

Memorandum of Meeting

October 15, 2012, 8:30 AM

Location: Americana Park

Topic: Cross County Trail in Wakefield Park Project

Participants:

- Park Authority Board Members: Marie Reinsdorf, Anthony Vellucci
- Park Authority: David Bowden, Kirk Holley, Elizabeth Cronauer, Thomas McFarland, Charles Smith,
- DPWES: Ron Tuttle
- Friends of Accotink Creek: Suzy Foster, Philip Latasa



Tom McFarland outlined the project planned for the CCT in Americana Park, namely paving the unpaved segment running behind the outfield. The segment is currently a problem because it runs through a low spot with issues of standing water and mud and is perplexing to trail users.

Suzy Foster and Philip Latasa voiced concerns that paving without mitigation contributes to the decline of nearby Accotink Creek and other impaired county waterways and offered suggestions for alternate routing without new paving or for project enhancements, such as rain gardens, with both stormwater control and educational value.

Rosemary Ryan suggested grants from Fluor/Transurban or Dominion Power might fund such enhancements. Ron Tuttle advised that DPWES has funds which could be used for this purpose.

Led by Rosemary Ryan, consensus formed around the idea of retaining the original routing and paving plan, but converting it into two parts, with the PA and DPWES cooperating to incorporate bioretention. Ron Tuttle and Charles Smith launched into back-of-the-envelope engineering visions on the spot.

The location of Americana Park provides another opportunity to continue and expand on the model of PA and DPWES working cooperatively on projects to incorporate enhanced environmentally beneficial stormwater management as part of park projects and as stand-alone projects on park land. Such a partnership both enhances stewardship of natural resources and provides the financial benefit of consolidating projects that might otherwise progress in isolation or even in conflict.

Rosemary Ryan is to get in touch with the neighboring community/civic association if any, and Tom McFarland is to get in touch with the Little League to let them know of the plans.

The meeting broke up into informal discussion groups, so please advise if I've missed something significant.

After most participants had to depart, Tony Vellucci, Kirk Holley, Liz Cronauer, Tom McFarland, and Philip Latasa walked south on the CCT to review another phase of the planned projects – rerouting, bridge installation, and paving at Mockingbird Drive. This segment of the CCT is a problem because of the difficulty of the current tributary crossing and the frequent washouts of the gravel trail surface. Tony Vellucci offered the suggestion of rail fencing to discourage some of the habitat degradation caused by short-cutting bikers here. Mitigation was discussed only in theory.

Returning to Americana Park, this group of participants also briefly looked at a possible CCT routing behind the dugout and at a blockage in Accotink Creek that potentially will cause erosion issues for the ballfield. Kirk Holley also envisioned incorporating a bioretention swale beside the parking lot into the Americana CCT project.

As an epilogue, Liz Cronauer and Philip Latasa walked north on the CCT and discovered Fluor/Transurban has recently buried the prime route for a north side CCT-to-236 connection under a mountain of soil. Liz Cronauer will be in touch with Fluor/Transurban about repairing equipment damage to the CCT and revegetation in the area of the interchange.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek