

**New Castle County  
Parks Task Force**

**Minutes of Meeting  
Thursday, October 16, 2017  
6:00 PM  
Appoquinimink Public Library  
651 N. Broad St., Middletown, DE 19709**

**Attendees:**

Parks Task Force Members

Ed O'Donnell, Chair  
Diane Baker  
Arabella Bianco  
Aaron Blythe  
David Carter  
Robert Ehemann  
Lorraine Fleming  
Patrick Omany  
Peggy Schultz  
Timothy Sheldon

New Castle County

Matthew Meyer  
Aundrea Almond  
Tracy Surles  
Mike Bowser  
Marcus Henry  
Kendall Sommers

Public

Sign-in sheet

Materials guiding meeting discussion:

- The files are located in a Dropbox folder at <https://tinyurl.com/yd6zsru5>
- Video recording of the meeting can be found at <https://facebook.com/nccde>

**I. Welcome and Introduction to the work of the Task Force**

- Meeting called to order by chair Ed O'Donnell at 6:02 p.m.
- Introduction of the members and objectives of the task force

**II. Approval of September 18th Minutes**

- Lorraine Fleming moved to approve the minutes of the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Diane Baker and approved.

**III. Public Comment: Residents' perspectives on Southern New Castle County park needs**

- A summary document of public input and comments is attached and can be found in the Dropbox folder.

- County Executive Meyer provided an overview on the purpose of the task force and his vision for more parks in Southern New Castle County.
- Kendall Sommers provided an overview on the public input and survey process completed by the DE Division of Parks and Recreation.
- Dave Carter emphasized the importance for a central gathering point for the entire MOT community.

**IV. Discussion on questions from 9/18/17 meeting**

- Tracy Surles addressed questions from the task force.
- Dave Carter requested more information on updated treatment numbers at full build out for Water Farm 2.

**V. Decide on next meeting**

- The next meeting will on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Appoquinimink Public Library.

**VI. Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

## 10-16-17 Parks Task Force Public Input

- Bayberry North – park would lead to congestion and crime. Already have a “private park”.
- Separate athletic fields from other amenities. Parking for each conflict.
- Walking, biking, and public transportation is important to consider for those who don’t have access to a vehicle.
- Will any amenities cater to children of all abilities?
- Marl Pit Road is central to growth.
- Needs should be basis for how big a new park is.
- Farm and playground were presented as a selling point for residents in Bayberry.
- Build a pavilion at Wiggins Mill for 4H and agriculture activities. Agriculture is important and largest industry in Delaware.
- All possibilities for public/private partnerships should be explored.
- A bandshell or stage
- 55+ communities are growing – have amenities for all ages
- An inclusive playground
- Put new park in high density area(s)