

Sussmann, Heidi

To: Melanie Mullaney
Subject: RE: Proposed Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hello Melanie,

Thank you for your interest in Seneca Crossing Local Park. This will be a very exciting new park.

I am sorry you will be unable to attend the meeting. We have a website link to our CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) and the project will be listed there and updated as plans are developed for it. The link =

<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/projects/list/shtm>

The four initial concepts are not plans we are proposing, but are concepts to illustrate what might feasibly fit onto the site and to spark ideas at the meeting for features to include in the park, so that the Consultant can next begin to prepare their alternative plans for the park. The plans that the Consultant will prepare will be placed on the website, once done, and will be based on community input and needs in the area and will be drawn on accurate topographic survey (versus the concepts that are on GIS). If you have any specific ideas about the park (things you would like to see or not like to see), please forward them to me. I am starting to receive some ideas from people already.

Thank you again,
Heidi Sussmann

From: Melanie Mullaney [mailto:aatmom@msn.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2010 1:31 PM

To: Sussmann, Heidi

Subject: Proposed Seneca Crossing Local Park

Dear Ms Sussmann,

I am a Homeowner in Seneca Crossing. I am very interested in obtaining information regarding the proposed New Seneca Crossing Local Park. Unfortunately, I will be out of town on February 11, 2010. Is there a link / web site in which I could view the 4 proposed concepts you will be presenting at the meeting.

I would be very interested in becoming involved with this project.

Thanks,

Melanie Mullaney
Homeowner on Seneca Forest Cir

Sussmann, Heidi

To: Tech Cheng
Subject: RE: Seneca crossing local park ideas

Hello Tech Cheng,

I like this idea a lot! I also used to play (practice) against a wall and tennis is a GREAT sport, and also cost affordable for so many people. I hope you are able to attend the upcoming meeting. All ideas (written or during meeting(s)) are being collected in preparation for design of future alternative plans that will be brought back at the second public meeting.

Thank you

Heidi Sussmann

From: Tech Cheng [mailto:techcheng_vs@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 8:24 PM

To: Sussmann, Heidi

Subject: Re: Seneca crossing local park ideas

Heidi

I understand about lighted tennis courts but if possible a half court with a concrete tennis wall. I taught myself the game practicing on a wall for better than a yr and it's gotten to me be able to teach tennis as a profession. I feel a wall is a great practicing tool for any level. Thanks for allowing to give input. When would the park open? 2012?

Thx

Tech Cheng

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 15, 2010, at 4:32 PM, "Sussmann, Heidi" <Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org> wrote:

Hello Tech Cheng,

Thank you very much for your ideas. We know skate-parks are in current demand, and, actually now seeing tennis interest back on the rise too. We have had a lot of tennis courts that have been underused for awhile which is strange to me because it is such a great sport and low cost too. We will have to think more about the lighting issue. Our local parks are not lighted for any night use as a general policy.

I will keep all your comments and they will be compiled for the Consultant to next prepare alternative plans. If I receive a lot of other comments via email, I'll summarize the comments from those who could not attend during the meeting, for those who are there.

Thank you again, and there will be more public meeting opportunities in the future. The next meeting the Consultant will present +- 4 detailed alternatives for the park. This coming meeting we'll show concepts to illustrate some ideas and how they might fit on the site.

Please call/email with any more ideas or questions.

Heidi Sussmann

301-495-2547

From: Tech Cheng [mailto:techcheng_vs@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 3:56 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Seneca crossing local park ideas

Hello Ms/Mrs Sussman,

I recieved the public notice about the community meeting for the Seneca crossing local park proposal for input and ideas. Unfortunately I cannot make the meeting 2/11/10. I wanted to pass you some ideas I had for the park. I would like to see 4-6 lighted tennis courts and a skate park if there's room and money.

I see a lot of kids skateboarding around the neighborhood her by Sally ride elementary school and I saw a skatepark in Mt Airy which is always busy in the simmer when I go pass to the golf course. I grew up in montgomery village playing tennis and my friends and siblings and I have always liked the fact that there were lighted tennis courts at night to practice/play. From my knowledge there's two places with lighted tennis courts around germantown-other than Montgomery village, Damascus park and 2 cts next to clarksburg high school. I know Jack shore and associates are planning a year round facility by the Germantown soccerplex but that's the other side of Germantown. These are my two thoughts and hopefully the park is up and running within the next couple of years. Btw, if you decide on building tennis courts or need tennis courts serviced please let me know as one of my friends has a tennis court construction business.

Thanks you and have a good weekend.

Tech Cheng
Resident @ 21239 hickory forest way in Seneca crossing.

Sent from my iPhone

Sussmann, Heidi

To: Judi
Subject: RE: seneca crossing local park

Hello Judi,

I hope that most who come to the meeting will be open to putting forward their ideas for the park, as it is a real opportunity for something nice. The Consultant has a very good (fun) process of getting everyone to participate. The important thing to think about is that the initial concepts are only illustrations of some of the things that can fit on the site, and how they might fit. It can sometimes be kind of dry to just use words for ideas in a meeting, and illustrations of some of the many possible candidates can be helpful in order to generate more ideas. For example just one feature that is illustrated is a community garden, and I noticed your email says 'garlic at my garden'.

I really hope you are able to attend. There will be another meeting in the future where the Consultant will show 3 to 4 alternative plans, based on the feedback received in next month or two. I also encourage you to mail in your ideas for the park as they will be added to the ideas we hear at the first meeting.

Thank you.
Heidi Sussmann

From: Judi [mailto:garlic@mygarden.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 11:25 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Re: seneca crossing local park

OK. However, I do not feel it will be useful to attend without having seen the concepts in advance. I know there will be those from the Seneca Crossing development who plan to reject the park because of the added traffic and the loss of their backyards which currently include the parkland. Without seeing what will be shown in advance I do not feel that I would be in a position to counter criticism or make a case in favor of possible positive uses of the land.

Sussmann, Heidi wrote:

Hello Judi,

Please see my initial note. We are not posting the illustrative concepts on the web because they are not plans we are actually proposing, but will be shown at the meeting to generate ideas from people including ideas we have not thought of. We will place the alternative plans for the park, that will be developed by the Consultant as the next step, in the future onto the website.

-----Original Message-----

From: Judi [mailto:garlic@mygarden.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 10:11 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Re: seneca crossing local park

Thank you for your response. However, what I'm looking for is the four initial concepts and I did not find them on the web.

Sussmann, Heidi wrote:

Hello Judi,

Thank you for your interest in Seneca Crossing Local Park. It will be

a

very exciting new park. We have a website link to our CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) and the project will be listed there and updated as plans are developed. The link = <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/projects/list.shtm>

The four initial concepts are not plans we are proposing, but are concepts to illustrate what might feasibly fit onto the site and to spark ideas at the meeting for features to include in the park, so

that

the Consultant can next begin to prepare their alternative plans. The plans that the consultant will prepare will be placed on the website, once done, and will be based on community input and needs in the area and will be drawn on accurate topographic survey (versus the Concepts that are on GIS). If you have any specific ideas about the park

(things

you would like to see or not like to see), please forward them to me.

I

am starting to receive some ideas from people already.

Thank you again,
Heidi Sussmann

-----Original Message-----

From: Judi [<mailto:garlic@mygarden.com>]
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 12:01 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: seneca crossing local park

The notice that I received about the public meeting on Feb 11th

mentions

there are 4 concepts to be discussed. Would you please give me the

web

link showing these concepts so that I can review them and educate

myself

regarding the site conditions and current thinking before attending

this

meeting. Thank you, Judi Moline

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Ronald Welke [Helives4ron@MSN.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 3:53 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Brink Road Park ideas

Dear Heidi

I am not sure if we met when I worked at M-NCPPC from 1996 to 2004. I was a Supervisor in the Transportation Planning Division located at 8787 Georgia Avenue. My primary responsibility was Development Review of subdivision plans but occasionally I interacted with Don Cochran, Les Straw and other Parks staff on park issues.

I will be unable to attend the meeting tomorrow at the Upcounty Regional Services Center since it is my wife's 50th birthday and we have other priorities, i.e. dinner and a movie. I would like to request that consideration be given to constructing a couple volleyball courts at the new park, either sand or grass. There are none at the Ridge Road Park and none at the Soccerplex complex.

As you might guess, I am an active volleyball player and our team won the gold medal at the Senior Olympics in Palo Alto, California and at the Huntsman Games in St. George, Utah in 2009. Volleyball is the highest participation sport in the U.S. and is growing in popularity. To my knowledge, there are no public volleyball courts in the western part of the County. The nearest may be at Northwest Park.

Volleyball is a sport for all ages and all skill levels and is a great game at picnics and church gatherings. The courts are 30' x 30' so they don't take up a lot of room.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ron Welke
301-540-8257

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Robert Goldberg [r.n.goldberg@att.net]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 6:52 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Dear Ms. Sussman:

Thanks to you and your colleagues for a very informative meeting yesterday evening.

Per our discussion, please let me know if information on the proposed park is available on the web. Several people are interested in the park but were unable to attend the meeting.

Sincerely,

Robert Goldberg

Robert N. Goldberg
21404 Davis Mill Road
Germantown, MD 20876 U.S.A.
telephone: 1-301-540-2915
e-mail: r.n.goldberg@att.net

Sussmann, Heidi

From: riggio451@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 1:11 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Re: RE: Proposed Skate Spot - Brink Road

Thank you for the information.

Justin

On Feb 23, 2010, **Sussmann, Heidi** <Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org> wrote:

Hello Justin,

Thank you so much for your interest in this project, and expressing the need for skate spots or parks in the Germantown area. I can give you some information and also a suggestion regarding places to skate.

- * There is currently a skate park/spot recently created at the Montgomery County police station parking lot on Aircraft Road, across from the movie theater. This can help serve you and your friends to skate now.
- * There are also other places being considered that are in the early planning stage for more skate parks/spots, and they will not be decided on or built soon.
- * Seneca Crossing will also not be implemented for several years, however, I encourage you and the skate friends you know of to put together a petition requesting a skate spot or park, and send it to me asap. Also – attendance at public meetings is really important too. A skate spot is a viable possibility for this park but to include it we need input from potential park users = like you.

Please continue to give me your ideas for Seneca and for skating. It is appreciated!

Heidi Sussmann

301-495-2547

From: riggio451@verizon.net [mailto:riggio451@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 3:48 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Proposed Skate Spot - Brink Road

Heidi,

Hello my name is Justin and I'm a local skater here in Germantown. I'm an upstanding sophomore and

attend Northwest high school. I'm contacting you because I recently read the article in the Gazette news paper about a proposed 28 acre park at Brink Road in Germantown. I want to express an interest in the proposed amenities one of which is a skate spot. I have many friends that skate and we always wondered why there was never a skate spot or skate park built here in Germantown. We are teenagers and most of the time we have to travel to another town to skate. It would be great if we could say we have a local skate spot of our own here in Germantown. I understand a public meeting was held this past Thursday. Will you let me know if a skate spot is one of the amenities approved for the new park design? Can you tell me who will design the skate spot?

Sincerely,

Justin Turner

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 1:12 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Thanks for taking our concerns so seriously. It appears that you are already aware of these issues and have ideas of how to deal with them. I love that there will be lots of landscaping to act as a buffer zone. We cannot thank you enough for that.

I'm relieved to hear about there only being two fields and I hope you're right that people won't want to walk up the hill, but I still fear they will if there aren't enough parking spaces close by. Do you have an idea of how many places you envision for the two fields? I'm shocked to hear that the soccerplex has 75 spaces per field for you can often not find a space there either.

Another question - what is the plan for the area that comes up to Seneca Forest Circle. That is where I fear we'll have the biggest issue. Could that area simply be landscaped without close access to the fields? Then residents would likely walk it, but non-residents would think it's too far away to park.

Thanks again,
Pam

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting
Date: Tue, 23 Feb 2010 12:36:45 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

Hello Pam,

I understand your concerns. The area across Brink Road is the cemetery (not the park).

The area of the 28-acre park is along Brink Road, on the south side, with good visibility into the front of the site from Brink Road. The back border of the park is adjacent to a row of Cedar Valley homes. There is a fairly big physical separation between the upper more level areas of the park (3 plateaus) and the homes, consisting of a band of wide slopes that drop down to wide man-made drainage ways. These wide sloped areas can be heavily planted to increase buffer effects between homes and the park. Also, sound travels 'up' (versus down), so that is good in terms of the park being up higher than the homes. I live on top of a ridge within a neighborhood (1/3 acre lots) and have experienced the 'sound travels upward' principle as a definite reality.

There are probably some differences between design for this park and some of the Clarksburg parks. This park has ample space to provide enough parking internal to the park site to accommodate proposed facilities, even up to 2 fields. As an example, some of the completely drive-to major parks (South Germantown Soccerplex) include 70-75 spaces per permitted soccer field. Seneca C. is certainly not a soccerplex, but if Seneca Crossing had 2 permitted fields (the max possible) of any kind (Cricket, rugby) in the bigger portion of the park, it could easily include enough parking in the space between them to serve the fields, without requiring any added parking elsewhere (like in the neighborhood). No one wants to walk a great distance and up steep slopes to get to a facility (like parking in the C.V. neighborhood). Some of the Clarksburg parks have been planned and designed with the thinking that some of the parking needs would be accommodated by designated on-street parking. While I have not been involved with the planning details for Clarksburg, it is my understanding that one of the important underlying principles is to promote better pedestrian access throughout the communities so that people are able to walk to many/most things, including parks, which is unique.

Back to this project, we are beginning design, and my focus will be to make sure whatever is included in Seneca Crossing Local Park will be well-used, fully supported with needed infrastructure (example parking), well maintained, and safe. I also think it is extremely important that our parks be *pretty places* that are inviting, therefore, a lot of landscaping will be included within this park.

Please give me any more good comments, ideas, concerns, you may think of as this project progresses.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 7:48 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Hi Heidi,

Thanks for sending the link... I had trouble finding it, but now wonder why I couldn't (I must be blind today :)).

There's been some misinformation passed along among the neighbors in Cedar Valley (AKA Seneca Crossing). We thought the park was going to be on the other side of Brink, not adjacent to houses in Cedar Valley. In theory, I love this park being in Cedar Valley. However, I've seen so many problems with parks backing up to homes here in MD that I'm not so thrilled now. If it's planned well, my concerns may be alleviated, but some things need to be addressed very well. I already mentioned some, but to put it all in one email, I'm reiterating some.

This strip of land may look huge, but really is very narrow when you have fields, parking lots and deal with lots of use. No matter where you put the parking lots, people will try to access the park from all sides of the park and they will park in Cedar Valley. That's where we're going to have many problems. Cedar Valley streets are too narrow to handle the off-street parking that occurs now and parking is already our #1 problem. When cars are parked on both sides of most Cedar Valley streets, the streets can only handle one-way traffic and they are already dangerous with the number of residents who park on the street. If there is league play, there will be dozens of cars coming/going at once and parking will only get worse. The soccer fields in Clarksburg are a prime example of the nightmares that occur in this situation. When any significant number of cars try to park on the street, they park illegally because people are too lazy to walk any more than necessary. They park at corners, in front of people's driveways, etc. Please don't tell us to call the police when this happens for the police don't care and won't come out to deal with it (we know from experience). Unless there is some amazing plan that prevents any parking on Cedar Valley streets, I would be more supportive of this park if there were no league play allowed and this saddens me because I was very excited to see cricket come to the area.

A few other questions....

Will there be any barriers to prevent people walking through/abusing the private property that is adjacent to the park? The area is currently very quiet. A well used park will change that, which may not be all bad, but we're back to inconsiderate people causing problems. (How sad is that!?!?)

How will trash and any rodent population be handled?

Will there be restrooms and what will be their maintenance plan? What about other buildings?

I heard that the current plan does not include lights or allow nighttime activities. I fully support that.

I'm sorry that all I have are concerns for I really would like a park here. Unfortunately, too many inconsiderate people in our world and poor enforcement of our laws have made me cynical that you can have a park this close to homes without a huge buffer zone in between to deter people from abusing the adjacent private property and streets. The possibility of league play magnifies that concern for me because of the problems I've seen at other nearby parks (again, how sad is that!?!?).

I'm eagerly looking forward to the plans that were presented to see if they can alleviate my concerns. I

will keep an eye on your website.

Thank you again for your efforts with this park. I know that you cannot please everyone (nor should you try), so I appreciate your listening to my concerns even more.

Pam Bruce-Staskal
11713 Virginia Pine Drive
Germantown

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting
Date: Mon, 22 Feb 2010 12:31:19 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

Hello Pam,

The link is located at:

<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/projects/list.shtm>

Under the list of CIP projects, click on **Seneca Crossing LP**. The project will be updated periodically as things progress (no changes yet). It will take 2+ weeks to receive tabulations and minutes from the Consultant regarding the first public meeting, and then add several days to get the update onto the MNCPPC website.

We are also expecting to continue to receive *written and emailed comments* from interested residents for *at least 2 more weeks*. These additional comments will need to be added to the comments from the first public meeting, and posted onto the website, as well.

Be patient, and write in any of your ideas for the park.
Thank you for your interest.

Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 12:19 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Hello,

Has anything been posted yet regarding the input at the Seneca Crossing Park Planning meeting? If so, could you please forward me the link? I did see the link with the map, but can't find anything else.

Thanks,
Pam

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting
Date: Thu, 18 Feb 2010 13:56:06 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

Thank you very much for the good comments.

You are definitely right that adequate parking (off of Brink Rd) should be provided to serve the park facilities, especially for recreation fields such as soccer. There has also been a lot of interest from cricket players in the up-county/Germantown area for MNCPPC to provide a field for them to play games on. Trails, especially loop paths, are always popular for most all our parks as are playgrounds. I have also heard from a few nearby people interested in tennis and also volleyball. I realize there is a dog run area at Ridge Road. It would be interesting to hear what people think of it (any suggested improvements) and if there is interest for a different kind of dog area at Seneca Crossing. The great thing about this park is that it is really big so it can accommodate recreation facilities and still provide buffer spaces, lots of landscaping, and green space. I drive by this park on my way home so I am really excited to see it happen.

Thanks again for the ideas and please write more as you have them.

Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 1:36 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Thank you so much for getting back to me! I missed the first notice and have heard almost nothing about this proposal, which is why I'd very much appreciate the posting of tonight's meeting so I can review it.

I think it would be wonderful to have a park in this area and would like to help ensure that it meets the community's needs without causing problems. Without knowing what is proposed, I hesitate to offer much input, but a couple thoughts in case these issues come up....

1. I'm a dog owner/lover but we don't need another dog park here unless they get rid of the one at Ridge Road Park (0.5 miles away).
2. Walking/bike paths would be great, particularly good access allowing people to walk to the park.
3. Plenty of parking is needed.... neighbors in Cedar Valley are extremely concerned about people parking in our neighborhood as the developer made all streets except Seneca Crossing far too narrow for parked cars and simultaneous safe transit. We constantly fear kids getting hit because you can't see down streets with cars parked on the curvy streets. An entrance on Brink may make good sense, but if it's across from Seneca Crossing Drive, people will park in Cedar Valley... therefore that entrance location will likely get a lot of opposition.
4. Would there be sports events going on here (like Saturday soccer)? If so, parking is more of an issue. The mess that occurs every Saturday at Clarksburg is not acceptable (people park illegally on streets because there is no parking lot and those streets are even more narrow than ours. I'm certain that this is what Cedar Vally residents fear. It's not only unattractive, it's downright dangerous.

Thanks again for the work you're doing on this. I look forward to seeing the proposals and appreciate your posting them for people who can't make the meeting.

