

Minutes

Bowie Race Track Property Task Force, Meeting #2

Kenhill Center, Multi-Purpose Room

October 27, 2022

6:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order -- 6:34pm. Chairman Robert W. Day, Sr. called the meeting to order. All Task Force members were present except Mayor Tim Adams and Councilmember Ingrid Harrison, who were excused.

- II. Approval of Minutes of September 29, 2022 – Chair Robert W. Day, Sr asked for a volunteer to take minutes at future meetings. Chair Day asked each of the Subcommittees to take notes independently for use in preparation of meeting minutes. Karin Taschenberger moved approval of the September 29th minutes, as written. Mr. Karl Stehmer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- III. Discuss/finalize criteria for making decisions about Proposed Uses for the site (Jim Klein)
 - Jim Klein made a few track changes to be more comprehensive of both BSU and City needs, as well as enhanced environmental conditions and property management.
 - Motion to approve – Abby Snyder; Charles McIntosh second. Approved Unanimously.

- IV. Discuss/finalize comments on proposed questionnaire (Jim Klein)
 - Jim Klein made track changes to shorten the introduction before the questionnaire.
 - This is to characterize who will use the property, the weight of the answers will be determined later.
 - Question 1 – Changing to “Do you attend or work at Bowie State?” And then make a second, separate question for “Where do you live?”
 - I live in Bowie in a neighborhood adjacent.
 - I live in Bowie but not in a neighborhood adjacent.
 - I attend Bowie State and reside on campus.
 - I live outside of Bowie but do not attend or work at Bowie State.
 - Question 5 – Text from up front with General Assembly language was moved to give parameters and context to this question. Remove “indoor swimming pool” and “splash park,” and add “outdoor classroom.”
 - Question 6 – Removed “for BSU” regarding environmental options in the responses and changed it to “students.”

- The questionnaire will be open two weeks before the public meeting and two weeks after (11/19-12/20). Outreach will be done if certain niche groups are not responding.
- Motion to approve – Michelle Balfe; Karen Johnson-Shaheed second. Approved Unanimously.

V. Discussion about upcoming Community Meeting #1 (Jim Klein)

- December 3rd at BSU – 9am-12pm
- Task force members should plan to attend and help facilitate.
- Will set it up as a registration format – so as to not exceed 100 people.
- Virtual workshop would be the week after.
 - Week of 11/7 – save the date
 - 11/14 – questionnaire posted with QR code
 - 11/21 publicity for meeting
 - 11/28 – reminder emails/social media
 - 12/3 – actual workshop
- Una will work with BSU to create a draft press release. Could make a short video, will go to HOAs, City Committees, SGA, etc.
 - Raised concerns around publicity the week of Thanksgiving.
 - Also, the 7th is coming up rather quickly for Save the Date
- Minimum age? Could use as community service hours for 16 & 17 year-olds

VI. Initial discussion of proposed uses for the site

- Focus on where we can share the same usage on both sides.
- Logistics:
 - 180.84 acre property
 - River Bank – must be 100 ft of buffer for passive recreation
 - 50,000 square feet in floor area for structure
 - Things like pavilions will not be classified as structures.
 - ROTC ropes course – less than 4 acres – outside obstacle course.
- Potentially reuse the indoor walking track that was used for horses as a walking space with history of race track.
- Greenhouses, community gardening plots, continue WB&A trail to have the landing spot be the race track, space for composting, research space for teaching, botanical garden.
- Include native plants
- Partnerships between community and university through community garden.

- Build the structure sustainably – like CBF building – to model for the community.
- Soccer fields, basketball courts, football fields, etc.
- Richard T. Collins ROTC Course
- Passive land – kayak launch, rentals, etc. Boardwalk-type structure? Maintain habitat in this area, and work with DNR to get a forest management plan for this parcel (only needs to be 5 continuous acres).
- Adaptable sports fields – have to be turf.
- Space for “flea market” – larger events that don’t really fit at allen pond anymore.
- Keep the covered bridge!
- Need to consider parking – permeable surfaces as opposed to asphalt
- Restrooms, storage buildings
- Picnic facilities, covered
- Tribute to history of the site
- Athletic running track
- Ampitheatre/event space
- Indoor space for fitness classes

The Task Force discussed potential funding. Ms. Sonja Ewing, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission representative, advised that a County Planning Board briefing should be included in the overall timeline. Ms. Ewing quoted from a list of County recreation needs resulting from a recent assessment. She directed the Task Force to the Youtube recording of the Blue Ribbon Work Group which is investigating future Countywide recreation options and potential organizational changes to County government agencies providing recreation services. (The Blue Ribbon Work Group website is: bit.ly/PGCRecreationWorkGroup).

VII. Any other business

- Creating a space for our group to share ideas and thoughts (like a google drive). The Planning Department agreed to provide a format for this communication.

VIII. Next meeting date – The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m. (Minutes prepared by Jordann Montoya, Tylen Perpall, Jim Klein, Joe Meinert and Abby Snyder.)