

**New Castle County
Parks Task Force**

**Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2017
6:30 PM**

**Gilliam Building Multi-Purpose Room
67 Reads Way, New Castle, DE 19720**

Attendees:

Parks Task Force Members

Ed O'Donnell, Chair
Romain Alexander
Peggy Schultz
Lorraine Fleming
Arabella Bianco
David Carter
Robert Ehemann
Aaron Blythe
Councilman Tim Sheldon

New Castle County

Aundrea Almond
Jane Rattenni
Tracy Surles
Mike Bowser
Marcus Henry

Public

Kendall Sommers
Trish Tatnall
Gary Warren

Materials guiding meeting discussion:

Location Subcommittee Update #1 – NCC Parks Planning in MOT.pdf
NCC Parks – Amenities Final.pptx
The files are located in a Dropbox folder at <https://tinyurl.com/yd6zsru5>

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting called to order by chair Ed O'Donnell at 6:35 p.m.
- Introduction of members of the taskforce

II. Approval of August 23rd Minutes

- Peggy Schultz moved to approve the minutes of the August, 23rd 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Ehemann and approved.

III. Report from the "Location" Subcommittee

- Location Subcommittee presentation by Robert Ehemann and Dave Carter.

- Dave Carter emphasized the importance of building on existing parks by other jurisdictions and potential partnerships.
- Aundrea Almond updated the taskforce on the upcoming RFP for Middletown Sports Complex.
- Councilman Sheldon – we need to make sure the county offer sports amenities to the public and families not only teams.
- Dave Carter – expressed the need for more public input and engagement in the process.
- Councilman Sheldon – request more information on the following
 - o What are the public access limitations on fields in the Town of Middletown?
 - o How many playing fields can be developed on Wiggins Mill Park without requiring a road improvement?
 - o What is the distance between the newer MOT developments? (Village of Bayberry, Town of Whitehall, Parkside)
 - o What is the timeline and budget for developing parks in southern New Castle County?
 - o What are would the impact of a park located at Water Farm 2 be to our sewer department?
- Arron Blythe emphasized the importance of a phased approach to bring important amenities quicker to the communities.
- Tracy Surles updated the task force on the capacity of the Water Farm 2 site.

IV. Report from the “Amenities” Subcommittee

- Amenities Subcommittee presentation by Aaron Blythe.

V. Discussion

- Arabella Bianco and Lorraine Fleming expressed the need to examine the possibility of reestablishing a Parks Department.
- Peggy Shultz – Make sure any park development is accessible to low-income communities and they are involved in public input process.
- Ed O’Donnell and others expressed the need for the next meeting to be focused on public input.

VI. Decide on next meeting

- Next meeting will in October after a doodlepoll is conducted to determine member availability.

VII. Public Comment

- Gary Warren – examine the current amenities and determine who has expressed interest in new amenities and address those first.

VIII. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.