Pam Bruce-Staskal

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting
Date: Thu, 18 Feb 2010 12:49:54 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

This timing is unfortunate, as was the snow. We sent out 1,800 notices so it was not possible to revise the schedule for the snow date meeting tonight. However, you can very definitely contribute toward the planning of the park, without attending tonight's meeting. After tonight, and based on input from tonight, plus write-in information, the consultant will begin the design of several alternative plans for the park which will be presented at a later date *second public meeting* (likely this summer) so you can provide input then as well. After the second meeting a preferred plan will be prepared that will be presented at a *third public meeting* (likely winter), and from there it will be refined and go to the *Planning Board for approval* (spring of 2011). These are all opportunities for future input. The plan(s) will also have to go through regulatory agency review during the process for compliance to new environmental site design guidelines and to obtain standard permits.

Currently and in the near future you can contribute by:

- 1) You can write into me your thoughts and ideas about the future local park via email or letter.
- 2) Also - After tonight's meeting we will be posting a summary of meeting results on the website, and you can provide input on that or after that as well.

This project really has a lot of potential to be a great park.
Thank you for your interest and feel free to call me as well.

Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 6:13 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Thank you for all the work you are doing to develop this park.

Unfortunately, the snow date for this meeting coincides with Cedar Valley HOA meeting (the nearest neighborhood for this park) and the School Improvement Meeting at the nearest school (Sally Ride ES).

As residents in Cedar Valley, we will be very much affected by this park and I would like to find out more about it at the early stages of planning. Is there any way that we can provide input for this first step in planning for the park if we cannot attend on the snow date?

Thank you again for your efforts and please let me know whether I can be involved.

Pam Bruce-Staskal
11713 Virginia Pine Drive
Germantown, MD 20876

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Sussmann, Heidi

To: Pam Bruce-Staskal
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting
Attachments: Field Use Typical for a Local Park.doc

Hello Pam,

I'll write more soon because you are bringing up many good points.

One thing to clarify though, at Clarksburg I think a planning idea for some (not all) of the park field facilities was to obtain some parking needs on street *in combination with providing regular parking areas*. That doesn't change the bottom line result though. I am forwarding some of your emails to our planners so they get feedback on resulting conditions. Could you say exactly which Clarksburg fields you experienced such problems at? Thanks.

Also – a critical piece of how parking for soccer fields is handled is permitting and the timing of games on weekends and allowing a short gap between games if necessary. Even with some overlap though, 75 spaces for soccer should be enough? I am forwarding (attached above) some permitting information and number of soccer players/people estimated at one time for practices on weekdays and games on weekends.

I believe for Cricket games that they last almost all day so there may not be the overlap situation of people arriving and leaving at the same time (as for soccer).

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 8:59 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Hi Heidi,

Just saw in The Gazette that the cricket league that wants to play at the Seneca Crossing has 24 teams. I'm unfamiliar with cricket's nuances, but wanted to make sure that the planning committee is realizing the # of cars that would accompany a game. With 11 players per team, 22 cars per game are possible. Add in spectators and you can easily double that per game. With two fields, it may not be unreasonable to need 30-50 parking spaces per field if there's a break between games (allowing one group to fully clear out before the next shows up). If one game is playing while the next is warming up, even more spaces will be needed. One major concern I have is whether two fields can accommodate 24 teams for any sport. I would think the cricket league would want many more and a much bigger area.

I realize now that there was a large show of support for cricket at the planning meeting. Have they presented a proposed schedule with good estimates of the # of people/cars likely to attend (players & spectators), the hours of play required per game, the # of games per day and per weekend, the # of weeks they will play, etc. Without that info, we cannot make an informed decision as to whether league play will be a wonderful addition or will cause significant problems. If they have not done so, I would strongly recommend that that info be obtained before any further decisions are made and this applies to any league who wishes to play there.

Thanks again for your help with this. I sincerely hope we can find a way to accommodate cricket without adversely affecting our neighborhood.
Pam

Soccer Field Use Typical for a Local Park:

***WEEKDAYS (Mond-Frid) =**

~Each(MSI) team is allowed 1 hour of practice per week due to demand (done through Park Permits)

~**1 hour 'practice sessions'; 1 team at a time @ 15-18 people max per session**

~10 minutes between sessions

~Some are drop-offs, some car-pool; 36 people MAX there @ one time during overlaps; 15-18 people there most of the times

~**sessions are scheduled at 5:00, 6:00 (during rush hours)** and also 7:00 PM; sessions may also be at 3:00 and 4:00 due to demand

~Spring leagues = **March until June**; Fall leagues = **mid-August 'til early/mid-Nov.**

***WEEKENDS (Saturday and Sunday) =**

~MSI schedules the fields for games on weekends

~**9:00 AM to 6:00 PM; with 10 minute breaks** between games; NOT rush hours

~2 teams (15-18 each team) = 30-36 people, therefore, **during 10 minute overlap = 60-72 people at one time; some players and attendees carpool; some are drop-offs**

~**70-75 spaces should be adequate**; accommodates peak overlap numbers plus some

~Total 4-5 games per field per day

~Most teams (8 through 18 year olds) play full-field games; 6 and 7 year olds play half-field games but teams are only 8 players (half-sized) so net numbers are about the same

~Teams scheduled for the last games responsible for clean up of field area

Examples traffic impacts experienced at Olney Boys and Girls Club Soccer and Damascus Recreational Park:

~examples = Rte. 108; field(s) on right; impact to traffic is negligible during rush hour

~examples = Kings Valley @ Damascus Rec. Park (4 fields: 2BB, 2SB, 1SF); significant traffic levels are not apparent *on weekends* (there are cars coming/going between games). Maybe field is not fully utilized?

Sussmann, Heidi

From: mlodaya@boydscricketclub.com
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2010 3:25 PM
To: Schmieler, Tanya; Nelligan, Art; MaryPat_Wilson@mcpsmd.org; Eapen, Cherian; Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Update: Potential Cricket Field Plan: Community meeting; Seneca Crossing Local Park...
Attachments: MNCPPC_Cricket_Fields_Proposal.pdf
Importance: High

Heidi,

Thank you very much for organizing and coordinating the meeting last thursday. I handed you a hard copy of potential plans and revenue matrix for the county for the cricket field. I am also attaching a soft copy for your records. I am the president of the Boyds Cricket Club, and Montgomery County Cricket Association. Both are registered companies in the state of maryland and I have attached the letters of registration.

I have experience in the area of building cricket fields and organizing cricket leagues and would like to offer the county any assistance it needs in this matter. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Manish Lodaya
President
Boyds Cricket Club
Phone: 301.922.3892

-----Original Message-----

From: "Sussmann, Heidi" [Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org]
Date: 02/12/2010 02:37 PM
To: mlodaya@boydscricketclub.com, "Schmieler, Tanya" <Tanya.Schmieler@mncppc-mc.org>, "Nelligan, Art" <Art.Nelligan@mncppc-mc.org>, MaryPat_Wilson@mcpsmd.org, "Eapen, Cherian" <Cherian.Eapen@mncppc-mc.org>
Subject: RE: Community meeting; Seneca Crossing Local Park...

Yes - you are right - the meeting is rescheduled for the following Thursday, same time and place... due to a little snow!
Looking forward to the meeting and hope to see you there.
Thank you

-----Original Message-----

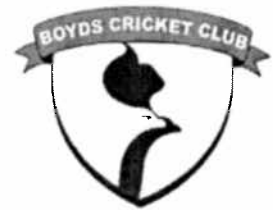
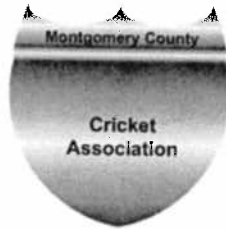
From: mlodaya@boydscricketclub.com [mailto:mlodaya@boydscricketclub.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 7:52 AM
To: Schmieler, Tanya; Nelligan, Art; MaryPat_Wilson@mcpsmd.org; Eapen, Cherian
Cc: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Community meeting; Seneca Crossing Local Park...

Team,

I am assuming given the snow conditions and school closure, that this will be moved to February 18th? Please let me know and I will inform my team accordingly.

Thank you for your support.

Manish Lodaya
President
Boys Cricket Club
Phone: 301.922.3892



September 9, 2008

From,
Montgomery County Cricket Association, Inc.
Boys Cricket Club, Inc.
18200 Endora Circle
Boyds, MD 20841

To,
Montgomery County Department of Parks
9500 Brunett Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to start by introducing, Boys Cricket Club, Inc., (www.boydscricketclub.com) founded in 2005 and registered in the State of Maryland. It is a non-profit (TIN: 030555232) cricket playing body of registered members that are primarily residents of upper Montgomery County. I would also like to introduce, Montgomery County Cricket Association, Inc., founded in 2007, registered in MD. This cricket body has been started to create a cricket league that allows for the citizens of Montgomery County to play cricket.

This letter serves as a formal request for a cricket playing facility for our club members and other cricket playing citizens of the upper Montgomery County, Maryland. We currently have the one cricket field in 'Damascus Regional Park' that is available to us only for the 6 weeks from July 1st to August 15th. We also are responsible financially for building and maintaining the cricket pitch. We play cricket and are affiliated with the Washington Cricket League (www.wclinc.com) from the end of April to the end of October each year.

The cricket field could be used for games as well as practice. I have attached a sample plan of a cricket field with the cricket pitch (mound) in the center of the ground. Practice facilities could be built towards the edge of the ground. Permits could be issued for the practice as well as games and would help the county towards revenues for maintaining the field.

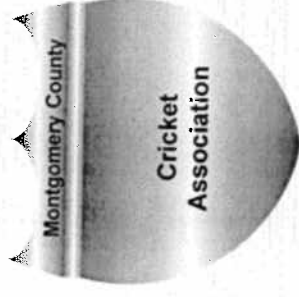
We would like for the county to provide us and other cricket playing teams in the area with a cricket field that can be used all year round. We would also like for the county to help construct and maintain the field as they do for other games. We have a large cricket playing population that resides in the county and the field will serve the needs and promote the game within the county.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional information that you might require.

Thank you,

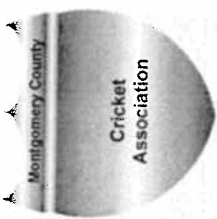
Sincerely,

Manish Lodaya
President
301-922-3892



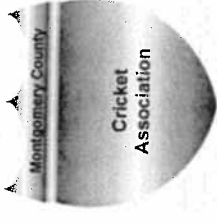
Need for a Cricket Field

Manish Lodaya
President
Montgomery County Cricket Association, Inc.
Boys Cricket Club, Inc.



Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of Cricket - USA
- Currently Available Fields
- Current Playing Issues
- Proposed Fields and Requirements
- Revenue Matrix for MNCPPC
- Questions and Answers



Introduction...

- Boyd's Cricket Club, Inc. (BCC), founded in 2005, registered in the state of MD
- Montgomery County Cricket Association, Inc. (MCCA), registered in the state of MD, founded in 2007, with the goal of starting a cricket league for MD residents
- Boyd's Cricket Club is a member of the Washington Cricket League (WCL) founded in 1974 which has around 28 cricket teams and 1000 active members
- The WCL league plays actively from April to October every year



Introduction

- The mission of both the BCC and MCCA is:
 - Foster the game of cricket in the USA
 - To create an avenue for state and country residents to register and play the game of cricket at a competitive level
 - To raise awareness and promote cricket among the communities and general population
 - To play the game with the highest level of integrity and honesty
- Request for a formal cricket playing facility for the citizens of the upper Montgomery County, sponsored by the MNCPPC
- Request that the field be for cricket only allowing the maintenance as such
- Request the field be available all year round to the cricket playing citizens of Montgomery county, MD



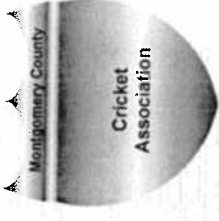
Overview of Cricket - USA

- USA Cricket Association (USACA) is a member of the International Cricket Council, the world cricket governing body
- USACA (<http://www.usaca.org>) is responsible for the US cricket team and its participation in the cricket tournaments all over the world
- There are 42 leagues currently registered with USACA with an average of 1000 members per league
- The current USA cricket squad consists of 8 members of the WCL (<http://www.wclinc.com>)



Currently Available Fields

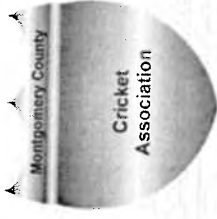
- Currently the following fields are available in Montgomery County
 - Galway Elementary School, Silver Spring, MD
 - Only available on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays
 - Located in Silver Spring MD
 - Cricket pitch created and paid for by WCL
 - Damascus Regional Park, Damascus, MD
 - Only available from July 1st to August 15th
 - Shared with soccer leagues
 - Cricket pitch created and paid for by BCC



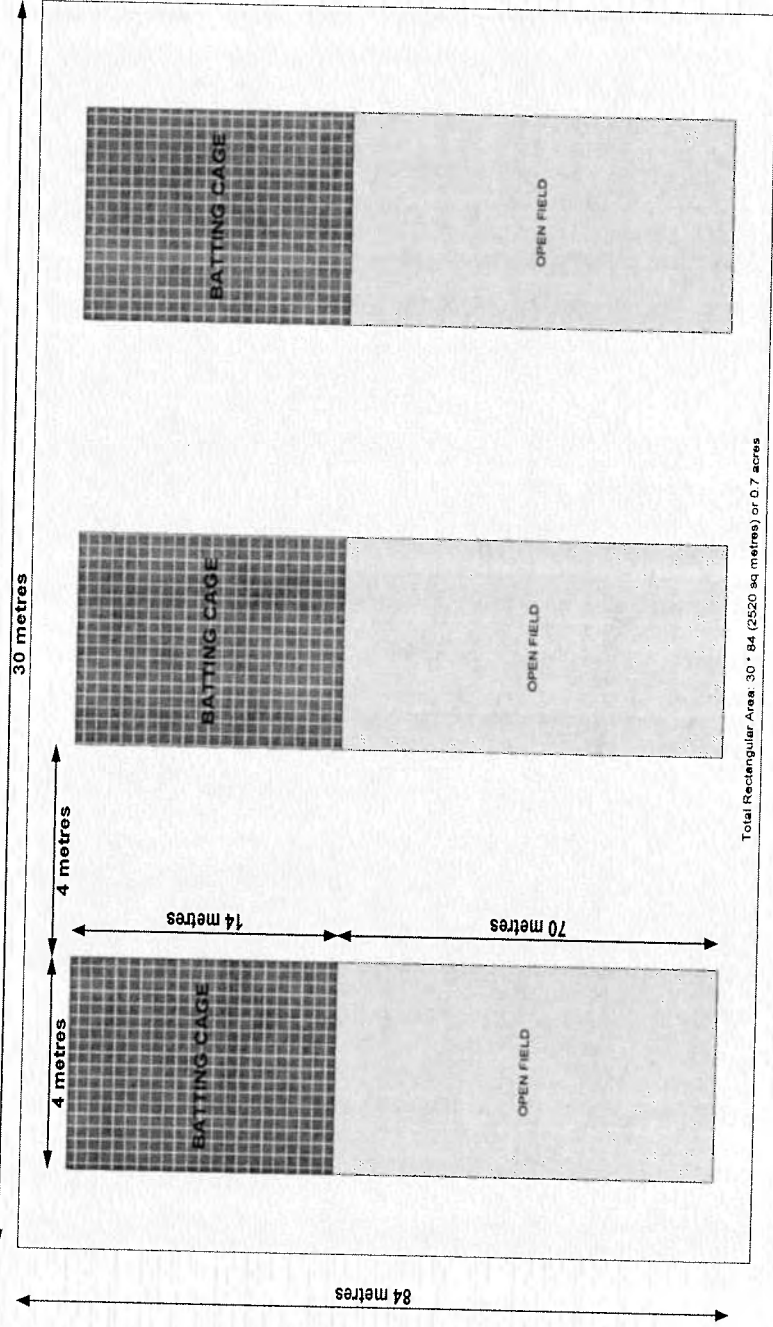
Current Playing Issues

- ❑ Large population of cricket playing county residents with no formal venue to organize and play the game
- ❑ WCL/BCC have to pay for building the cricket mound (pitch), which cost around \$2000 to \$4000 per year
- ❑ Annual cricket matting costs for the mound (pitch) including shipping is \$1000
- ❑ For upper Montgomery residents, it takes us a hour in traffic each way to play at Galway during week days
- ❑ Fields maintained for soccer making them un-safe for cricket which requires a smooth lawn surface

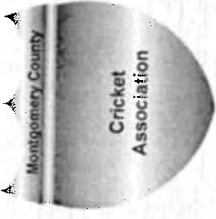
Proposed Fields and Requirements...



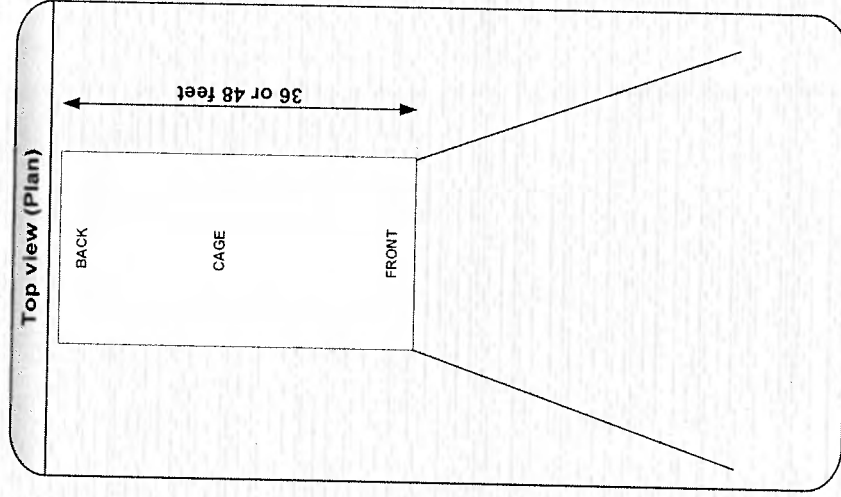
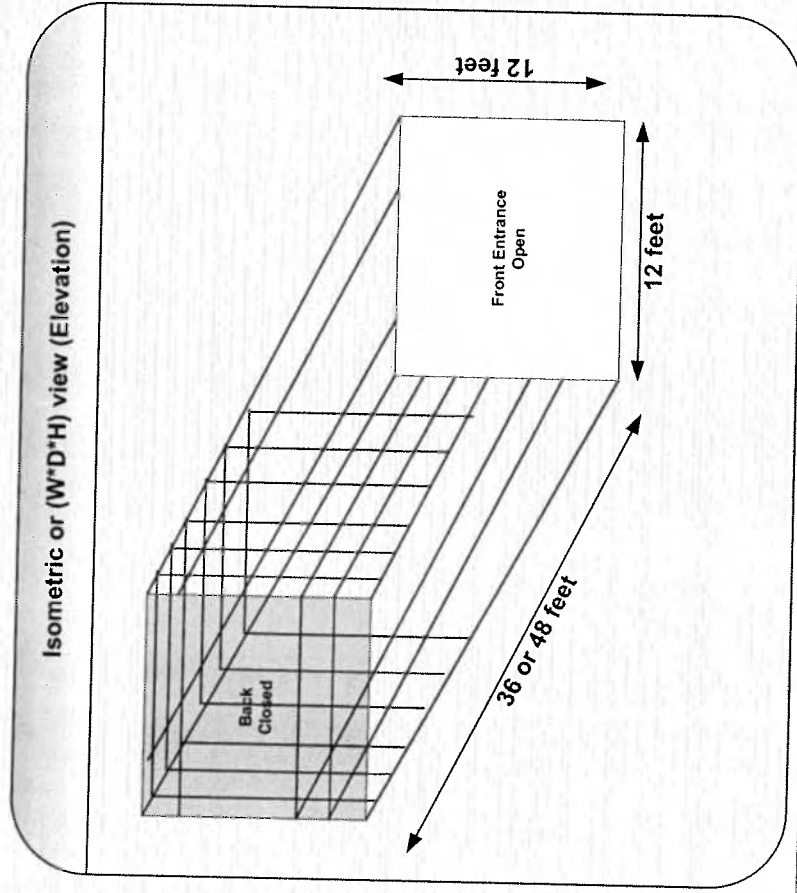
Practice Fields (Batting Cages)



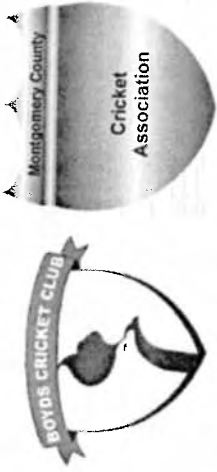
Proposed Fields and Requirements...



