tierney, CPRE, MBA; Andrew Mears, PLA of JMT; and Ann Toole, CPRP, of Toole Recreation Planning

PURPOSE

To obtain input from teens regarding Macclesfield Park

MEETING REPORT

1. **Welcome** - Monica Tierney welcomed the participants and explained the project purpose.
2. **Project Overview** - Andrew Mears introduced the team. He explained the process. Today is all about listening to the participants. Ann Toole looking at operations, programming, financing, and maintenance. Neil Beach is our transportation engineer. We have other professionals to help on this project.
3. **Master Plan** – We are focusing on optimal park uses, how to solve problems, what to add or change, or move facilities to other parks. We did a site analysis to observe existing conditions to make sure that any investments meet community needs and address any problems. The next step is drawings, seeking funding, and construction. All this takes time.
4. **Engagement** – We have talked with sports, neighbors, appointed and advisory committee, undertaking focus groups. Today we spoke to a group of seniors.
5. **Sports Field Analysis** – The question is accommodating use and estimating future needs.
6. **Key Person Interviews** – Study Committee includes neighbor, park and rec, sports, township, and others to help with the process. They have given us names of others that we should talk with.
7. **Public Meeting** will be coming up and will be promoted.

DISCUSSION

- All view Macclesfield as an athletic complex not a park.
- Discussion
 - Group: “The restrooms are nasty.”
 - Group: Turf field is only lined for soccer. The high school is lined for everything. Field hockey players were told to leave the field by YMS coaches. YMS coaches sent letter to the Pennsbury AD that they can’t use the field. AD told them not to use the field.
 - Ben said it’s a public park and everyone should be able to use it.
 - Any thoughts on lights? Group likes to have them.
 - Students took AP Environmental and understand stormwater management.
 - Parking discussion: Backing out is a problem, safety issue, slows things down. Group says not enough spaces. Peoples park on the grass. Parking is where no one wants to be.
 - Circulation: One way to two way needs correction.
 - Dogs: Off leash. People are afraid of dogs.
 - Volleyball courts aren’t maintained so they’re not used. Monica Tierney: they need to be dug out.
 - Playground is bad and never changed in their lifetime.
 - Andy Mears described the sports field input. We’re trying to balance league needs with public interests and needs.
 - Group: Have more shade. Not anything to do there. No interest in soccer. Have pavilions for homework, hanging out. Fitness equipment. Outdoor gym.
 - Group: Uses for other opportunities while sports are underway.
 - Group: No enforcement of rules.
 - Group: Make site accessible.
 - Group: No skate park. People would go there. Make it accessible for kids here.
 - Group: the park is geared to a specific group of organized sports
 - Group: Connect easier to the canal
 - Group: Go to Tyler. It has a lot of options. Core Creek. Water bodies for kayaking.
 - Group: Putting green. Lax. Rugby. Ultimate frisbee. Basketball courts. Field hockey.
 - Group: Park is good when you’re little and play soccer. It would not be designed all around sports. In the summer,
 - Programs and activities: movies, concerts, 5K, tween night. Fitness activities with programs.
 - AM – Everyone comes here for soccer. You are trapped here if you’re not playing the game.
 - Ben: Have things going on throughout the day.
 - Food: Interest in that. Food Trucks. Farmers Market is a good idea. Water ice truck.
- **If you could change on thing:**
 - Make turf field multi-use
 - Events like weekend movies.
 - Have an event once a month- dance, 5K, concert. Movie/picnic thing.
 - Perimeter trail.
 - Programming

The above represents a true and accurate account of the discussion during this meeting to the best of my knowledge. If there are any conflicts, misrepresentations, or omissions with the above statements, please contact the undersigned within ten (10) days of this date.



Andrew A. Mears

04.18.2023

Date

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LMT
Project File

Attachment

The following the meeting students spoke to friends and provided the following additional comments.

From: Abby Lewis
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:32 PM
To: Elizabeth Lawson
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: More park suggestions

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I asked some of my friends for ideas for the park and here are some things we didn't say:

Bike racks, trash bags for dog poop/dog stations

They also said pavilions and sitting areas like we said