



**Green Initiatives Team  
Meeting Minutes  
August 4, 2014  
6pm**

GIT in attendance: Alderman Kelly Russell, Dave Schmidt, Emilee van Norden, Renee Bourassa, Phil LeBlanc, Ginny Sulcer, and Jenny Willoughby

1. The GIT welcomed new member Renee Bourassa.
2. Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Roelkey Myers gave a presentation about the concept plan for Westside Regional Park. The property is 148 acres, some of which has been dedicated for a school. The remaining acreage might include 11 multi-purpose fields, one of which might be a stadium. In addition, an indoor aquatic center and outdoor splash park might be located along Butterfly Lane. Multi-use paths would go around the perimeter of the park and through some forested areas, which could link up to become 5K or 10K tracks for larger races. Several large pavilions are scattered throughout the open spaces. There also might be several tot lots and an option for an adventure park that could include climbing wall and ropes course.

Audience members discussed the pool and the benefits to the local schools. The new high school that will replace the existing West Frederick HS will not include a pool. The existing high school has one. Audience members were interested in who might partner with the City to construct the pool. Frederick County Public Schools and Frederick County were mentioned as potential partners. In addition, Mr. Myers stated that the pool design might model Germantown's regional pool. An audience member suggested that it be modeled more after some of the college pools so it could contain more seating and allow for more spectators, which could attract larger events and bring more money to the park and to Frederick.

Parking and access to the park along Butterfly Lane was discussed at length. Residents in the area were concerned that the park would increase traffic along Butterfly and that it would be dangerous to cross the street to access the park. Mr. Myers stated that the City traffic engineer would conduct studies to determine the best solutions.

The ten-foot wide path was also discussed. Mr. Myers said that the paths could be configured to accommodate 5K and 10K races and that it would help alleviate some of the pressure in Baker Park and provide an alternate venue for running events.

An audience member suggested the park be dedicated to veterans, in particular those who served after the Vietnam War. He mentioned that the City's current war memorial does not include those service members and that it would be good for the community to dedicate this space to them. He mentioned naming the trails or dedicating a space for a wall or other structure to memorialize them.

An audience member asked about the existing community gardens on the farm and what would happen to them. Mr. Myers explained that those gardens would no longer be supported. The audience member asked if the small piece of the park on the opposite side of Butterfly Lane that was not on the plan to be developed might be used as community garden space. Mr. Myers said that was a possibility.

Mr. Myers discussed the fields and their potential for being Astroturf instead of traditional grass fields. He said that the benefits of Astroturf are that the fields will not be closed because of flooding issues, nor will they close because of overuse. In addition, the Astroturf fields might qualify for stormwater credits because of the substantial underdrain systems they contain. Each field costs approximately \$1 million to build and its top carpet must be replaced every ten years, and would cost significantly less than \$1 million. The underdrain system would not need to be replaced for many years.

Overall funding for the park was discussed. The cost to build the park as planned would cost \$51 million in today's dollars. There is no timeline nor is it clear if the park would be built in phases and how those phases would progress. In addition, the City needs to identify regional partners to help fund the park.

GIT member Renee Bourassa asked if pervious concrete was a possibility in the parking areas and Mr. Myers said that it was. Additional sustainability topics were raised such as the potential for solar on top of the aquatic center, solar over the parking areas, and LED and dark-sky compliant lighting for the fields.

3. Sustainable Maryland has requested email addresses for the GIT. Jenny mentioned that she would like to know who would like to receive them so she can forward the names to Mike Hunninghake of Sustainable Maryland. The group sends out emails once or twice per month and Frederick is a certified Sustainable Maryland community.
4. Jenny reviewed on-going projects. The UMD PALS program will have a kick-off here in Frederick on September 24. More details to come. The Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant is progressing smoothly. Energy efficiency and petroleum reduction policies have been submitted to the City's legal department for formatting and review. The urban tree canopy project will

begin September 17 with tree identification sessions and will run every Wednesday from 6-8 pm through October 15. Anyone who would like to help with the homeowner tree inventory project is welcome to attend. The Solar RFI project will be specifically geared to the airport only, with Emilee van Norden and Emily Hansroth guiding that project. The City may explore a solar power purchase agreement (PPA) with guidance from GIT. The electric vehicle charging stations have been discussed with the transportation planner, electrician, and parking staff. No decision was made about where the stations would be placed, how people would pay (or if they would pay), nor if the stations would be managed by an outside entity. GIT will revisit in the coming months. Transportation Planner Tim Davis will be collecting bicycle and pedestrian data October 7th and 9<sup>th</sup> 6-9 am and 3-6pm. Anyone can volunteer and may sign up by emailing Tim ([tdavis@cityoffrederick.com](mailto:tdavis@cityoffrederick.com)). Alderman Russell continues to work on the Butt Ugly campaign, but there has been no further work since last month.

5. The draft Sustainability Master Plan Challenges section was sent out to the GIT members. Jenny requests review and comment as soon as possible so she can present it to the Mayor and Board for a workshop in September. Policies and actions will follow in subsequent months.
6. There were no new topics presented.

The meeting was adjourned.