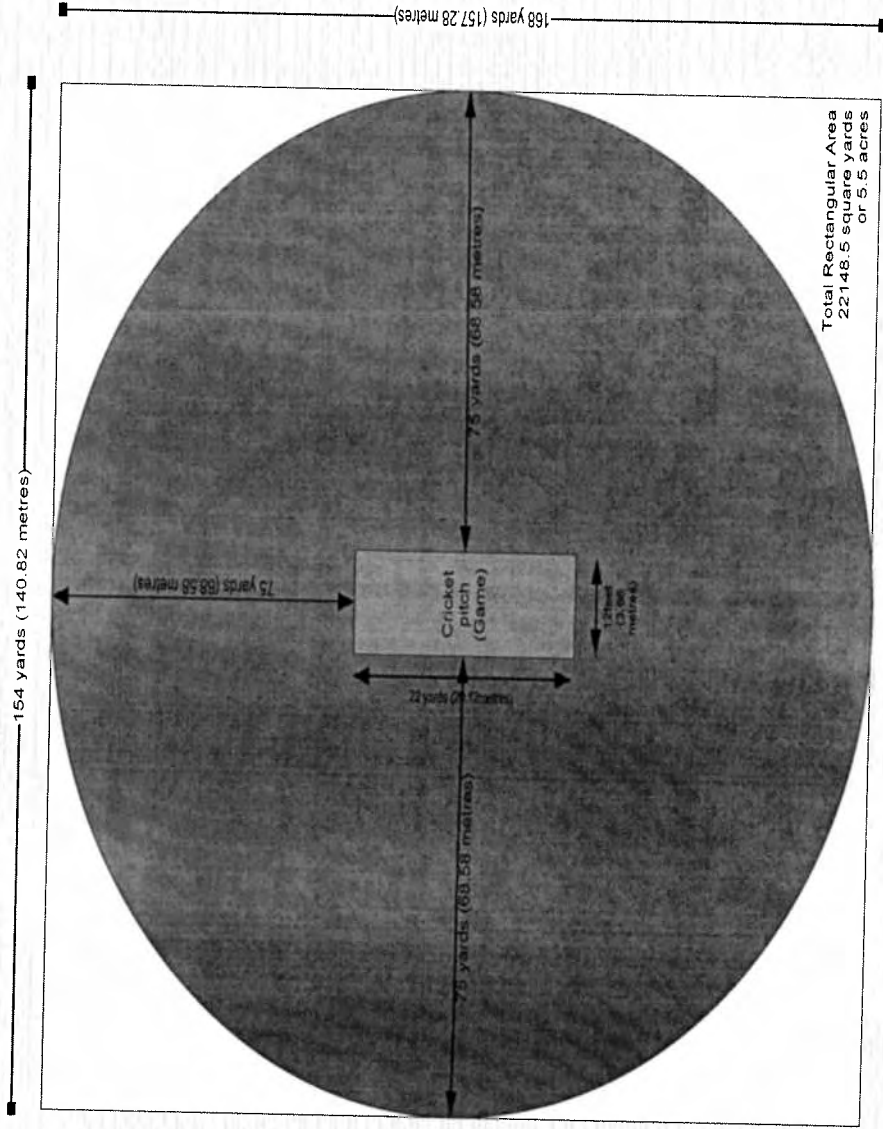
□ Batting Cage Specifications

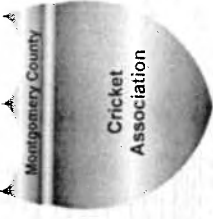


Proposed Fields and Requirements



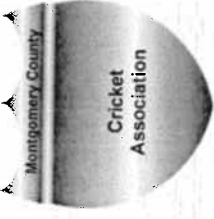
□ Game Field





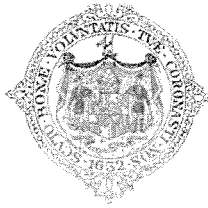
Revenue Matrix for MNCPPC

Cost Variable	Description	Quantity	Qty UOM	Duration	Duration UOM	Rate/Week	Cost
Practice Cages	Practice Batting Cages	3	cages	30	weeks	\$70.00	\$6,300.00
Practice Fields	Cricket Game Fields	1	field	30	weeks	\$100.00	\$3,000.00
Game Fields	Cricket Game Fields	1	field	30	weeks	\$100.00	\$3,000.00
	Projected Annual Revenues						\$12,300.00
UOM	Unit of Measure						
Assumptions:	30 playing weeks						
	Practice is Monday-Friday						
	Games are Sat-Sunday						
	Cage cost of \$10/day						
	Practice field cost of \$20/day						
	Game field cost of \$50/day						
	Practice cage can be used 7 days/week						



□ Questions and Answers

State of Maryland
Department of
Assessments and Taxation



Charter Division

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

C. John Sullivan, Jr.
Director

Paul B. Anderson
Administrator

MANISH LODAYA
18200 ENDORA CIR
BOYDS MD 20841-6103

Date: 02-16-2005

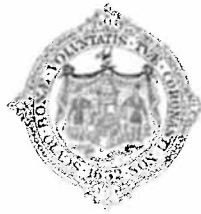
This letter is to confirm acceptance of the following filing:

ENTITY NAME : BOYDS CRICKET CLUB, INC.
DEPARTMENT ID : D10467496
TYPE OF REQUEST : ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
DATE FILED : 02-16-2005
TIME FILED : 10:28-AM
RECORDING FEE : \$100.00
ORG. & CAP FEE : \$20.00
EXPEDITED FEE : \$70.00
COPY FEE : \$23.00
FILING NUMBER : 1000361990955621
CUSTOMER ID : 0001570066
WORK ORDER NUMBER : 0001013104

PLEASE VERIFY THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS LETTER. NOTIFY THIS DEPARTMENT IN WRITING IF ANY INFORMATION IS INCORRECT. INCLUDE THE CUSTOMER ID AND THE WORK ORDER NUMBER ON ANY INQUIRIES. EVERY YEAR THIS ENTITY MUST FILE A PERSONAL PROPERTY RETURN IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS EXISTENCE EVEN IF IT DOES NOT OWN PERSONAL PROPERTY. A BLANK RETURN WILL BE MAILED BY FEBRUARY OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE RETURN IS DUE.

Charter Division
Baltimore metro area (410)767-1801
Outside metro area (888)246-5941

State of Maryland
Department of
Assessments and Taxation



Martin O'Malley
Governor

C. John Sullivan, Jr.
Director

Paul B. Anderson
Administrator

Charter Division

Date: 10/12/2007

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CRICKET ASSOCIATION, I
18200 ENDORA CIRCLE
BOYDS MD 20841

THIS LETTER IS TO CONFIRM ACCEPTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING FILING:

ENTITY NAME : MONTGOMERY COUNTY CRICKET ASSOCIATION, INC.
DEPARTMENT ID : D12176525
TYPE OF REQUEST : ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
DATE FILED : 06-28-2007
TIME FILED : 03:00 PM
RECORDING FEE : \$100.00
ORG. & CAP FEE : \$20.00
FILING NUMBER : 1000361995416256
CUSTOMER ID : 0001986210
WORK ORDER NUMBER : 0001429248

PLEASE VERIFY THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS LETTER. NOTIFY THIS DEPARTMENT IN WRITING IF ANY INFORMATION IS INCORRECT. INCLUDE THE CUSTOMER ID AND THE WORK ORDER NUMBER ON ANY INQUIRIES. EVERY YEAR THIS ENTITY MUST FILE A PERSONAL PROPERTY RETURN IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS EXISTENCE EVEN IF IT DOES NOT OWN PERSONAL PROPERTY. A BLANK RETURN WILL BE MAILED BY FEBRUARY OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE RETURN IS DUE.

Charter Division
Baltimore Metro Area (410) 767-1350
Outside Metro Area (888) 246-5941



President: Manish Lodaya (301.922.3892)					
Members					
Sr #	Name	Address	City	State	Zip
1	Abhishek Singh	18204 Endora Circle	Boyds	MD	20841
2	Akshay, Vasandani	20134 Club Hill Drive	Germantown	MD	20874
3	Ali Merchant	23707 Clarksmead Drive	Clarksburg	MD	20871
4	Alok, Chawla	18610 Nutcatcher Lane	Gaithersburg	MD	20879
5	Amjad, Ali	6166 Leesburg Pike, #A-414	Falls Church	VA	22044
6	Anand, Amin	5067 Executive Park Drive	Ellicott City	MD	21045
7	Anuruddha, Kulatunga	2808 Lee Landing Court	Falls Church	VA	22043
8	Ashish Tafaulikar	18200 Endora Circle	Boyds	MD	20841
9	Aslam, Khan	1232 Knoll Mist Lane	Gaithersburg	MD	20879
10	Azhar, Shamsudeen	1023 Travis Lane	Gaithersburg	MD	20879
11	Basheer, Khan	1232 Knoll Mist Lane	Gaithersburg	MD	20879
12	Bhavesh Lodaya	18200 Endora Circle	Boyds	MD	20841
13	Brian Pianalto	14108 Castaway Drive	Rockville	MD	20853
14	David Hurwitz	18870 McFarlen Drive	Germantown	MD	20874
15	Deepak, Sharma	415 West Side Drive, Apt 304	Gaithersburg	MD	20878
16	Deepak, Srinivasan	18333 Tapwood Road	Boyds	MD	20841
17	Dimitry Ekzarkhov	2700 Arcola Avenue	Silver Spring	MD	20902
18	Hammad, Khan	5901 Montrose Road, Apt# 1006N	Rockville	MD	20852
19	Haroon , Rana		Damascus	MD	
20	Harpreet, Mann	12507 Granite Ridge Drive	North Potomac	MD	20878
21	Hiren Bhatt	4277 Park Green Court	Fairfax	VA	22030
22	Joshua, Daniels	PO Box 213	Lisbon	MD	21765
23	Mandeep Ahluwalia	6200 Westchester Park Drive, #1104	College Park	MD	20740
24	Manish, Lodaya	18200 Endora Circle	Boyds	MD	20841
25	Matt Thurber	22 Pitt Court	Rockville	MD	20850
26	Nikhil Bahl	18732 Walkers Choice Road, Unit 3	Gaithersburg	MD	20886
27	Niral, Shah		Gaithersburg	MD	20878
28	Nirmalan, Joseph	12 French Street (Australia)	Thomastown	Melbourne	3074
29	Pavin, Tannasee	23346 Rainbow Arch Drive	Clarksburg	MD	20871
30	Prabhu, Gowda	20104 Gunners Terrace	Germantown	MD	20876
31	Pradeep Mahadeshwar	2422 Clover Field Circle	Herndon	VA	20171
32	Pranav Banerjee	13028 Shamrock Glen Drive	Germantown	MD	20874
33	Pranjal Sharma	15 Inkberry Circle	Gaithersburg	MD	20877
34	Rahul, Chelikani	12626 Grey Eagle Ct, Apt #42	Germantown	MD	20874
35	Raman, Vijay	9351 Penrose Street	Frederick	MD	21704
36	Ramesh Sarma	3613 Denison Street	Frederick	MD	21704
37	Ramesh, Kannery	427 West Side Drive, Apt 304	Gaithersburg	MD	20878
38	Ravi, Kumar	90 Waverly Drive, Apt# C304	Frederick	MD	21702
39	Ravikiran, Nellutla	12150 Skylark Road	Clarksburg	MD	20871
40	Rob Engels	9400 Marsh Point Court	Gaithersburg	MD	20882
41	Saeed, Kashan	1232 Knoll Mist Lane	Gaithersburg	MD	20879
42	Sajid, Ali	6166 Leesburg Pike, #A-414	Falls Church	VA	22044
43	Samir Banerjee	13028 Shamrock Glen Drive	Germantown	MD	20874
44	Sandeep De	400B East Gude Drive	Rockville	MD	20850
45	Selva Palanivelu	9538 Brigadoon Lane	Frederick	MD	21704
46	Shukdeo, Sankar	15810 Thislebridge Drive	Rockville	MD	20853
47	Sunil, Pancholi	10335 Waverly Woods Drive	Ellicott City	MD	21042
48	Sunil, Varghese	18023 Coachmans Road	Germantown	MD	20874
49	Surendra Bhatta	4325 Lee Highway Apt # 102	Arlington	VA	22207
50	Suresh Matkar	13028 Shamrock Glen Drive	Germantown	MD	20874
51	Surya, Sinha	18035 Fertile Meadow Court	Gaithersburg	MD	20877
52	Talia Lodaya	18200 Endora Circle	Germantown	MD	20841
53	Udit, Sehgal	10016 Ridge Line Drive	Gaithersburg	MD	20886
54	Umesh Desai	12510 Eagleview Way	Germantown	MD	20876
55	Varun Lodaya	18200 Endora Circle	Boyds	MD	20841
56	Vatsal Lodaya	18200 Endora Circle	Boyds	MD	20841
57	Vijayakumar	391 West Side Drive, #301	Gaithersburg	MD	20878
58	Vikas Mahajan	9730 Royal Crest Circle	Frederick	MD	21704
59	Vishaal, Goswami	206/0 QuaterPath Trace Circle	Sterling	VA	21065
60	Zain, Ahmed	4928 Lee Farm Court	Ellicott City	MD	21043

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 12:37 PM
To: 'Pam Bruce-Staskal'
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Hello Pam,

I understand your concerns. The area across Brink Road is the cemetery (not the park). The area of the 28-acre park is along Brink Road, on the south side, with good visibility into the front of the site from Brink Road. The back border of the park is adjacent to a row of Cedar Valley homes. There is a fairly big physical separation between the upper more level areas of the park (3 plateaus) and the homes, consisting of a band of wide slopes that drop down to wide man-made drainage ways. These wide sloped areas can be heavily planted to increase buffer effects between homes and the park. Also, sound travels 'up' (versus down), so that is good in terms of the park being up higher than the homes. I live on top of a ridge within a neighborhood (1/3 acre lots) and have experienced the 'sound travels upward' principle as a definite reality.

There are probably some differences between design for this park and some of the Clarksburg parks. This park has ample space to provide enough parking internal to the park site to accommodate proposed facilities, even up to 2 fields. As an example, some of the completely drive-to major parks (South Germantown Soccerplex) include 70-75 spaces per permitted soccer field. Seneca C. is certainly not a soccerplex, but if Seneca Crossing had 2 permitted fields (the max possible) of any kind (Cricket, rugby) in the bigger portion of the park, it could easily include enough parking in the space between them to serve the fields, without requiring any added parking elsewhere (like in the neighborhood). No one wants to walk a great distance and up steep slopes to get to a facility (like parking in the C.V. neighborhood). Some of the Clarksburg parks have been planned and designed with the thinking that some of the parking needs would be accommodated by designated on-street parking. While I have not been involved with the planning details for Clarksburg, it is my understanding that one of the important underlying principles is to promote better pedestrian access throughout the communities so that people are able to walk to many/most things, including parks, which is unique.

Back to this project, we are beginning design, and my focus will be to make sure whatever is included in Seneca Crossing Local Park will be well-used, fully supported with needed infrastructure (example parking), well maintained, and safe. I also think it is extremely important that our parks be *pretty places* that are inviting, therefore, a lot of landscaping will be included within this park.

Please give me any more good comments, ideas, concerns, you may think of as this project progresses.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 7:48 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Hi Heidi,

Thanks for sending the link... I had trouble finding it, but now wonder why I couldn't (I must be blind today :)).

There's been some misinformation passed along among the neighbors in Cedar Valley (AKA Seneca Crossing). We thought the park was going to be on the other side of Brink, not adjacent to houses in Cedar Valley. In theory, I love this park being in Cedar Valley. However, I've seen so many problems with parks backing up to homes here in MD that I'm not so thrilled now. If it's planned well, my concerns may be alleviated, but some things need to be addressed very well. I already mentioned some, but to put it all in one email, I'm reiterating some.

This strip of land may look huge, but really is very narrow when you have fields, parking lots and deal with lots of use. No matter where you put the parking lots, people will try to access the park from all sides of the park and they will park in Cedar Valley. That's where we're going to have many problems. Cedar Valley streets are too narrow to handle the off-street parking that occurs now and parking is already our #1 problem. When cars are parked on both sides of most Cedar Valley streets, the streets can only handle one-way traffic and they are already dangerous with the number of residents who park on the street. If there is league play, there will be dozens of cars coming/going at once and parking will only get worse. The soccer fields in Clarksburg are a prime example of the nightmares that occur in this situation. When any significant number of cars try to park on the street, they park illegally because people are too lazy to walk any more than necessary. They park at corners, in front of people's driveways, etc. Please don't tell us to call the police when this happens for the police don't care and won't come out to deal with it (we know from experience). Unless there is some amazing plan that prevents any parking on Cedar Valley streets, I would be more supportive of this park if there were no league play allowed and this saddens me because I was very excited to see cricket come to the area.

A few other questions....

Will there be any barriers to prevent people walking through/abusing the private property that is adjacent to the park? The area is currently very quiet. A well used park will change that, which may not be all bad, but we're back to inconsiderate people causing problems. (How sad is that!?!?)

How will trash and any rodent population be handled?

Will there be restrooms and what will be their maintenance plan? What about other buildings?

I heard that the current plan does not include lights or allow nighttime activities. I fully support that.

I'm sorry that all I have are concerns for I really would like a park here. Unfortunately, too many inconsiderate people in our world and poor enforcement of our laws have made me cynical that you can have a park this close to homes without a huge buffer zone in between to deter people from abusing the adjacent private property and streets. The possibility of league play magnifies that concern for me because of the problems I've seen at other nearby parks (again, how sad is that!?!?).

I'm eagerly looking forward to the plans that were presented to see if they can alleviate my concerns. I will keep an eye on your website.

Thank you again for your efforts with this park. I know that you cannot please everyone (nor should you try), so I appreciate your listening to my concerns even more.

Pam Bruce-Staskal
11713 Virginia Pine Drive
Germantown

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting
Date: Mon, 22 Feb 2010 12:31:19 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

Hello Pam,

The link is located at:

<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/projects/list.shtm>

Under the list of CIP projects, click on **Seneca Crossing LP**. The project will be updated periodically as things progress (no changes yet). It will take 2+ weeks to receive tabulations and minutes from the Consultant regarding the first public meeting, and then add several days to get the update onto the MNCPPC website.

We are also expecting to continue to receive *written and emailed comments* from interested residents for *at least 2 more weeks*. These additional comments will need to be added to the comments from the first public meeting, and posted onto the website, as well.

Be patient, and write in any of your ideas for the park.
Thank you for your interest.

Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 12:19 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Hello,

Has anything been posted yet regarding the input at the Seneca Crossing Park Planning meeting? If so, could you please forward me the link? I did see the link with the map, but can't find anything else.

Thanks,
Pam

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting
Date: Thu, 18 Feb 2010 13:56:06 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

Thank you very much for the good comments.

