

## MEETING SUMMARY

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To: Edison Park Improvements Project File  
From: Shannon Clark Early  
Date: 3.8.17  
RE: 3.8.17 Scoping Meeting with Arlington Forest Community

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On Wednesday, March 8, 2017, DPR held the second public meeting to discuss scoping the park improvements to Edison Park in Arlington Forest. Funding date TBD based on the amount/budgets of projects that get approved.

### **DPR Staff Attendees:**

Shannon Clark Early, Landscape Architect  
Wilfredo Calderon, Community Relations Manager

### **Community Attendees:**

Over 70: see attendance sheets.

## **1. Overview**

Staff went over the ground rules for the meeting and the overall agenda. Staff then presented the project overview and existing conditions.

The goal of this meeting is to establish a final scope for Edison Park so we can move this project forward. A project scope is a reasonable list of proposed park amenities that the community would like to see included in the park project. I would like to emphasize that this is scoping phase not the design phase. We will not be selecting specific play elements or site furniture. At the end of this there will be a bubble diagram not a final design plan.

- 1) We hold 2 scoping meetings in order to select a project scope and develop a concept plan through Community consensus.
- 2) Consensus means a clear majority of the community can live with it. It does not mean that everyone agrees that this is the absolute best choice. We will never have everyone in 100% agreement. Scope elements that do not receive a clear majority will not move forward.
- 3) Neighborhood Conservation is run through the Civic Associations. The final concept plan, scope and cost estimate will be presented to the Arlington Forest Civic Association for a final vote. They will determine if the project fits their NC plan and moves forward.
- 4) Assuming the project is funded then it moves to the back of our project queue until we are ready to begin the design phase. This will either go to the Spring 2017 or Fall

2017 funding round. Once a project is funded, we cannot add additional elements to the project scope.

## **2. Existing Conditions/Site Constraints**

Edison Park is a small, quarter-acre, neighborhood park featuring a tot lot and swings for both 2-5 and 5-12 age groups.

All of the park amenities including the frontage fence have reached the end of their life span.

There is one of several maintenance entrances to the natural side of Lubber Run Park and is crucial to weather emergency remediation – removing or addressing downed trees.

Any improvements to the park will have to include stormwater management to address both runoff from the park itself and runoff from the road and surrounding Community.

The rear of the park is prone to erosion and is within the RPA. All park improvements will be outside the RPA to reduce erosion and to protect Lubber Run. As a consequence, the footprint of the new amenities will not be large.

## **3. Exercise**

Staff divided up the crowd into 5 groups. Each group received a base map of the park and an envelope with to scale scoping elements including a tot lot, picnic, storm water management, basketball court, swings, climber, school age playground, climber and zip line. Every group had 15 minutes to decide which elements they prioritized to include given the spatial limitations of the park. No park elements could be located in the RPA, each group had to include stormwater management and the existing maintenance access road had to be left in its current location. Staff went around the room and answered questions about the exercise. Following a robust discussion, a spokesperson from each table presented their park scope to the room at large.

## **4. Scoping Elements – Discussion and Community Input**

Following the presentations, Staff went over the elements that each group included and opened the room up for a group discussion over what should be included in the overall park scope.

5 out of 5 of the groups included swings. The Community agreed that swings should be included in the final park scope. There were no dissenters.

Only 1 of the 5 groups included picnic facilities. There was some discussion as to whether we could put picnic tables on the green space in the RPA. While that is possible they would not be accessible and if they were to exist then accessible tables would also be required by Federal law. It was determined that one or two accessible tables should be included in the overall site furnishings if possible but that a dedicated picnic space was not a priority and would not be included in the project scope. Everyone did agree that new site furnishings should be included. There were no dissenters.

4 out of 5 groups included a tot lot in their plan. When asked if everyone could agree to a tot lot there was discussion as to whether a 5-12 play area would make more sense since younger children could also play on that facility. Park staff explained that play equipment for 5-12 year-olds was designed intentionally for that age group and that it was not safe for 2-5 year-olds to play on it. 2-5 year-old play equipment requires less upper body strength and has different sized members to complement a younger child's frame and center of gravity. A 5-12 play area is not a substitute for a tot lot.

5 out of 5 groups included play equipment for 5-12 year-olds. 2 groups chose a school age playground and 3 groups chose an age specific climber. Everyone agreed that there should be something for this age group. The compromise was that there should be both a tot lot and a school age playground but that both would be on the smaller in order to accommodate both facilities. The school age equipment should include some sort of climbing feature but not necessarily be just a large climber. Everyone agreed to this compromise. When asked, no one had any issues with this.

This is the final scope as determined through Community consensus:

1. Swings
2. Storm Water Management
3. ADA compliance (accessibility)
4. New Fence
5. New Site Furnishings
6. Small sized tot lot
7. Small sized play area for school aged children with priority to climbing features

## **5. Next Steps & Follow Up**

County staff will take the scope back to the office and finalize the concept plan and budget for presentation to the civic association. The Civic Association will have a final vote as to whether or not to forward this project for funding.