You are definitely right that adequate parking (off of Brink Rd) should be provided to serve the park facilities, especially for recreation fields such as soccer. There has also been a lot of interest from cricket players in the up-county/Germantown area for MNCPPC to provide a field for them to play games on. Trails, especially loop paths, are always popular for most all our parks as are playgrounds. I have also heard from a few nearby people interested in tennis and also volleyball. I realize there is a dog run area at Ridge Road. It would be interesting to hear what people think of it (any suggested improvements) and if there is interest for a different kind of dog area at Seneca Crossing.

The great thing about this park is that it is really big so it can accommodate recreation facilities and still provide buffer spaces, lots of landscaping, and green space.

I drive by this park on my way home so I am really excited to see it happen.

Thanks again for the ideas and please write more as you have them.

Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 1:36 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Thank you so much for getting back to me! I missed the first notice and have heard almost nothing about this proposal, which is why I'd very much appreciate the posting of tonight's meeting so I can review it.

I think it would be wonderful to have a park in this area and would like to help ensure that it meets the community's needs without causing problems. Without knowing what is proposed, I hesitate to offer much input, but a couple thoughts in case these issues come up....

1. I'm a dog owner/lover but we don't need another dog park here unless they get rid of the one at Ridge Road Park (0.5 miles away).
2. Walking/bike paths would be great, particularly good access allowing people to walk to the park.
3. Plenty of parking is needed.... neighbors in Cedar Valley are extremely concerned about people parking in our neighborhood as the developer made all streets except Seneca Crossing far too narrow for parked cars and simultaneous safe transit. We constantly fear kids getting hit because you can't see down streets with cars parked on the curvy streets. An entrance on Brink may make good sense, but if it's across from Seneca Crossing Drive, people will park in Cedar Valley... therefore that entrance location will likely get a lot of opposition.
4. Would there be sports events going on here (like Saturday soccer)? If so, parking is more of an issue. The mess that occurs every Saturday at Clarksburg is not acceptable (people park illegally on streets because there is no parking lot and those streets are even more narrow than ours. I'm certain that this is what Cedar Vally residents fear. It's not only unattractive, it's downright dangerous.

Thanks again for the work you're doing on this. I look forward to seeing the proposals and appreciate your posting them for people who can't make the meeting.

Pam Bruce-Staskal

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting
Date: Thu, 18 Feb 2010 12:49:54 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

This timing is unfortunate, as was the snow. We sent out 1,800 notices so it was not possible to revise the schedule for the snow date meeting tonight. However, you can very definitely contribute toward the planning of the park, without attending tonight's meeting. After tonight, and based on input from tonight, plus write-in information, the consultant will begin the design of several alternative plans for the park which will be presented at a later date *second public meeting* (likely this summer) so you can provide input then as well. After the second meeting a preferred plan will be prepared that will be presented at a *third public meeting* (likely winter), and from there it will be refined and go to the *Planning Board for approval* (spring of 2011). These are all opportunities for future input. The plan(s) will also have to go through regulatory agency review during the process for compliance to new environmental site design guidelines and to obtain standard permits.

Currently and in the near future you can contribute by:

- 1) You can write into me your thoughts and ideas about the future local park via email or letter.
- 2) Also - After tonight's meeting we will be posting a summary of meeting results on the website, and you can provide input on that or after that as well.

This project really has a lot of potential to be a great park.
Thank you for your interest and feel free to call me as well.

Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 6:13 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Thank you for all the work you are doing to develop this park.

Unfortunately, the snow date for this meeting coincides with Cedar Valley HOA meeting (the nearest neighborhood for this park) and the School Improvement Meeting at the nearest school (Sally Ride ES).

As residents in Cedar Valley, we will be very much affected by this park and I would like to find our more about it at the early stages of planning. Is there any way that we can provide input for this first step in planning for the park if we cannot attend on the snow date?

Thank you again for your efforts and please let me know whether I can be involved.

Pam Bruce-Staskal
11713 Virginia Pine Drive
Germantown, MD 20876

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Hotmail: Free, trusted and rich email service. [Get it now.](#)

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 1:51 PM
To: 'Dorothy Brady'
Subject: RE: Emailing: Montgomery Parks Park Development Division - Capital Improvement Program Projects

Very welcome.

From: Dorothy Brady [mailto:bradygirls@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 1:49 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Re: Emailing: Montgomery Parks Park Development Division - Capital Improvement Program Projects

Thanks so much for your time today! We look forward to receiving information in the mail about upcoming meetings. Try to make it a great day in spite of the rain.

~ Dorothy Brady

----- Original Message -----

From: "Heidi Sussmann" <Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org>
To: Bradygirls@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 1:26:56 PM GMT -05:00 US/Canada Eastern
Subject: Emailing: Montgomery Parks Park Development Division - Capital Improvement Program Projects



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April 1, 2009

To: Dr. Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Montgomery County Recreation Advisory Board (MCRAB)

Ref.: Joint Public Forum on Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for Parks and Recreation
Planning Board Agenda Item No. 14 for April 2, 2009

Respected Dr. Hanson, Commissioners, and MCRAB Members:

I am a resident of the Upcounty area of Clarksburg and would like to request consideration of the following in the upcoming fiscal year 2011-2016 CIP for parks and recreation facilities. Please refer to the map on page 4 to locate the facilities referenced in this letter.

I would like to bring to the attention of the Planning Board and MCRAB that two of the items listed below have been requested for full funding by the community for several years now: (a) the feasibility study and design/construction of a dedicated international-standard cricket field in Germantown to add "diversity" to our Park facilities and (b) the relocation of the Ovid Hazen Wells Carousel from Wheaton Regional Park to Ovid Haven Wells Recreational Park in Clarksburg. I urge the Planning Board and the Recreational Advisory Board to consider these projects for full funding in the beginning of the CIP to bring the above two projects that are dear to the community to fruition as soon as possible.

1. New Park Development: Develop Seneca Crossing LP in Germantown with a Cricket Field

Cricket is an extremely popular game all over the world as well as among the immigrant community in Montgomery County, especially in the Upcounty area. There are approximately twenty-five teams in the Washington Metropolitan area that play under the auspices of Washington Cricket League. Several of these teams are based in Montgomery County and do

not have a proper field to play the game. Often times, the teams play on soccer fields with choppy/ungraded turf and under-prepared pitches, which take much out of the quality and enjoyment of the game.

The challenge to provide a standard cricket field in the County has always been finding a suitable location to place the field. The Department of Parks however has recently initiated the facility planning study for Seneca Crossing LP located along Brink Road to the east or Ridge Road in Germantown. The park is in close proximity to Ridge Road Recreational Park and has three large rough-graded areas of which the easternmost field is large enough to fit a 180-foot radius cricket field. I request that Department of Parks take advantage of existing field conditions and fully fund conversion of the existing field(s) to construct an international-standard cricket field on the site by FY 2012.

The current schedule for the proposed local park anticipates start of the Facility Planning Study in July 2009 and approval of the Facility Plan by the Planning Board by December 2010. Though the Feasibility Study time-frame is rather long, I hope that the cricketing community will be rewarded for its wait with full-funding for the design and construction of a cricket field at Seneca Crossing LP within the first two years of the FY 2011-2016 CIP.

2. Park Development and Improving Park Facilities: Relocate Ovid Hazen Wells Carousel from Wheaton to Clarksburg

In 1981, when land for the Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park was conveyed to M-NCPPC by Mrs. Hallie A. Wells for *ten dollars*, the deed required that M-NCPPC acquire the c. 1910-1915 Hershell-Spillman Carousal from Fairhill Farm Antiques for \$60,000 and relocate the carousel to Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park in Clarksburg, "At such time as the property hereby conveyed is serving sufficient numbers of park users to justify the placement of a carousel on the property, the party of the second part agrees to relocate the OVID HAZEN WELLS carousel...".

After 28 years, the Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park is substantially complete, is ready, and is used on a daily basis by more than "sufficient numbers" of residents from Clarksburg, Germantown, and Damascus areas, especially children. The current park use level therefore justifies the placement of the carousel at the park immediately. I request that the FY 2011-2016

CIP include adequate funding for the relocation of the carousel from Wheaton to Clarksburg in FY 2011. This is a long-standing request of the community and must be funded in FY 2011. This action will also demonstrate County's commitment to honor the generosity of Mrs. Wells.

3. Park Acquisition: Acquire the "Tapestry" Property in Germantown/Clarksburg

The "Tapestry" property is located to the southwest quadrant of MD 355 and West Old Baltimore Road in Germantown/Clarksburg and is owned by Miller and Smith. The site is at the boundary between Germantown and Clarksburg. West Old Baltimore Road bisects the property into a northern half and a southern half. The heavily wooded site is contiguous to the North Germantown Greenway SVP and is immediately adjacent to the Ridge Road Recreational Park.

This "gateway" site has been in front of the Planning Board for development as a residential subdivision. The approximately 35-acre site has been for sale for a number of years and recently, a portion of the site was also actively considered for a local church.

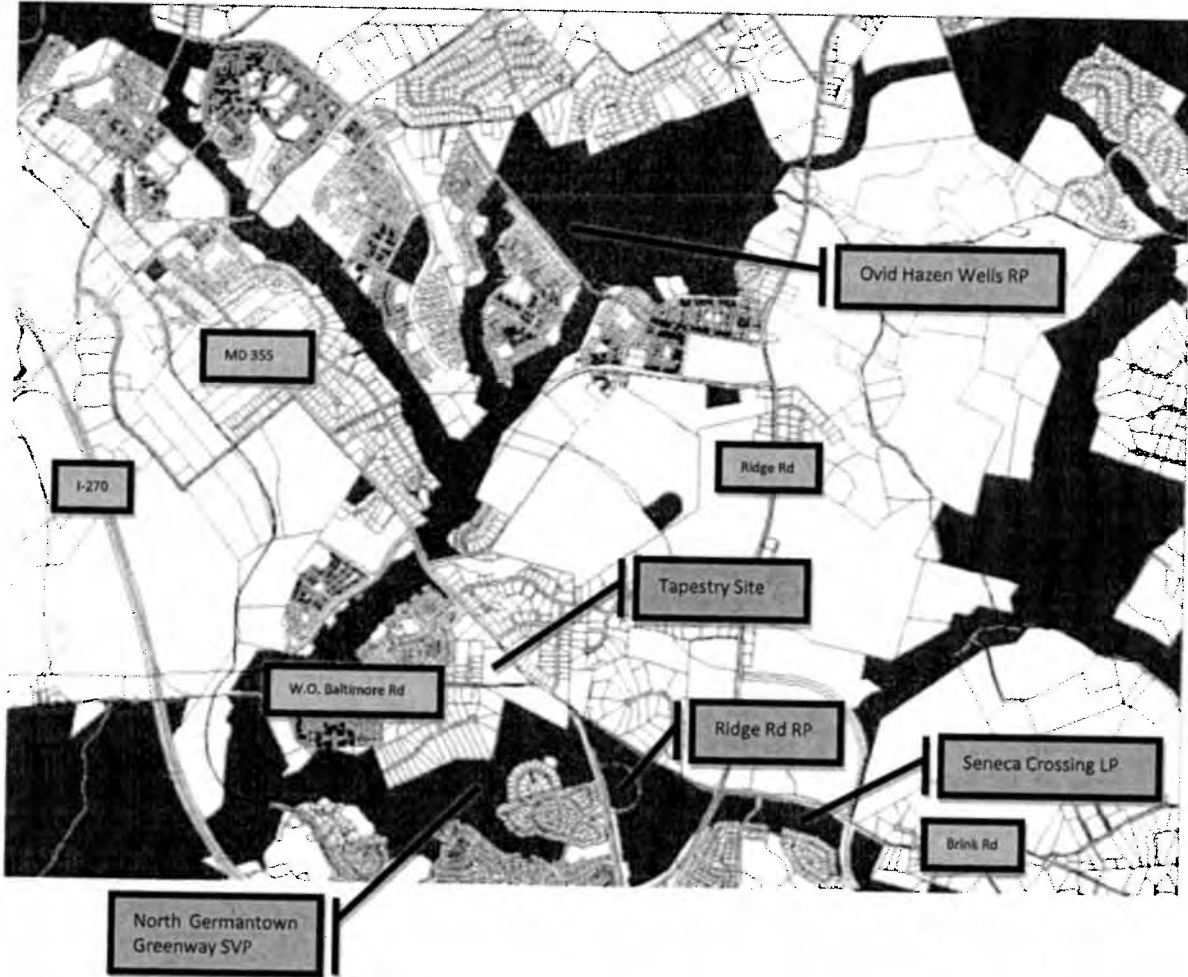
Given the challenges associated with the development of the site, such as the non-contiguous nature of the site and environmental/roadway impacts associated with site development, the site presents itself as a strong candidate for immediate acquisition as parkland. I request that the "Tapestry" site be included in the budget for acquisition by the Department of Parks.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Cherian Eapen
23118 Birch Mead Road
Clarksburg, MD 20871





cc: Mary Bradford
Heidi Sussmann
Mark Wallis
Kathie Hulley

Joint Public Forum on Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget for Parks and Recreation
Location of Existing/Proposed Recreational Parks and Local Parks
Germantown/Clarksburg Areas

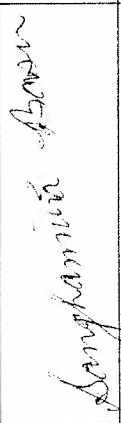



Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground in Germantown

<p>Petition summary</p> <p>Action petitioned for</p>	<p>Cricket Ground in Germantown</p> <p>To The Director of Parks Montgomery county, Maryland</p> <p>We, the undersigned Montgomery County residents, would like a permanent Cricket field in Germantown. Cricket is an extremely popular game all over the world as well as among the immigrant community in Montgomery County, especially in the Upcounty area. Unfortunately we do not have a proper field to play the game and some of us travel to places outside our county to play the game we love.</p> <p>We would request Department of Parks to take advantage of an existing field and convert it to a cricket ground. We have the following options for the ground:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seneca Crossing LP located along Brink Road to the east or Ridge Road in Germantown. 2. South Germantown Recreational Park 3. Any other ground in the vicinity of Germantown <p>We look forward to working collaboratively with you on this project, to make it a huge success, as soon as possible for the residents!</p>
--	--

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-Mail
Anil K Das		13919 Lullaby Rd, Germantown MD 20874	Anil.K.Das@irs.gov
Ramanathan Subbiah		13043 Middlebrook Rd, Germantown, MD 20874	
Caiyi Lang		2116 Silver Birch Ln Germantown, MD 20874	
Anil Nagaraja		13101 Alpine Dr. Germantown, MD 20874	

Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-Mail
SANGHATINIYA BASU		19401 RAYFIELD DR. GERMANTOWN, MD, 20874	sachindep.de@gmail.com
GURDARSHAN ACHREJA		19816 Madrigal dr. Germantown, MD 20876	Gachreja@gmail.com

PETITION TO CONSTRUCT A CRICKET GROUND

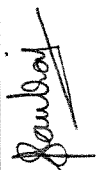






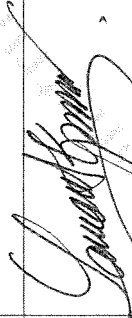


Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-Mail
Sveinla Muelster		19617 Cassaway Ln Germantown, MD 20874	
Kelli Beckstrom		19521 Bowman Ridge Dr. Germantown, MD 20874	
MARIAN TAMANON		13824 LULLABY RD GERMANTOWN	
Maryella Hughes		19511 Bowman Ridge Dr. Germantown, MD 20874	
FaShanda Blissett		19530 Bowman Ridge Drive Germantown MD 20874	
Arvind Dangi		13947 Lullaby Rd GERMANTOWN MD - 20874	
Nilush Rawad		19411 Rayfield Dr Germantown, MD 20874	
Sr AZAN		13951 Lullaby Rd GERMANTOWN MD 20874	
Yan Li		13937 Lullaby Rd Germantown, MD 20874	
Nasid Zamani		13949 Lullaby Road Germantown MD 20874	




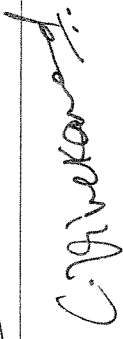


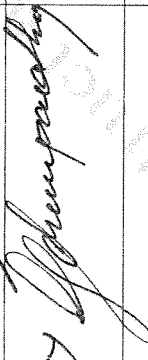

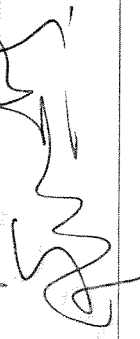
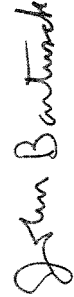
Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground in Germantown

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-Mail
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Mukul Patil		13402 PAVENTRY WAY GERMANTOWN MD 20874	mukul@rediffmail.com
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ANIL TANEJA		32 CASE ST. GAITHERSBURG 20878	
ANUP MEHTA		15701 Manogamy Circle APT 40 Baltimore MD - 20878	
GEORGE EAPEN		13911 COACHMANS CIR GERMANTOWN, MD 20874	
SUNIL M. NAGABHUSHANA		13641, Palmetto Circle Germantown, MD-20874	
ASHOK NAIR		13643, PALMETTO CIR GERMANTOWN, MD 20874	ASHOK-NAIR@HOTMAIL.COM

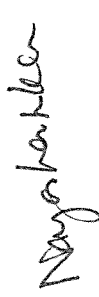




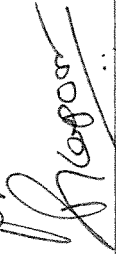
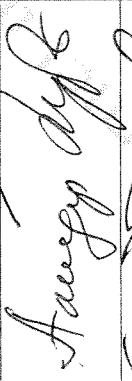

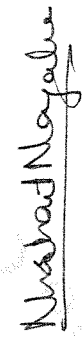

Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground in Germantown

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-Mail
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Piyush Patel		3, Observation Court, #301 Germantown, MD 20876	piyushk@yahoo.com
Alok Gaur		18821 Summer Oak Ct. Germantown-20874	gaurstera@gmail.com




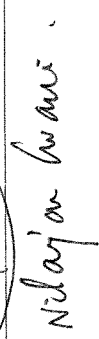

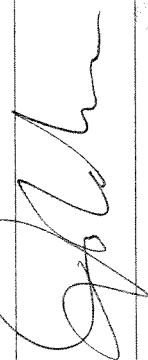


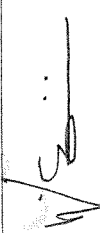
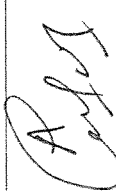
Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground in Germantown

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-Mail
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Satish Munda		18907 Coral Grove Pkwy Germantown, MD 20874	smunda@gmail.com
John Bartusek		2014 Luzerne Av. Silver Spring MD 20910	jbartusek@gmail.com

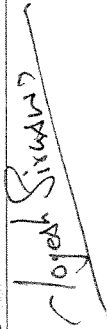

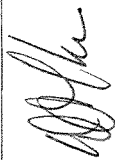
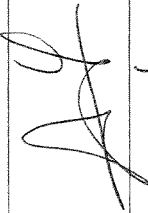

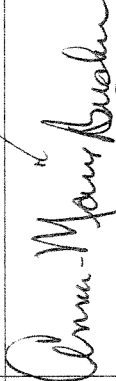
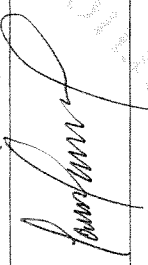

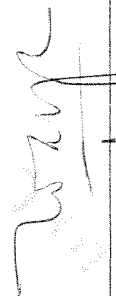
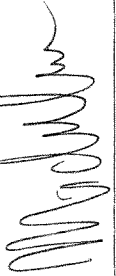
Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground in Germantown

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-Mail
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Jatm Jain		9808 PEATHERTREE, MA Montgomery village. MD - 20886	jain2003@yahoo.com
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ALEKSANDAR PURKOVIC		12022 GATEWAY DR. POTOMAC, MD 20854	apurkovic@comcast.net
GARY TOMINOVICH		22 BRIGANTON DR GANTHERSBURG, MD 20877	gtominovich@starpower.net
NISHANT NAGALIA		18011 Cottage Garden Dr. # 302 Germantown, MD 20874.	nishantnagalia@yahoo.com
ARUN VIJAY NAW		21100 ARCHSTONE WAY, #106, Germantown, MD - 20876	arunvijay@gmail.com


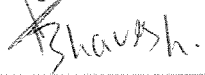

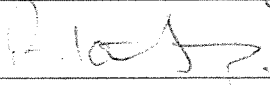
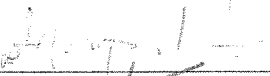




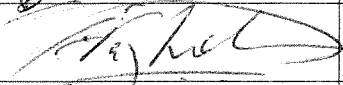
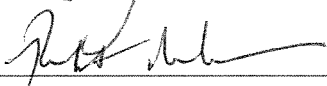

Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground in Germantown

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-Mail
Yan Lin		17806 Bromfield Pl. Germantown, MD 20874	yanlin-2000@yahoo.com
Prabhu Kuthyan		18009 Cottage Garden Dr #204, Germantown, MD	KSPrabhu@gmail.com
Ram Kujar		6 Falconbridge Ct d. Potomac MD 20871	RamKujar@gmail.com
NILANJAN GOSWAMI		20067 Appledorse Circle, Germantown 20874	nil@ufl.edu
Doreen Thomas		3163 Pine Orchard Ln Ellicott City, MD - 21042	doreen-thomas@ti.com
Goldhar Sibi		4949 Betty Ln. Bethesda, MD	gsibi@hotmail.com
Gaurang Trivedi		21102 Tall Cedar way Germantown, MD 20876	gtrivedi@hotmail.com
ELVITA LOBO		1 PICKERING CT #101 GERMANTOWN MD 20874	elvita-1@yahoo.com
RAJESH SIVARAJAN		13 FRAMINGHAM CT GAITHERSBURG MD 20879	rsivarajan@yahoo.com
Fahiz ANSARI		10631 - Muirfield Dr, Potomac, MD 20854	F-ANSARI@hotmail.com



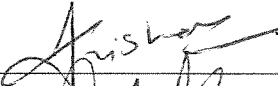


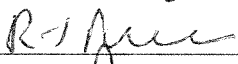

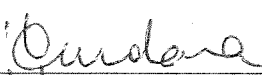

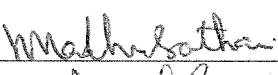


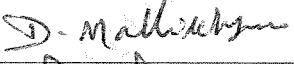

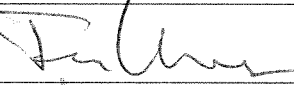
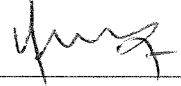
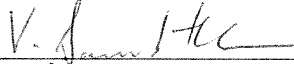
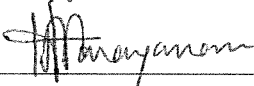

Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground in Germantown

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-Mail
YOGESH SIRASAR		21100 Ashstone Way #303 Germantown MD 20876	yogesh-sirasara@gmail.com
TINKU MANNAN		10837 NANFUKET TERR POTOMAC, MD 20854	t.mannan@men.com
Dan Thomas		7 Stege Coach Court Germantown MD 20876	dethomas3@verizon.net
Felix Moorman		11708 Magnolia Lane Rockville MD 20852	fmoorman@yahoo.com
Mingjian Fan		12028 Coldstream Dr. Potomac, MD 20854	mins1234@yahoo.com
ANNA-MARIE BUCHNER		25325 Clearwater R Damascus, MD 20872	abuchner@ti.com
Carlos Hernandez		9638 Duffer Way Gaithersburg, MD 20886	carher@gmail.com
TED GEORGE		17805 Marble Hill Germantown, MD 20874	tedge@ti.com
Tuan Truong		12312 Stoney Bottom Rd Germantown Md 20874	t-truong1@ti.com
Michael Wisnize		13789 Lambertina Place Rockville MD	wisnize@ti.com

Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground in Germantown

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-mail
Anand Vishal		333, W Side Dr, Apt 104, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	Vishalanand20@gmail.com
Ashish Chandra		339 W Side Dr, Apt 301 , Gaithersburg MD 20878	chandra.vicky@gmail.com
Rohan Manglik		18712, Falling River Dr, Gaithersburg, MD 20879	rohan.manglik@gmail.com
Bhavesh Maisheri		18702, Falling River Dr, Gaithersburg, MD 20879	bmaisheri@gmail.com
Satyanarayana Kanithi		343, W Side Dr, Apt 104, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	hellosatya@gmail.com
Arvind Venugopal		10101 Grosvenor Place, Apt 920, North Bethesda, MD 20852	arvindv@gmail.com
Kishore Ramachandran		12416 Falconbridge Dr, North Potomac, MD 20878	Kishore_ram2000@yahoo.com
Agonus Jaipaul		869 Clopper Rd T1 Gaithersburg MD 20878	agonusj@gmail.com
Augustine Davidson		869 Clopper Rd T1 Gaithersburg MD 20878	mailaugus@gmail.com
Sankarraj Lakshmanan		23104 Turtle Rock Terrace, Clarksburg, MD 20871	s_lakshmanan@hotmail.com
Vimal T.T.		905 Clopper road Gaithersburg, MD 20878	vimaltt@yahoo.com
Ravi Ramanujam		13321 Dovedale Way #G Germantown MD 20874	ravi_srr@yahoo.com
Kiran Kavthe		441 W Side Dr, Apt 303, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	kavathekiran@hotmail.com
Shankar Sagare		441 W Side Dr, Apt 204, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	Shankar_sagare@yahoo.com
Kasi Reddy		23255 Arora Hills Dr, Clarksburg, MD 20871.	Kasi.karnati@gmail.com
Benjamin Fredrick		12911 Mccubbin Lane Germantown, MD 20874	fredbenjamin@hotmail.com
Fazluddin Fakruddin		204 Park Ave. #301, Gaithersburg, MD 20877	fazluddinf@yahoo.com
Rohit Malhotra		13402 Daventry way, Unit D Germantown MD 20874	Rohit_malhotra4@hotmail.com
Ajit Ketkar		18241 Smoke House Ct, Germantown MD, 20874	Ajit.ketkar@gmail.com

Petition to Construct a Cricket Ground in Germantown

Printed Name	Signature	Address	E-mail
RAVI VISWANATH		18707 Falling River Dr Gaithersburg MD 20879	RVLswa2004@ yahoo.com
Vivek Singh		307, W SIDE DR #304 Gaithersburg, MD 20878	vivek.singh@firma.org
Kaiwal Sheh		323 W side dr. Gaithersburg, MD	chicugobinddy22 @gmail.com
RAVI VARMA A		621 west side dr Gaithersburg, MD	gaurivarma4@ gmail.com
SARATH KOTIPALLI		17112 Deoniny St Gaithersburg, MD	Sarathy.Kotipalli@ gmail.com
SRINIVAS REGULA		23126 Timber creek Ln Clarksburg, MD - 20871	SPREGULA@hotmail.com
N. Ron		439 W SIDE DR. B03 GAITHERSBURG - MD 20878	MALLURAM@AMAIL.COM
VANDANA .B.		301 West Side Dr Gaithersburg, MD 20878	vandana25@katusa.com
Ravi Ram		403, W SIDE DR #202 Gaithersburg, MD 20878	ramravi@hotmail.com
MADHUSOOTHANAN		319 W SIDE DR #304 Gaithersburg md 20878	VMSOOTHANAN@ GMAIL.COM
PANKAS BEHL		13418 DUTROW DR, CLARKSBURG, MD 20871	PANKAJ.BEHL@email.com
Swaminathan Laksh		Landonburg Gaithersburg 17125 King James way, MD-20878	Swami.laksh@katusa.com
MALLIK DIVVALA		23313 Anjali's DR Clarksburg MD 20871	D-MALLIKARSON@ yahoo.com
RAMANATHAN RAJAGOPAL		25416 PAINE ST DAMASCUS, MD 20878	RAMESH RANHA@ HOTMAIL.COM
PRADEEP CHANDRA		433 W SIDE DR #304 GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878	PRADEEP_C@HOTMAIL.COM
ASHOK SUBRAMANIAN		11765 SICKLARK RD CLARKSBURG MD-20871	ashsusi@yahoo.com
SAMBATHKUMAR VELUSAMY		311 WEST SIDE DR APT 102 GAITHERSBURG, MD - 20878	VELUSAME HOTMAIL.COM
NARAYANAN HARIHARAN		23108 BASSWOOD HILL DRIVE CLARKSBURG, MD. 20871	narayanan-hariharan@ yahoo.com
Rajendra Jagtap		4504 HYDE PL Frederic MD 21704	Jagtap5@yahoo.com

Sussmann, Heidi

From: ronalam@ucia.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 7:04 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park Community Home Owner Concerns

Heidi,

Thanks for the prompt response. The only thing that I would strongly suggest is that your organization start planting the mentioned heavily planted landscape (trees) buffer as soon as this spring to ensure that this new landscape is mature enough to be at the needed screening level when the park is built (within 6 years). Planting this screening in concert with the park will not allow for proper screening for 4 – 5 years out. Let me know what you think and have a wonderful day.

Ron McDermott

From: Sussmann, Heidi [mailto:Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 2:09 PM
To: RONALAM
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park Community Home Owner Concerns

Hello Ron,

Thank you for your interest in Seneca Crossing Local Park, and for conveying your concerns as well as suggestions so clearly. I can address most of the considerations on your list, and also agree with your ideas as a common sense approach.

Due to the existing conditions of the park site, most all proposed features will be located along Brink Road on the 3 level plateau areas that are up quite a bit higher than the homes. There is a fairly big physical separation between these upper areas and the homes (110' to 150'), consisting of a continuous wide band of slopes that drop down to man-made drainage-ways. This area can be heavily planted to enhance the buffer effects between park and homes. Also, sound travels 'up' (versus down) so that is good in terms of any park noises being diffused.

Active recreation features such as basketball and skate parks (if included) should be located toward Brink Road (yes) as much as possible for good visibility (policing) and to locate more active areas away from homes. Playground areas can also be located away from homes, but not right along a main road because of safety reasons.

The park is a 'local' park therefore will be for *day-use only* (closed at dark) and not lighted. There is good visibility into the front of the park from Brink Road and this is good for police supervision. While we want to include a lot of landscaping for the park (beautification) we also need to be sure not to obscure sight lines too much (from Brink Rd). As a typical park design element, there will be major buffer landscaping all along the back of the park (unless we hear of objections).

Local parks typically include athletic fields with areas for spectators, but usually not bleachers. It is a nice local park feature to make the spectator areas sloped or terraced for sitting and viewing. Bleachers are included in Recreational parks like nearby Ridge Road, but typically not in local parks.

As a general policy we don't usually fence parks unless it is a safety issue (like playgrounds too close to a roadway). In the case of this park, where there will be a physical separation and buffer area (planted slopes + drainage ways) between the park and homes, a fence will most likely not be needed. I know the park managers have noted there are

some encroachments into the parkland from adjacent homes (not supposed to happen) but don't know how they will address it at this point. It's very possible some of these homes might not want a fence that marks the actual property line.

We have heard from 'many' people NOT to include a path connection to the community from the park and will of course strongly consider this request. I will say that the community may someday have regrets as I have seen this happen before, when people start to use and enjoy a park they later ask for a connection and there is no money to do it and/or the park has not been designed in a way to include one later (accessibility requirements).

It is a lot to think about and I hope this has responded to most of your concerns.

Your ideas are all very good, please forward more to me as you think of it and as the project progresses.

Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: ronalam@ucia.gov [mailto:ronalam@ucia.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 12:42 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: rlbmcd@comcast.net
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park Community Home Owner Concerns

Heidi,

I am an original homeowner living in the community that has been slated for the below potential park:

Seneca Crossing Local Park Community Meeting

I would suggest that whatever style park is chosen for this location that the below considerations be given the highest consideration. We are ones who will be living with this in our back yards.

- If you have basket ball courts, PLEASE have them closest to the road and not homes.
- If you have a play ground, PLEASE have them closest to the road and not homes.
- If you have a skate park, PLEASE have them closest to the road and not homes.
- Have an opening and closing time for the park and enforce it.
- Please do not install lights in the park.
- If stands are erected have them on the road side to elevate an eye soar for the homeowners.
- Please fence in the entire park and at a minimum follow our HOA guidelines on fence styles
- Do not install a gate for a park entrance from the home side of the park; we have enough traffic in our neighborhood.

Ron McDermott, PMP
11521 Seneca Forest Circle
Germantown, MD 20876

Sussmann, Heidi

To: ronalam@ucia.gov
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hello Ron,

Regarding the flyers described in your email below, I did not initiate or know about the survey or the dates included. It is my understanding the survey was created and distributed by a Cedar Valley resident with all information you are mentioning below, and responding to below.

I have received a number of surveys, as well as non-survey emails with different ideas for the park as well as concerns. We are following a public process for this project that includes several public meetings (we had the first one) as well as a final review and approval at the Planning Board, so they are continuing opportunities to remain involved with the project and put forward your ideas.

Thank you.

From: ronalam@ucia.gov [mailto:ronalam@ucia.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 5:56 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Heidi,

We received these flyers March 2, 2010, not sure, if this was the strategy but how do you expect the homeowners to have to respond to these questions, mail them to you and expect to them to be in your office by March 4th? It is impossible. Therefore, I typed my responses to this questionnaire to ensure you heard my concerns.

I think that the O&M tail that will be needed to keep this park up and running should be disclosed to all taxpayers along with the decision model on how this park will make our county a better place to live.

Ron McDermott
11521 Seneca Forest Circle
Germantown, MD 20876

Seneca Crossing Local Park

I am very concerned that the park will increase NOISE, TRAFFIC, CRIME, DRUGS, and VANDALISM & HOUSE DEPRECIATION

Proposed park use:

A regulation size cricket field including batting cages, bathroom facilities and a sufficiently large parking space to have statewide cricket tournaments. STRONGY DISAGREE

Reason: The bathroom facilities will turn into a homeless shelter and will be used 24x7 for nesting location for drugs, drinking and vandalism

+++++

Nature trail / walking trail / bike path / reforestation STRONGLY APPROVE

Reason: This will compliment the Brink Road Park and will be the least impact to the homeowners and home values.

+++++

Tennis Courts INDIFFERENT

Recreational sports league (county/state) INDIFFERENT As long as no facilities and a sufficiently large parking are included in this option. Also, stay true to the theme LOCAL PARK not county/state park

+++++

Football field / soccer field 9AM – 6PM DISAGREE

Reason The County has so many of these that are not used. We have a county field behind Sally K Ride Elementary that is never used why build another.

+++++

Playground DISAGREE

Reason The County has so many of these that are not used. We have a county field behind Sally K Ride Elementary that is never used why build another.

+++++

Basketball courts DISAGREE

Reason The County has so many of these that are not used. We have a county field behind Sally K Ride Elementary that is never used why build another.

+++++

Parking lot DISAGREE

Reason Stay true to the project Local Park and Not Local Parking Lot

+++++

No Parking AGREE

Reason This space was designated as a park, not a parking lot

+++++

Picnic / pavilions / barbeque pits DISAGREE

Reason The County has so many of these that are not used. We have a these next Sally K Ride Elementary that is never used and when they are they are not cleaned up and trash is everywhere

+++++

Community Garden Strongly Approve

Reason This would be unique to the county and would be the least impact to homeowners

+++++

Bathroom Facilities / water fountains Strongly Disapprove

Reason These facilities will become a homeless shelter and will be used 24x7 for nesting location for drugs, drinking and vandalism

+++++

Reforestation Strongly Approve

Reason We have lost so many forest in this county do to parks, home construction etc, this would send the appropriate message that the county cares about the environment

+++++

Do nothing Strongly Approve

Reason Being a taxpayer in this county for over 20 years, I would like to see theses dollars be used to get the detached school trailers removed from our schools and not used for a park decision that was made over 14 years ago when the county was not in a fiscal deficit.

Ronald McDermott, PMP
11521 Seneca Forest Circle
Germantown, MD 20876

Sussmann, Heidi

To: Pam Bruce-Staskal
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Thank you very much Pam for your thinking on this park. I can see you have a lot of concerns from your own experiences. All the surveys and input will be compiled for the project as it moves forward.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 9:13 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Thanks for such a detailed response. I do appreciate hearing the County perspective - the time you're taking to clue me in will only help me find the middle ground.

To address some points... sending 1800 flyers sounds like it should be plenty, but as you already know, the HOA and the school improvement team for the school nearby both had meetings that same night. While owners should know a park was forthcoming, it's been a decade since the subdivision was finished. Regardless of who knew what and when, the problem is not putting fields at this park. No one is adverse to making this wasteland into a beautiful park - in fact, it could be a great asset.

The problem is that rec leagues will overuse the fields, exactly as is happening at fields like this all over the county. On paper, this plan looks great - the space looks big enough... there's an interest for cricket, etc.. Sounds like a perfect match. The problem is that paper cannot accurately predict the problems that come with use all day, every weekend day for months on end. If the plan was for a couple hours of play every weekend or even all-day matches occasionally (1-2 times/month in season), we couldn't complain - it'd be for the good of the county and would actually be very cool! But soccer and cricket leagues will result in use all day, every Sat and every Sun for months on end. There will be noise, traffic, loitering, trespassing, speeding, illegal parking, trash, etc, just like there is at every one of my kids games (soccer/T ball). As I stated, I would never purchase a house near a park with rec leagues playing every weekend. Just consider showing your home on a weekend with league play. The noise/parking/trespassing issues alone would scare away buyers unless their family was in that league.

League play is better suited far away from homes because from what I have seen in this county, recreational leagues are disruptive to neighborhoods. They are fine at the SoccerPlex, but not next to a home. You seem to think that everyone will use Brink to enter/exit the park, but we had to have speed bumps installed on Seneca Crossing because people fly down the road at 40-50mph as a shortcut between Brink & 355 - right past the school during all hours of the day. People won't go Father Hurley to Brink... they'll come through the subdivision no matter how convenient you make the entrances to the park on Brink. They will park on Seneca Crossing and Seneca Forest, blocking visibility and making these narrow roads dangerous. Seneca Crossing is wide everywhere except the section near the park... parking in this area will be very problematic.

One question I have is how many residents have you talked to recently that live on the same street as local parks with league play every weekend? I think if you polled the homeowners across from the fields in Clarksburg, you would hear 90% complaints. The other 10% have kids who play soccer in the league.

The survey in the neighborhood was designed to give an equal voice of the residents to the cricket club. Many neighbors are hearing "park" and think it's great (I was one of them until I thought of my kids' soccer games). The letter that accompanied the survey spelled out that the cricket club wants a state tournament quality park there and because voting was done on that night, decisions were driven by a biased group who don't have to live with the consequences. The term "soccer plex" was used to make people think of the traffic, parking, and noise issues that we see at the Soccer Plex - these problems come

with all-day league play whether there is 1 field or 30.

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting
Date: Tue, 2 Mar 2010 13:10:33 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com
CC: mgraves@lsginc.com

Hello Pam,

I am sorry more residents were unable to attend the first meeting. We did send out over 1,800 notices for the meeting to homeowners and HOA's in a 2-mile radius of the park. Hopefully the next meeting will draw a lot of people. Also, original homeowners should have been aware of the park from Winchester Homes (the developer of Cedar Valley) who prepared plans (as part of the site plan) showing the park with 2 rectangular sports fields (and parking between the 2 fields and accessed from Brink Rd) in the bigger contiguous portion of the park, and 1 small softball field in the small separate area. The park has also been rough-graded/engineered by Winchester Homes for this kind of layout, placing earthwork fill from the residential development onto the park site for the future (typical) local park facilities, such as a field. I am very surprised that there are many residents who could not have known about the park here, especially if they are original owners. There are some homeowners who I know received the original park plan. I also think realtors are obligated to include information like this when homes are re-sold (but not sure of how this is done).

Our goal today is to revisit the park design and create the best park to serve a variety of interests today, that will also be an attractive place to visit, manageable, and safe.

Seneca Crossing is a 28-acre *Local park* (most local parks are between 10-15 acres), and is an engineered site with good vehicular access and visibility from Brink Road. 'Local parks' typically include permitted fields and other facilities/amenities for day-use. We now have 129 local parks that have been developed: 55 of them have 1 permitted field; and 71 of them have 2 or more permitted fields (56 local parks with 2 fields and 15 parks with 3 to 8 fields). This is just to illustrate what the norm is for a 'local park'. The M-NCPPC park system also owns *thousands of acres of natural areas*, stream valleys, and Regional parks (2/3 undeveloped); as well as Recreational parks (like Ridge Road) and small Neighborhood (walk-to) and Urban parks.

It is my understanding that a neighborhood survey has been circulated for comment, with a list of features that are all described as *intensively used*. I cannot say that this intense use described is what is being proposed. Example: is state/regional tournaments and a 'Soccerplex' is listed on the survey. It is worth knowing that the Soccerplex is very different and is a huge public/private mega facility (21-23 fields, many lighted, some championship scale) and intended and permitted for regional tournaments. Seneca Crossing can fit at the most 2 fields of any type (in bigger area) and is for day-use.

Which facilities are included and how they are programmed and permitted is to be determined.

There is opportunity now to send in your ideas, concerns, and wishes for the park and to continue to provide feedback as alternative and final plans are developed.

The first public meeting was 1 of 3 meetings that are scheduled to occur for the design of the park. The next step will be for the Consultant to prepare 4 alternatives and they will be presented at the second meeting. There were a great number of cricket players at the first public park meeting, most local from Germantown and Boyds area, so this was very popular on the resulting list of features. We currently do not have any cricket fields in our M-NCPPC Montgomery County park system and cricket players have been asking for a field (at County Council level as well) for some time now;

and planners have been looking county-wide to see where one might be located. This site is large enough to fit *one oval-shaped field* within the larger area, as well as any necessary parking internal to the park site and accessed from Brink Road. I believe that a cricket game would take most of the day (versus soccer which could schedule 2-4 games a day). There are other possibilities for the park as well, and we have received interest in tennis, a dog-park, skate-spot facility, volleyball, and community garden, trails, and open space, among other things listed at the public meeting. The key to fields or any other park facility is how they might be permitted for use, policed, managed and maintained.

Please let me know any more ideas you and others may have, or questions.

Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 9:43 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Hello,

Some Cedar Valley residents got together to discuss the park with a few who were able to attend the meeting. We understand that a vote was taken as to the most desired use of the park at the first meeting and the cricket league outvoted everyone else. I was surprised to hear that one person felt that cricket at the park is a done-deal and the question now is only how to best lay out the park for cricket.

Many residents had not heard a thing about this park or the initial meeting, but upon being informed that we could have state tournaments at the park, many people expressed concerns that this type of use is not well suited to a residential park. We understand that MD needs to have a cricket field, but a major question was why does it have to be at Seneca Crossing? Are there no other parks, further away from houses with more area, that would better accommodate cricket? Why can't they play at the Soccer Plex where they are equipped to keep the field well maintained?

Many people have said they'd like to offer some input. By what date should they contact you in order to have their feedback play a role in the decision of how the property can be best used?

Thanks again for your help,
Pam

Hotmail: Free, trusted and rich email service. [Get it now.](#)

Hotmail: Trusted email with Microsoft's powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

Sussmann, Heidi

To: mgraves@lsginc.com; McManus, Patricia; Wallis, Mark; Farquhar, Brooke; Pedoeem, Mitra
Cc: Schmieler, Tanya
Subject: FW: Seneca Crossing Park Planning

There seems to be some interest from a few+ to date for a *skate facility* of some type. Also, for a better (and an additional) *dog park* to the one that's at Ridge Rd (very crowded). And a few have asked for *tennis*. There would probably be interest in a *pool* if that was on the table (heard this via phone and in my group at meeting).

I have received 30+ surveys (+more emails) from Cedar Valley residents against most anything, especially Cricket, or other fields. I am sure there are many more coming.

A KEY question, if we want to place any field (soccer or cricket) here, will be how/when it is permitted and to who. Also - we should emphasize providing plenty of parking on-site, + maintenance, and policing for whatever is finally proposed.

If we want field(s), I don't know what is binding or what we can fall back on in terms of what Winchester Homes included in their park plan that was provided to (at least adjacent) homeowners when they purchased their homes about 13 years ago. In other words, the idea of a field or two should not be "appalling". The Winchester plan included 2 soccer fields with parking between them within the big area, and 1 small softball field with no parking in the small separate area. Robert Kronenberg is getting the site plan file copied for me, and I have some of it already. Brooke, I think you were the development reviewer for this site plan? Do you have any information on it or recollections about anything?

I have changed my mind about replying to *all* the input = crazy idea. It may become a full time job just filing/processing all the input. This project will of course be interesting as it moves forward.

We (someone in management/decision position) will probably need to clarify or take a position at the next public meeting on how this project should be developed and why, ie. based on established 'needs' for certain facilities and the fact that the site was prepared by their developer (Winchester) for fields. I see the same potential for an endless planning loop like at North Four Corners. We should try to avoid burning 5 years of staff time this time around, so any suggestions would be great.

Thanks all.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 11:12 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon

Aside from putting out the word for other people to contact you with their thoughts, is there anything I can do to push the skatepark idea other than relay the current need to you as I've already done?

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon
Date: Thu, 4 Mar 2010 10:57:45 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

Thanks again for your ideas. It is important that you continue to put forward your wishes for a skate facility. A skate facility is important for teenagers (and younger) and needed.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 10:02 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon

Thank you for being receptive to our concerns - I'm sure it's disheartening to put so much effort into these projects only to hear complaints.

On paper things can look very different than what will happen in reality and just because we plan for and provide people the means to do the right thing, it doesn't mean that they will. What makes me very sad is that if people were more responsible/respectful of each other and the area, we wouldn't be having this conversation. I'd be cheering more sports fields so close by.

All I can ask is what you have promised... that input be compiled and considered. I do also ask that equal weight given to residents and the cricket league's wishes, regardless of the #s. I feel for the cricket league, but having lived in Cedar Valley for almost 8 years, I know what problems we have and how they will be exacerbated by too much league play. If you have 100 people show up asking for some obnoxious or unacceptable plan, you wouldn't give them more weight than anyone else just because they were a vocal minority. Please don't do that to us.

On another note, I cannot support the skate park idea enough. The poor kids who skate at Sally Ride are constantly being told to go elsewhere, but that's the only place nearby with curbs and benches off which they can practice jumps without being in the street. Where are they supposed to go... into the woods to smoke pot? I think this is one thing that would be very helpful and productive for our youth.

Thanks again for your efforts. I do truly appreciate them.
Pam

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon
Date: Thu, 4 Mar 2010 09:47:55 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

Thank you again Pam.

Keep the good ideas coming. I have received several other requests for a better dog park area (than at Ridge Rd) and also for a skate-spot type facility. Some high school kids even emailed about the skate-spot idea. We need things to keep high school kids active. I also think that if any field of any type goes into Seneca Crossing it should be open to anyone to permit for use = children and teenagers included.

I'll write more later.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 9:29 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon

I'm sorry, but I hit a hidden command and my email was sent before it was finished.... Sorry! I've added the rest in red.

Thanks for such a detailed response. I do appreciate hearing the County perspective - the time you're taking to clue me in will only help me find the middle ground.

To address some points... sending 1800 flyers sounds like it should be plenty, but as you already know, the HOA and the school improvement team for the school nearby both had meetings that same night. While owners should know a park was forthcoming, it's been a decade since the subdivision was

finished. Regardless of who knew what and when, the problem is not putting fields at this park. No one is adverse to making this wasteland into a beautiful park - in fact, it could be a great asset.

The problem is that rec leagues will overuse the fields, exactly as is happening at fields like this all over the county. On paper, this plan looks great - the space looks big enough... there's an interest for cricket, etc.. Sounds like a perfect match. The problem is that paper cannot accurately predict the problems that come with use all day, every weekend day for months on end. If the plan was for a couple hours of play every weekend or even all-day matches occasionally (1-2 times/month in season), we couldn't complain - it'd be for the good of the county and would actually be very cool! But soccer and cricket leagues will result in use all day, every Sat and every Sun for months on end. There will be noise, traffic, loitering, trespassing, speeding, illegal parking, trash, etc, just like there is at every one of my kids games (soccer/T ball). As I stated, I would never purchase a house near a park with rec leagues playing every weekend. Just consider showing your home on a weekend with league play. The noise/parking/trepassing issues alone would scare away buyers unless their family was in that league.

Please forgive me if I sound argumentative for that is not my intent, yet I know I sound like it (I'm too blunt at times... sorry.)

League play is better suited far away from homes because from what I have seen in this county, recreational leagues are disruptive to neighborhoods. They are fine at the SoccerPlex, but not next to a home. You seem to think that everyone will use Brink to enter/exit the park, but we had to have speed bumps installed on Seneca Crossing because people fly down the road at 40-50mph as a shortcut between Brink & 355 - right past the school during all hours of the day. People won't go Father Hurley to Brink... they'll come through the subdivision no matter how convenient you make the entrances to the park on Brink. They will park on Seneca Crossing and Seneca Forest, blocking visibility and making these narrow roads dangerous. Seneca Crossing is wide everywhere except the section near the park... parking in this area will be very problematic.

One question I have is how many residents have you talked to recently that live on the same street as local parks with league play every weekend? I think if you polled the homeowners across from the fields in Clarksburg, you would hear 90% complaints. The other 10% have kids who play soccer in the league.

The survey in the neighborhood was designed to give an equal voice of the residents to the cricket club. Many neighbors are hearing "park" and think it's great (I was one of them until I thought of my kids' soccer games). The letter that accompanied the survey spelled out that the cricket club wants a state tournament quality park there and because voting was done on that night, decisions were driven by a biased group who don't have to live with the consequences. The term "soccer plex" was used to make people think of the traffic, parking, and noise issues that we see at the Soccer Plex - these problems come with all-day league play whether there is 1 field or 30.

In giving some thought to better uses of the park (or should I say uses already fulfilled)... we have tennis courts that are seldom used at Ridge Road and in Stratford Knolls (next neighborhood) we have a dog park at Ridge Road (I'm a dog lover/owner & would personally love a dog park here, but am thinking about the greater good) we have basketball courts at the Cedar Valley park and at Sally K. Ride ES we have two tot lots in Cedar Valley, one larger kid playground in Cedar Valley and Sally K. Ride's playground we have baseball at Ridge Road park we have soccer at Damascus Regional, Ovid Hazen, and someone mentioned it was also at Ridge Road.

What we don't have is Cricket, reforested areas, running/biking trails nearby, or a skatepark. I'd be all for cricket if the schedule was not all day, every Sat/Sun. Occasional matches would be great, but I have a hard time believing that a 24 league team would not use the park every Sat/Sun during their season. Another question came up as to whether kids could use cricket fields or whether they had to be meticulously maintained? I don't think it's fair to put a park next to houses and then tell the kids to keep out.

For a reforested area, do we have any area highlighting native species nearby... if that was done at this

park, the Sally Ride classes could easily walk there for lessons on MD horticulture.

If you put a running path in the park that was highly landscaped (low maintenance, of course), I'd be there every day as would the gazillion dog walkers in the neighborhood.

A skatepark would be great because we have dozens of kids who skate at the school. I'm sure the principal would love for them to relocate :).

I'm really sorry that this isn't going smoothly for the county, but residents feel bamboozled by the cricket league upon learning that votes were taken at the first meeting and no one could outvote them. I want them to have a park in MD, but I don't want it in Cedar Valley if it means the park has matches all day long every weekend. That's just too much.

Thank you again for listening. I know your job cannot be easy and I do appreciate your "listening".
Pam

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting
Date: Tue, 2 Mar 2010 13:10:33 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com
CC: mgraves@lsginc.com

Hello Pam,

I am sorry more residents were unable to attend the first meeting. We did send out over 1,800 notices for the meeting to homeowners and HOA's in a 2-mile radius of the park. Hopefully the next meeting will draw a lot of people. Also, original homeowners should have been aware of the park from Winchester Homes (the developer of Cedar Valley) who prepared plans (as part of the site plan) showing the park with 2 rectangular sports fields (and parking between the 2 fields and accessed from Brink Rd) in the bigger contiguous portion of the park, and 1 small softball field in the small separate area. The park has also been rough-graded/engineered by Winchester Homes for this kind of layout, placing earthwork fill from the residential development onto the park site for the future (typical) local park facilities, such as a field. I am very surprised that there are many residents who could not have known about the park here, especially if they are original owners. There are some homeowners who I know received the original park plan. I also think realtors are obligated to include information like this when homes are re-sold (but not sure of how this is done).

Our goal today is to revisit the park design and create the best park to serve a variety of interests today, that will also be an attractive place to visit, manageable, and safe.

Seneca Crossing is a 28-acre *Local park* (most local parks are between 10-15 acres), and is an engineered site with good vehicular access and visibility from Brink Road. 'Local parks' typically include permitted fields and other facilities/amenities for day-use. We now have 129 local parks that have been developed: 55 of them have 1 permitted field; and 71 of them have 2 or more permitted fields (56 local parks with 2 fields and 15 parks with 3 to 8 fields). This is just to illustrate what the norm is for a 'local park'. The M-NCPPC park system also owns *thousands of acres of natural areas*, stream valleys, and Regional parks (2/3 undeveloped); as well as Recreational parks (like Ridge Road) and small Neighborhood (walk-to) and Urban parks.

It is my understanding that a neighborhood survey has been circulated for comment, with a list of features that are all described as *intensively used*. I cannot say that this intense use described is what is being proposed. Example: is

state/regional tournaments and a 'Soccerplex' is listed on the survey. It is worth knowing that the Soccerplex is very different and is a huge public/private mega facility (21-23 fields, many lighted, some championship scale) and intended and permitted for regional tournaments. Seneca Crossing can fit at the most 2 fields of any type (in bigger area) and is for day-use.

Which facilities are included and how they are programmed and permitted is to be determined.

There is opportunity now to send in your ideas, concerns, and wishes for the park and to continue to provide feedback as alternative and final plans are developed.

The first public meeting was 1 of 3 meetings that are scheduled to occur for the design of the park. The next step will be for the Consultant to prepare 4 alternatives and they will be presented at the second meeting. There were a great number of cricket players at the first public park meeting, most local from Germantown and Boyds area, so this was very popular on the resulting list of features. We currently do not have any cricket fields in our M-NCPPC Montgomery County park system and cricket players have been asking for a field (at County Council level as well) for some time now; and planners have been looking county-wide to see where one might be located. This site is large enough to fit *one oval-shaped field* within the larger area, as well as any necessary parking internal to the park site and accessed from Brink Road. I believe that a cricket game would take most of the day (versus soccer which could schedule 2-4 games a day). There are other possibilities for the park as well, and we have received interest in tennis, a dog-park, skate-spot facility, volleyball, and community garden, trails, and open space, among other things listed at the public meeting. The key to fields or any other park facility is how they might be permitted for use, policed, managed and maintained.

Please let me know any more ideas you and others may have, or questions.

Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 9:43 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Hello,

Some Cedar Valley residents got together to discuss the park with a few who were able to attend the meeting. We understand that a vote was taken as to the most desired use of the park at the first meeting and the cricket league outvoted everyone else. I was surprised to hear that one person felt that cricket at the park is a done-deal and the question now is only how to best lay out the park for cricket.

Many residents had not heard a thing about this park or the initial meeting, but upon being informed that we could have state tournaments at the park, many people expressed concerns that this type of use is not well suited to a residential park. We understand that MD needs to have a cricket field, but a major question was why does it have to be at Seneca Crossing? Are there no other parks, further away from houses with more area, that would better accommodate cricket? Why can't they play at the Soccer Plex where they are equipped to keep the field well maintained?

Many people have said they'd like to offer some input. By what date should they contact you in order to have their feedback play a role in the decision of how the property can be best used?

Thanks again for your help,
Pam

Hotmail: Free, trusted and rich email service. [Get it now.](#)

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 11:07 AM
To: 'Molly Guenzer'
Subject: RE: Update: Potential Cricket Field Plan: Community meeting; Seneca Crossing Local Park...

It is. I'd like to know a lot more about what a weekend cricket day is like, as far as # of people, spectators, etc.

Have you ever watched a game around here?

Also - the FC info I forwarded was as FYI. Matt should just keep on with submittal(s) to Doug until approval.

THX

-----Original Message-----

From: Molly Guenzer [mailto:mguenzer@lsginc.com]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 10:22 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi; Wallis, Mark
Subject: RE: Update: Potential Cricket Field Plan: Community meeting; Seneca Crossing Local Park...

These cricket players are so well organized! Really quite admirable.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sussmann, Heidi [mailto:Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 10:10 AM
To: Molly Guenzer; Wallis, Mark
Subject: FW: Update: Potential Cricket Field Plan: Community meeting; Seneca Crossing Local Park...
Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

From: mlodaya@boydscricketclub.com [mailto:mlodaya@boydscricketclub.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2010 3:25 PM
To: Schmieler, Tanya; Nelligan, Art; MaryPat_Wilson@mcpsmd.org; Eapen, Cherian; Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Update: Potential Cricket Field Plan: Community meeting; Seneca Crossing Local Park...
Importance: High

Heidi,

Thank you very much for organizing and coordinating the meeting last thursday. I handed you a hard copy of potential plans and revenue matrix for the county for the cricket field. I am also attaching a soft copy for your records. I am the president of the Boyds Cricket Club, and Montgomery County Cricket Association. Both are registered companies in the state of maryland and I have attached the letters of registration.

I have experience in the area of building cricket fields and organizing cricket leagues and would like to offer the county any assistance it needs in this matter. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Manish Lodaya
President
Boys Cricket Club
Phone: 301.922.3892

-----Original Message-----

From: "Sussmann, Heidi" [Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org]
Date: 02/12/2010 02:37 PM
To: mlodaya@boydscricketchub.com, "Schmieler, Tanya" <Tanya.Schmieler@mncppc-mc.org>, "Nelligan, Art" <Art.Nelligan@mncppc-mc.org>, MaryPat_Wilson@mcpsmd.org, "Eapen, Cherian" <Cherian.Eapen@mncppc-mc.org>
Subject: RE: Community meeting; Seneca Crossing Local Park...

Yes - you are right - the meeting is rescheduled for the following Thursday, same time and place... due to a little snow!
Looking forward to the meeting and hope to see you there.
Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: mlodaya@boydscricketchub.com [mailto:mlodaya@boydscricketchub.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 7:52 AM
To: Schmieler, Tanya; Nelligan, Art; MaryPat_Wilson@mcpsmd.org; Eapen, Cherian
Cc: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Community meeting; Seneca Crossing Local Park...

Team,

I am assuming given the snow conditions and school closure, that this will be moved to February 18th? Please let me know and I will inform my team accordingly.

Thank you for your support.

Manish Lodaya
President
Boys Cricket Club
Phone: 301.922.3892

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Richard Zdanis [razdanis@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 3:37 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: FW: Return of survey for Cedar Valley Park
Attachments: ProposednewCedarValleyParksurvey.pdf

Original has been sent in the mail also. Thanks for your work on this important issue.

Owner,
11430 Seneca Forest Circle
Germantown, MD 20876

Proposed Uses for the Seneca Crossing Local Park

Street Address 11430 Seneca Forest Circle
 Anonymous
 I live <1 mile <2 miles from the site
 <5 miles >5 miles

I am very concerned that the park will increase : noise traffic crime drugs vandalism rodents loitering
 house depreciation water runoff stream pollution _____

Proposed park use

Strongly Approve Indifferent Strongly Disapprove

A regulation size cricket field including: batting cages, bathroom facilities and a sufficiently large parking space to have statewide cricket tournaments. Reason: <u>WHY CRICKET? TOO MUCH NOISE</u>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Nature trail / walking trail/ bike path / reforestation (i.e. Centennial trail) Reason: <u>Family homes in Neighborhood need "green space"</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts (elaborate number of courts) Reason: <u>OK IF NOT "league" played.</u>	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Recreational sports league play (county/state) Reason: <u>TOO MUCH TRAFFIC & NOISE</u>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Football field / soccer field (9:00AM - 6:00PM Sat-Sun, i.e. Soccer-plex) Reason: <u>TOO MUCH TRAFFIC & NOISE</u>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Playground ages (2-5) or (5-12) Reason: <u>Yes - like nature trail!</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts (elaborate number of courts) Reason: <u>Already have at elementary school - look at condition!</u>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Parking lot <input type="checkbox"/> 100 vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> 75 vehicles <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50 vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> 25 vehicles Reason: <u>IF NEED PLACE FOR CARS OTHER THAN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD</u>	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
No Parking lot (therefore no league or spectator sports) Reason:	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Picnic area / pavilions / barbeque pits Reason: <u>yes! like park or nature trail!</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Community garden / garden plots Reason: <u>Yes - keep community oriented</u>	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Bathroom facilities / water fountains Reason: <u>NO - not needed</u>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reforestation Reason: <u>Better used for our families to have picnics</u>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Do nothing / leave the space as is Reason: <u>It's an eyesore - looks unfinished</u>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Reason:	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 4:17 PM
To: 'Mgraves@lsginc.com'; Wallis, Mark; McManus, Patricia
Subject: FW: Proposed uses for the Seneca Crossing local park

...fyi - this email reflects the other survey-email (just forwarded) in terms of wording....

-----Original Message-----

From: Francia Groman [mailto:francia@fingerpaintz.com]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 4:02 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Proposed uses for the Seneca Crossing local park

Hello, information about this project was just recently forwarded to me, I'm unable to fill out the survey, but would like to let you know that I am concerned about vandalism, loitering, crime and drugs that could come attached to a large cricket field. I live at 11616 Scarlet Leaf Circle about 3 miles from the site. But two of my small children attend Sally K Ride elementary school and play around the area often. I think the area would be much better suited for playgrounds or rec sports league play. Ideally I had hoped for a community pool, but I see that's not even up for discussion.

anyway, I hope you will have enough information to make the best decision. Thank you kindly for your time.

Francia Groman
make your baby smile!
francia@fingerpaintz.com
301.520.7781

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Paula Russin [russinp@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 10:33 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Re: Cedar Valley Park Project

Hi Heidi,

Thank you for your response. I am looking forward to seeing how the land will be used. Yes, I am an original home owner (moved in Aug 2000) and now that you mention it, I remember being told the land was going to be used for the soccer fields and softball field! I hope all goes well with the planning.

Thank you for keeping everyone informed,
Paula

Sussmann, Heidi wrote:
Hello Paula,

Thank you very much for your ideas. I must tell you that the survey being hand-delivered/distributed was not from me, although that may be ok. The survey was delivered by a resident in Cedar Valley. I don't believe the survey reflects all of the options that might go in the park, and not sure that it accurately reflects how the facilities would be used or permitted or programmed, but it does list several facilities that are options. There have been residents requesting other things like a dog park, tennis, volleyball, a pool, and a co-op community garden, etc. Also as information (in the event you are not the original homeowner) as part of the approved site plan the original park plan from Winchester (built Cedar Valley) showed 2 large soccer fields with parking area in the big portion of the park, and softball in the smaller portion and it was rough graded/engineered accordingly.

I believe that now we are in the process of designing the park and all ideas are important. Four plan option for the park will be presented several months from now, again for your input, and residents will get a notice prior to the meeting. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact me.

Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Paula Russin [mailto:russinp@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 8:18 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Cedar Valley Park Project

Hi Heidi,

I have been unable to successfully complete your PowerPoint Survey electronically, but want our voice heard, so I am sending you this email.

I am very concerned that the park will increase ...
noise, traffic, crime, drugs, vandalism, loitering

I Strongly Disapprove ...

Regulation Size Cricket Fields
Football field/Soccer field
Tennis courts
Recreational Sport league Play
Basketball Courts

Indifferent ...

Playground ages (2-5) or (5-12)
Picnic Area/Pavilions/barbecue pits
Bathroom Facilities / Water Fountains

I Strongly Approve

Nature trail / walking trail / bike path (flat) / reforestation
Community Garden / Garden Plots
Reforestation

It is unrealistic to think you will not need parking, so I prefer a small parking lot.

I feel it is unrealistic to do nothing / leave the space as is because it is not a pretty space as is and it is not an asset to the community as it is. Making it a Natural setting to relax and enjoy time with the family would be a much better setting and use of the property.

Thank you for listening to our Point of View,

Paula and David Russin

Sussmann, Heidi

From: The Woottens [crabland@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 10:10 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: mgraves@lsginc.com
Subject: Re: Seneca Crossing Park

Heidi,

Thank you very much for your response.

Joyce

----- Original Message -----

From: [Sussmann, Heidi](#)
To: [The Woottens](#)
Cc: mgraves@lsginc.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 9:33 AM
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park

Dear Joyce and Larry,

Thank you very much for your dog park idea. A vast number of households are dog owners and I know the dog park at Ridge Road is very heavily used, indicated by the heavy surface wear. When I prepared 4 illustrative concepts (shown in power-point at first public meeting) I did show a dog park as an option in one of them for the very reasons you are mentioning. If you know of other residents who are also interested in this please prompt them to forward their ideas as well.

Thank you again,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: The Woottens [mailto:crabland@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 5:56 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Seneca Crossing Park

Dear Ms. Sussmann,

I am writing to request that the county consider putting some space aside for a dog park in the new Seneca Crossing Park. We were unable to attend the meeting on February 18 and were surprised that apparently no one made the suggestion.

When we and our neighbors head out to the Ridge Road park, we often have to turn back when the weather is nice because the park is so overcrowded with dogs and their owners as to be unmanageable and unsafe. An additional location to serve Germantown and the surrounding communities would be put to good use.

I hope that you will take this request under consideration.

Thank you,

Joyce & Larry Wootten
11517 Dragonfire Way
Germantown, MD 20876

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Belinda Raminhos [raminhos2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 8:47 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: dog park

Hi, My name is Belinda Raminhos and I live in the Stratford knolls community. I would love to see a dog park in the Seneca crossing park. I have 2 dogs and used to go to the ridge rd. dog park, but it is to small and crowded. It would be great to have a dog park I could walk to. If you do add a dog park to the plans please include a water source. When people use the ridge rd. park you would have to bring your own water, You would fill the bowl and the water would get dirty from muddy paws and that would be it. It would be nice if it was a little bigger with more shade sources, so people and dogs would spread out.

Thanks for your time
Belinda Raminhos.

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Andi Rosati [ARosati@gaithersburgmd.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 1:53 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Seneca Crossing

Just wanted to let you know that my family and I support a dog park for Seneca Crossing .
The Ridge Road one is overcrowded!

Thanks!

Andi Rosati
Facility Director
Arts Barn
311 Kent Square Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-258-6394

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Sussmann, Heidi

To: Belinda Raminhos
Cc: mgraves@lsginc.com
Subject: RE: dog park

Belinda,

Thank you very much for your ideas. I have received some other requests for a dog-related area at Seneca Crossing park (and some negative feedback about the existing dog area at Ridge Road). Your comments will be included in the compilation of feedback we receive. Please continue to put forward your ideas and hopefully you will be able to attend the future public meetings.

Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Belinda Raminhos [mailto:raminhos2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 8:47 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: dog park

Hi, My name is Belinda Raminhos and I live in the Stratford knolls community. I would love to see a dog park in the Seneca crossing park. I have 2 dogs and used to go to the ridge rd. dog park, but it is to small and crowded. It would be great to have a dog park I could walk to. If you do add a dog park to the plans please include a water source. When people use the ridge rd. park you would have to bring your own water, You would fill the bowl and the water would get dirty from muddy paws and that would be it. It would be nice if it was a little bigger with more shade sources, so people and dogs would spread out.

Thanks for your time
Belinda Raminhos.

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Doug Taylor [dtay1132@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 5:17 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Re: Seneca Crossing Local Park Questionnaire

Thanks for the quick response. I've lived in Cedar Valley since 1997 and have a solid understanding of what Winchester did and the original concept was. I'll send you my feedback tonight.

Doug

----- Original Message -----

From: Sussmann, Heidi
To: Doug Taylor
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 5:06 PM
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park Questionnaire

Hello Doug,

Please forward your ideas to me in any format (neighborhood survey or as a email-letter or phone-in). It is my understanding that a survey is being currently circulated that was prepared by a resident in Cedar valley. I am not sure where the deadline of March 4th came from, however, the sooner we gather ideas from people the better. Ideally 2-3 weeks after a meeting should allow enough time for initial input, and then there will be more opportunities as the project progresses (2 more public meetings are scheduled in coming year).

I am also not sure that the survey accurately reflects all the ideas that have come up, or the manner that different facilities might be used, which is yet to be determined. For example, in the survey, a 'soccer field' is represented as an intensively used 'Soccerplex', which is a totally different kind of place than Seneca Crossing would be. Soccerplex is a mega-facility with 21-23 tournament fields, some Astroturf, and lighted for night use. As background information, the Winchester Homes developer (builder of Cedar Valley homes) included a plan for the Seneca local park that included 2 soccer fields with parking in the middle (all off of Brink Rd), and a small softball field in the small separate area. This is very typical for a local (day-use) park, and Winchester rough-graded the park site, placing fill from the development onto the park site for this kind of layout. I believe some original home owners still have this plan. The park site can reasonably accommodate 2 fields (of any type) with the necessary parking, in the bigger area – not a huge number of fields.

However, we are now revisiting the design for the park to determine the best design today that will provide recreation, be attractive, safe, and manageable/maintainable, so please forward your ideas.

Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Doug Taylor [mailto:dtay1132@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 4:27 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park Questionnaire

Dear Ms Sussmann:

My name is Doug Taylor and I live at 11510 Seneca Forest Circle, Germantown MD. My home is located in the Cedar Valley community and is in the Cedar Valley East section which abutts the proposed park property. I found a questionnaire on our front door today and it has a response date of 3/4. I suspect that if I mailed it today, it would not be received by you in time for 3/4. Would it be acceptable for me to complete it, scan it and attach it to an email?

I appreciate your desire to hear more from the members of our community. As a former HOA board member and president, I have a continuing interest in the use of those parcels and was unfortunately away when the public meeting was held. Please respond and let me know whether you will be able to accept feedback via email.

Regards,

Doug Taylor
11510 Seneca Forest Cir
Germantown, MD 20876
h. 301-515-5858
c. 301-367-7654

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Brenda Gbolie [bgbolie85@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 10:30 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: Bockarie Gbolie
Subject: Proposed New Park in the Cedar Valley Community -- MOST RIDICULOUS IDEA

Dear Heidi,

We were appalled, to say the least, to see the plan for the proposed park behind our house. This is absolutely a ridiculous idea, and this is most definitely not the type of setting for such a place. There's already the Germantown Soccerplex with lots of amenities, and several parks in the immediate vicinity, so what's the idea behind this plan?. This will not only be extremely disruptive to our Cedar Valley community, but will most definitely drive down property values, especially for those of us right in the thick of things. The most appropriate development for that land is reforestation; Lord knows we do need to plant more trees.

We will also be sending you the completed questionnaire in the mail, but we wanted to send you this email as a heads-up.

Sincerely,

Bockarie and Brenda Gbolie
11507 Seneca Forest Circle, Germantown, MD 20876

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Gina [ggrink@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 1:24 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Dear Ms. Sussmann,

I am a resident of Cedar Valley, at 11535 Seneca Forest Circle. My husband attended the meeting held Thursday, February 18, regarding the Seneca Crossing Local Park Development Project, but I was unable to attend, so I am writing to register my comments. My primary concern with the park development is the potential for increased traffic in our neighborhood and the surrounding area in general. Therefore, I am vehemently opposed to developing any type of sports league fields.

I am extremely concerned about the consideration of cricket fields for use in hosting statewide tournaments. First, a neighborhood is not the proper location for a proposal of this magnitude. Traffic congestion is already a problem in this area, especially during rush hour, as cars are backed up at the intersection of Brink and Route 27. Before making a recommendation, the county needs to study the traffic patterns in this area. Also, I would suggest the county observe the traffic generated by cricket leagues in Virginia to determine whether this area could adequately support the additional influx of traffic that would be generated by cricket leagues converging upon this area from all over the state. I believe what the cricket leagues are proposing simply cannot be accommodated by the Seneca Crossing location. The scope of their proposal would be best met in a location like the Soccer-plex, which is set a distance from neighborhoods. Second, I am concerned whether cricket fields would be the best "public" offering, i.e., would benefit many people. If these fields must be pristinely maintained to strict specifications for state and even Olympic level competition, then would their use be limited to cricket leagues? Will others be asked to stay off the fields, when they are not in use by cricket teams? Third, any type of league, tournament or spectator sports will not only increase traffic, it will increase noise and trash.

Another concern I have is whether M-NCPPC would put in a path to access the park from Seneca Forest Circle. My home is the first one east of the county property that extends directly to Seneca Forest Circle. Because there is a large expanse between houses there, it is a very attractive spot to park and walk to the fields. This would pose so many problems for my family such as cars parking in front of our home, increased foot traffic within yards of our home, safety and security issues, noise and litter. Cars parked all along Seneca Forest Circle would pose safety and security issues for everyone in the neighborhood. I am very much in favor of developing walking/biking paths, but do not want them connected in any way to our street.

Ideally, I would like to see that nothing at all is done with the space. I love my view. I love to watch deer run through our backyard to the hills. I love to see the blue sky and grass waving in the wind. Since it's unlikely nothing will be developed, I would request that what is done have as minimal negative impact (traffic, noise, litter) on my neighborhood as possible. I would endorse reforestation or garden plots. Development of tennis courts, nature and bike trails, and/or playgrounds would have less negative impacts than league and spectator sports. I believe bathroom facilities are a MUST to eliminate the need for anyone to knock on neighborhood doors requesting use of bathrooms.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to reviewing the M-NCPPC's recommendations this summer.

Regards,

Gina Grinkemeyer
11535 Seneca Forest Circle

Hi Neighbors,

Please take a moment to read the attached letter and survey regarding the park project for Cedar Valley. Some of you who live further from the park area may not be as concerned as those of us whose property directly abuts it, but if the park is developed for any type of recreational sports league and tournament play, it is SURE to increase traffic along Seneca Crossing, which will affect us all. Also, I am assured by an engineer that noise will carry to Hickory Forest Circle and beyond because of how our neighborhood is situated in a valley (and whatever physics are involved with that). The following link shows the property that is to be developed. You'll see the property extends all the way down from the fields to Seneca Forest Circle, within 2 yards of my house. If they place a walking path there to access the park, you know people will park all along Seneca Forest Circle to walk up to the park. DANGEROUS situation for driving in and out of our neighborhood.

The cricket league that wants to play at Seneca Crossing has 24 teams. Consider the number of cars that would accompany a game. With 11 players per team, 22 cars per game are possible. Add in spectators and you can easily double that per game. With two fields, it may not be unreasonable to need 30-50 parking spaces per field if there's a break between games (allowing one group to fully clear out before the next shows up). If one game is playing while the next is warming up, even more spaces will be needed. I don't know much about cricket, but I am told the games last hours and hours and even days. The cricket constituency is proposing statewide tournaments on these fields. Hours and days of play can mean noise, food, trash, rodents.

http://www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/projects/seneca_crossing/documents/seneca_vicinity_000.pdf

Please complete the survey and mail it to Heidi ASAP. Or, if you prefer, you may e-mail your concerns/comments to

Heidi.Sussmann@MontgomeryParks.org

She will only be accepting comments until Thursday. Thanks for your time. Also, please feel free to forward this e-mail.

Gina Grinkemeyer

Sussmann, Heidi

Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 9:40 AM
To: 'Mary Nishan'
Cc: mgraves@lsginc.com
Subject: RE: Input on Park Project

Dear Mark and Mary,

I am sorry you were unable to attend the first public meeting, and thank you for forwarding your ideas now. I did not receive a survey from you though as your email seems to indicate (maybe being mailed?). I understand your concerns are primarily about fall-out of mass use at Seneca park, and I should probably offer some additional information for you to consider.

You are correct that a number of cricket players (mostly local from Germantown, Boyds, etc) attended the first meeting requesting M-NCPPC to provide them a field. They have also been requesting a cricket field at the County Council for a few years now, because there are currently *no cricket fields* for their use. *How a potential cricket field would be permitted for use is yet to be determined.* Unlike soccer, I believe that a cricket game lasts most of the day (on weekends), resulting in less coming and going during the day. There is one level area in the bigger portion of Seneca park that could potentially accommodate one oval-shaped cricket field (not equal to the ideal full-round field but acceptable). And there are 2 other level plateaus within this bigger portion of parkland that could accommodate necessary parking internal to the site (in middle area), and another facility or feature in the third level area (a rectangular field or dog-park or tennis or volleyball or skate-spot feature or open un-programmed space *any other combination of things to be determined*).

That is why we are in this design phase now, to determine the best plan for this public park.

It is my understanding that a neighborhood survey has been distributed indicating some (not all) of the facilities that were suggested and also indicating an intensive level of use for all the facility ideas, for example, a 'soccerplex'. It is worth knowing that the 'Soccerplex' is a public/private mega-facility in Germantown that currently consists of 21 regulation soccer fields plus a championship field and many are lighted, and 2 more fields are planned soon. It is a huge park and draws regional tournaments (this is the intent).

Seneca Crossing cannot be a *soccerplex* because it is physically *much* smaller and it is a 'local park'. The bigger contiguous portion of the site can accommodate at the most 2 fields of any type (cricket or rectangular). 'Local parks' typically include permitted field(s) and other facilities/amenities for day use. We currently have *144 local parks* in our Montgomery County M-NCPPC park system, along with Regional parks (2/3 conservation), Conservation parks, Stream Valley parks, Recreational parks (like nearby Ridge Road), very small neighborhood walk-to parks, and (small) Urban parks. Out of the 129 M-NCPPC local parks in Montgomery County that have already been developed: 55 of them have 1 permitted field; and 71 of them have 2 or more permitted fields (56 with 2 fields and 15 with 3 to 8 fields).

This park site has been pre-graded to its current state and has a 120-150' physical separation (slope and drainage-way) all along the back between the park area and adjacent homes, which would logically be heavily planted as a buffer zone; and sound does travel 'up' which is better because the park is up a lot higher. The site also has very good visibility from Brink Road (for policing) and good vehicular access from Brink Road with median breaks and accel/decel lane, therefore vehicular access from the neighborhood would not make sense and not be necessary. The original site plan for the Cedar Valley community included typical plans for this 'local park', with 2 larger soccer fields and related parking in the larger area (the 3 plateaus), vehicular access from Brink Rd, and a small softball field (no parking) in the smaller separate area. Some original Cedar Valley homeowners still have this plan.

The key to fields in parks, as for any facilities in parks, is how they will be permitted for use, policed, managed and maintained, so it is understandable you are concerned about some of these things. Our goal is to design a good park that serves some recreation needs, has the necessary infrastructure and amenities, and is also a pretty place to visit, serving people of all ages and abilities and a variety of interests.

I don't know if this additional information resolves your concerns, but it is more to think about. Please call or write if you have additional ideas or questions.

Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Mary Nishan [mailto:marynishan@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 4:35 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Input on Park Project
Importance: High

Heidi my husband and I are very concerned that since a group of cricket player showed up in force and many of us from the neighborhood were still digging out from the snow that outsiders were able to influence the decisions the county will entertain. We are very concerned with parking issues, noise, crime and associated fallout that will come if this open space is developed for mass use by others. Thanks for considering our survey. Mark & Mary, Brandon and Lindsay Nishan

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Mary Nishan [marynishan@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 4:35 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Input on Park Project
Attachments: Park project survey.pdf

Importance: High

Heidi my husband and I are very concerned that since a group of cricket player showed up in force and many of us from the neighborhood were still digging out from the snow that outsiders were able to influence the decisions the county will entertain. We are very concerned with parking issues, noise, crime and associated fallout that will come if this open space is developed for mass use by others. Thanks for considering our survey. Mark & Mary, Brandon and Lindsay Nishan

Proposed Uses for the Seneca Crossing Local Park

Street Address _11435 Seneca Forest
 Circle _____
 I live <1 mile <2 miles <5 miles >5 miles from the site

I am very concerned that the park will increase : noise traffic crime drugs vandalism rodents loitering house depreciation water runoff stream pollution _____

Proposed park use	Strongly Approve	Indifferent	Strongly Disapprove
A regulation size cricket field including: batting cages, bathroom facilities and a sufficiently large parking space to have statewide cricket tournaments.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reason: Cricket is a highly specialized sport not played by many and it looks like our space is being targeted by a league that has no where else to play.			
Football field / soccer field (9:00AM -6:00PM Sat-Sun, i.e. Soccer-plex)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reason:			
Tennis courts (elaborate number of courts)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reason:			
Recreational sports league play (county/state)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reason:			
Nature trail / walking trail/ bike path / reforestation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reason:			
Playground ages (2-5) or (5-12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reason Not really needed			
Basketball courts (elaborate number of courts)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reason not needed as most of the school grounds have basketball courts:			
Parking lot <input type="checkbox"/> 100 vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> 75 vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> 50 vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> 25 vehicles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reason:			
No Parking lot (therefore no league or spectator sports)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reason:			
Picnic area / pavilions / barbeque pits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reason:			
Community garden / garden plots	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reason:			
Bathroom facilities / water fountains	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reason:			
Reforestation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reason:			
Do nothing / leave the space as is	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reason A big concern with all of the above is the parking issue and encroachment into our			
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reason:			

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 1:21 PM
To: 'Mary Nishan'
Subject: RE: Input on Park Project

I did receive your survey ... (sorry for miscommunication in my prior email).

Thank you!

From: Mary Nishan [mailto:marynishan@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 4:35 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Input on Park Project
Importance: High

Heidi my husband and I are very concerned that since a group of cricket players showed up in force and many of us from the neighborhood were still digging out from the snow that outsiders were able to influence the decisions the county will entertain. We are very concerned with parking issues, noise, crime and associated fallout that will come if this open space is developed for mass use by others. Thanks for considering our survey. Mark & Mary, Brandon and Lindsay Nishan

Sussmann, Heidi

From: chrisgrossn@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 9:57 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Brink park

Hi Heidi,

I sent in my letter to vote no to the park, and talking with some of my clients ie the Montg. Police and Park Police I will cont. to vote no.

I am concerned with the parking and overflow parking and cutting through home lots to get to fields. I am also concerned with the traffic on Brink Rd and on off Seneca Crossing Dr.

Look at all the traffic that goes thru the neighborhoods to get to the soccer plex and that road is not designed to handle all that traffic.

I am also concerned with the adult sport of cricket and the adult beverages that can go with an adult male get together.

We have Ridge Rd park less than a .5 mile away from our development, I am sure there could be a cricket lot there, and there are all the amenities of water, bathrooms, lighting.

Thanks for allowing us the neighbors have a voice.

Chris G.

Sussmann, Heidi

From: BowTieClub [bowtieclub@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 11:24 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Dear Ms Sussmann,

I just wanted to let you know my families opinion on the proposed park in the Cedar Valley community called Seneca Crossing Local Park.

I feel that a small group of cricket players hijacked the meeting on the proposed park and they are not a good representation of what the community wants or needs.

Given the current economic condition of the county I think it would be foolish to spend excessive amounts of money on any park right now. The least expensive options are probably the best including the idea of shared gardens for growing vegetables or a small playground for the kids, but to build a huge parking lot or sports fields when they already exist just down the street seems foolish.

I would be glad to answer any questions, so please feel free to call or email if you have any. I live right behind the proposed park and can see the area from my house.

Kirk Hinckley
Local Resident
11506 Seneca forest Circle
Germantown
301-515-4893

Heidi ✓

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Nessel, Beth Anne [BethAnne.Nessel@montgomerycountymd.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 2:49 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: fax #

Hi, thank you for the information and I will put it in the mail to you. Is there a proposed project timeline that details the benchmarks of the proposed project (i.e., community input, concept design, additional community input, presentation to Council? Public Hearing? CIP funds available, start date, end date and if it doesn't have support in these sustained, economically challenging times – what happens, is it revisited each year or is it a one-time shot?). Many thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sussmann, Heidi [mailto:Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 10:55 AM
To: Nessel, Beth Anne
Cc: mgraves@lsginc.com
Subject: RE: fax #

Hello Beth Anne,

Please mail your survey in. While the survey was prepared by a Cedar Valley resident (with I think a deadline included), there is time to send it in. I have not seen the entire information that was distributed. You can also write in your ideas without conforming to a survey.

Also, my phone number = 301-495-2547. Our phones were having issues yesterday, but now are fine.

Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Nessel, Beth Anne [mailto:BethAnne.Nessel@montgomerycountymd.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 9:50 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: fax #

Dear Ms. Sussmann,

Would you kindly advise whether you have a fax number and confirm that a faxed copy of comments regarding the proposed Seneca Local Park is acceptable to be included in the official project docket for review? I have not had luck catching you at the phone number provided to inquire and figured perhaps email would be the best avenue to get this information. Thank you very much.

Address ?

Sussmann, Heidi

To: Nesselt, Beth Anne
Subject: RE: fax #

Hello Beth Anne,

Here is the website that will be posting the project as it progresses.

<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/projects/list.shtm>

Under CIP projects click on Seneca Crossing LP. The tentative dates for public meetings are included and the project will be updated periodically as things progress.

The next step is the Consultant will be compiling all the public input we receive in combination with planning information and site inventory information, and then preparing 4 alternative plans for the park. They will present the alternative plans at another/second public meeting this summer or possibly fall. The step after that is to prepare a best plan, derived from review of the 4 alternatives, and present that at the third public meeting. After that meeting, the (possibly revised) best plan goes to the Planning Board for approval of the plan and related funding to build it.

As far as final design and construction being funded, this is uncertain. It is likely the timing will be several years away based on economic trends and available budget. Once a 'best plan' for Seneca Crossing Local Park is reached, during this 'facility plan phase' of the project, the plan and related funding must first get approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board and then it goes to the County Council as part of our Capital Improvements Program (CIP). If the plan and budget are approved by the Planning Board, then the project must compete with other proposed park projects in our 6-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The Council approves our CIP 6-year schedule.

So, the project should go through this process to a conclusion.

I hope this provides the overall answer you were looking for.

From: Nesselt, Beth Anne [mailto: BethAnne.Nesselt@montgomerycountymd.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 2:49 PM

To: Sussmann, Heidi

Subject: RE: fax #

Hi, thank you for the information and I will put it in the mail to you. Is there a proposed project timeline that details the benchmarks of the proposed project (i.e., community input, concept design, additional community input, presentation to Council? Public Hearing? CIP funds available, start date, end date and if it doesn't have support in these sustained, economically challenging times – what happens, is it revisited each year or is it a one-time shot?). Many thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sussmann, Heidi [mailto: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org]

Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 10:55 AM

To: Nesselt, Beth Anne

Cc: mgraves@lsginc.com

Subject: RE: fax #

Hello Beth Anne,

Please mail your survey in. While the survey was prepared by a Cedar Valley resident (with I think a deadline included), there is time to send it in. I have not seen the entire information that was distributed. You can also write in your ideas without conforming to a survey.

Also, my phone number = 301-495-2547. Our phones were having issues yesterday, but now are fine.

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 11:31 AM
To: 'Pam Bruce-Staskal'
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon

Are there junior or high school kids that could get together for it? M-NCPPC listens to younger people too. I did receive an email from 'Justin' riggio451@verizon.net in Germantown requesting a skate-spot or park. I'll forward it to you in case you're interested in contacting him.
THX.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 11:12 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon

Aside from putting out the word for other people to contact you with their thoughts, is there anything I can do to push the skatepark idea other than relay the current need to you as I've already done?

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon
Date: Thu, 4 Mar 2010 10:57:45 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

Thanks again for your ideas. It is important that you continue to put forward your wishes for a skate facility. A skate facility is important for teenagers (and younger) and needed.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 10:02 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon

Thank you for being receptive to our concerns - I'm sure it's disheartening to put so much effort into these projects only to hear complaints.

On paper things can look very different than what will happen in reality and just because we plan for and provide people the means to do the right thing, it doesn't mean that they will. What makes me very sad is that if people were more responsible/respectful of each other and the area, we wouldn't be having this conversation. I'd be cheering more sports fields so close by.

All I can ask is what you have promised... that input be compiled and considered. I do also ask that equal weight given to residents and the cricket league's wishes, regardless of the #s. I feel for the cricket league, but having lived in Cedar Valley for almost 8 years, I know what problems we have and how they will be exacerbated by too much league play. If you have 100 people show up asking for some obnoxious or unacceptable plan, you wouldn't give them more weight than anyone else just because they were a vocal minority. Please don't do that to us.

On another note, I cannot support the skate park idea enough. The poor kids who skate at Sally Ride are constantly being told to go elsewhere, but that's the only place nearby with curbs and benches off which they can practice jumps without being in the street. Where are they supposed to go... into the woods to smoke pot? I think this is one thing that would be very helpful and productive for our youth.

Thanks again for your efforts. I do truly appreciate them.
Pam

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon
Date: Thu, 4 Mar 2010 09:47:55 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com

Thank you again Pam.

Keep the good ideas coming. I have received several other requests for a better dog park area (than at Ridge Rd) and also for a skate-spot type facility. Some high school kids even emailed about the skate-spot idea. We need things to keep high school kids active. I also think that if any field of any type goes into Seneca Crossing it should be open to anyone to permit for use = children and teenagers included.
I'll write more later.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 9:29 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting - email sent too soon

I'm sorry, but I hit a hidden command and my email was sent before it was finished.... Sorry! I've added the rest in red.

Thanks for such a detailed response. I do appreciate hearing the County perspective - the time you're taking to clue me in will only help me find the middle ground.

To address some points... sending 1800 flyers sounds like it should be plenty, but as you already know, the HOA and the school improvement team for the school nearby both had meetings that same night. While owners should know a park was forthcoming, it's been a decade since the subdivision was finished. Regardless of who knew what and when, the problem is not putting fields at this park. No one is adverse to making this wasteland into a beautiful park - in fact, it could be a great asset.

The problem is that rec leagues will overuse the fields, exactly as is happening at fields like this all over the county. On paper, this plan looks great - the space looks big enough... there's an interest for cricket, etc.. Sounds like a perfect match. The problem is that paper cannot accurately predict the problems that come with use all day, every weekend day for months on end. If the plan was for a couple hours of play every weekend or even all-day matches occasionally (1-2 times/month in season), we couldn't complain - it'd be for the good of the county and would actually be very cool! But soccer and cricket leagues will result in use all day, every Sat and every Sun for months on end. There will be noise, traffic, loitering, trespassing, speeding, illegal parking, trash, etc, just like there is at every one of my kids games (soccer/T ball). As I stated, I would never purchase a house near a park with rec leagues playing every weekend. Just consider showing your home on a weekend with league play. The noise/parking/trespassing issues alone would scare away buyers unless their family was in that league.

Please forgive me if I sound argumentative for that is not my intent, yet I know I sound like it (I'm too blunt at times... sorry.)

League play is better suited far away from homes because from what I have seen in this county, recreational leagues are disruptive to neighborhoods. They are fine at the SoccerPlex, but not next to a home. You seem to think that everyone will use Brink to enter/exit the park, but we had to have speed bumps installed on Seneca Crossing because people fly down the road at 40-50mph as a shortcut between Brink & 355 - right past the school during all hours of the day. People won't go Father Hurley to Brink... they'll come through the subdivision no matter how convenient you make the entrances to the park on Brink. They will park on Seneca Crossing and Seneca Forest, blocking visibility and making these narrow

roads dangerous. Seneca Crossing is wide everywhere except the section near the park... parking in this area will be very problematic.

One question I have is how many residents have you talked to recently that live on the same street as local parks with league play every weekend? I think if you polled the homeowners across from the fields in Clarksburg, you would hear 90% complaints. The other 10% have kids who play soccer in the league.

The survey in the neighborhood was designed to give an equal voice of the residents to the cricket club. Many neighbors are hearing "park" and think it's great (I was one of them until I thought of my kids' soccer games). The letter that accompanied the survey spelled out that the cricket club wants a state tournament quality park there and because voting was done on that night, decisions were driven by a biased group who don't have to live with the consequences. The term "soccer plex" was used to make people think of the traffic, parking, and noise issues that we see at the Soccer Plex - these problems come with all-day league play whether there is 1 field or 30.

In giving some thought to better uses of the park (or should I say uses already fulfilled)... we have tennis courts that are seldom used at Ridge Road and in Stratford Knolls (next neighborhood) we have a dog park at Ridge Road (I'm a dog lover/owner & would personally love a dog park here, but am thinking about the greater good) we have basketball courts at the Cedar Valley park and at Sally K. Ride ES we have two tot lots in Cedar Valley, one larger kid playground in Cedar Valley and Sally K. Ride's playground we have baseball at Ridge Road park we have soccer at Damascus Regional, Ovid Hazen, and someone mentioned it was also at Ridge Road.

What we don't have is Cricket, reforested areas, running/biking trails nearby, or a skatepark. I'd be all for cricket if the schedule was not all day, every Sat/Sun. Occasional matches would be great, but I have a hard time believing that a 24 league team would not use the park every Sat/Sun during their season. Another question came up as to whether kids could use cricket fields or whether they had to be meticulously maintained? I don't think it's fair to put a park next to houses and then tell the kids to keep out.

For a reforested area, do we have any area highlighting native species nearby... if that was done at this park, the Sally Ride classes could easily walk there for lessons on MD horticulture.

If you put a running path in the park that was highly landscaped (low maintenance, of course), I'd be there every day as would the gazillion dog walkers in the neighborhood.

A skatepark would be great because we have dozens of kids who skate at the school. I'm sure the principal would love for them to relocate :).

I'm really sorry that this isn't going smoothly for the county, but residents feel bamboozled by the cricket league upon learning that votes were taken at the first meeting and no one could outvote them. I want them to have a park in MD, but I don't want it in Cedar Valley if it means the park has matches all day long every weekend. That's just too much.

Thank you again for listening. I know your job cannot be easy and I do appreciate your "listening".
Pam

From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com
CC: mgraves@lsginc.com

Hello Pam,

I am sorry more residents were unable to attend the first meeting. We did send out over 1,800 notices for the meeting to homeowners and HOA's in a 2-mile radius of the park. Hopefully the next meeting will draw a lot of people. Also, original homeowners should have been aware of the park from Winchester Homes (the developer of Cedar Valley) who prepared plans (as part of the site plan) showing the park with 2 rectangular sports fields (and parking between the 2 fields and accessed from Brink Rd) in the bigger contiguous portion of the park, and 1 small softball field in the small separate area. The park has also been rough-graded/engineered by Winchester Homes for this kind of layout, placing earthwork fill from the residential development onto the park site for the future (typical) local park facilities, such as a field. I am very surprised that there are many residents who could not have known about the park here, especially if they are original owners. There are some homeowners who I know received the original park plan. I also think realtors are obligated to include information like this when homes are re-sold (but not sure of how this is done).

Our goal today is to revisit the park design and create the best park to serve a variety of interests today, that will also be an attractive place to visit, manageable, and safe.

Seneca Crossing is a 28-acre *Local park* (most local parks are between 10-15 acres), and is an engineered site with good vehicular access and visibility from Brink Road. 'Local parks' typically include permitted fields and other facilities/amenities for day-use. We now have 129 local parks that have been developed: 55 of them have 1 permitted field; and 71 of them have 2 or more permitted fields (56 local parks with 2 fields and 15 parks with 3 to 8 fields). This is just to illustrate what the norm is for a 'local park'. The M-NCPPC park system also owns *thousands of acres of natural areas*, stream valleys, and Regional parks (2/3 undeveloped); as well as Recreational parks (like Ridge Road) and small Neighborhood (walk-to) and Urban parks.

It is my understanding that a neighborhood survey has been circulated for comment, with a list of features that are all described as *intensively used*. I cannot say that this intense use described is what is being proposed. Example: is state/regional tournaments and a 'Soccerplex' is listed on the survey. It is worth knowing that the Soccerplex is very different and is a huge public/private mega facility (21-23 fields, many lighted, some championship scale) and intended and permitted for regional tournaments. Seneca Crossing can fit at the most 2 fields of any type (in bigger area) and is for day-use.

Which facilities are included and how they are programmed and permitted is to be determined.

There is opportunity now to send in your ideas, concerns, and wishes for the park and to continue to provide feedback as alternative and final plans are developed.

The first public meeting was 1 of 3 meetings that are scheduled to occur for the design of the park. The next step will be for the Consultant to prepare 4 alternatives and they will be presented at the second meeting. There were a great number of cricket players at the first public park meeting, most local from Germantown and Boyds area, so this was very popular on the resulting list of features. We currently do not have any cricket fields in our M-NCPPC Montgomery County park system and cricket players have been asking for a field (at County Council level as well) for some time now; and planners have been looking county-wide to see where one might be located. This site is large enough to fit *one oval-shaped field* within the larger area, as well as any necessary parking internal to the park site and accessed from Brink Road. I believe that a cricket game would take most of the day (versus soccer which could schedule 2-4 games a day). There are other possibilities for the park as well, and we have received interest in tennis, a dog-park, skate-spot facility, volleyball, and community garden, trails, and open space, among other things listed at the public meeting. The key to fields or any other park facility is how they might be permitted for use, policed, managed and maintained.

Please let me know any more ideas you and others may have, or questions.

Thank you,

Heidi Sussmann

301-495-2547

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 9:43 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park Planning Meeting

Hello,

Some Cedar Valley residents got together to discuss the park with a few who were able to attend the meeting. We understand that a vote was taken as to the most desired use of the park at the first meeting and the cricket league outvoted everyone else. I was surprised to hear that one person felt that cricket at the park is a done-deal and the question now is only how to best lay out the park for cricket.

Many residents had not heard a thing about this park or the initial meeting, but upon being informed that we could have state tournaments at the park, many people expressed concerns that this type of use is not well suited to a residential park. We understand that MD needs to have a cricket field, but a major question was why does it have to be at Seneca Crossing? Are there no other parks, further away from houses with more area, that would better accommodate cricket? Why can't they play at the Soccer Plex where they are equipped to keep the field well maintained?

Many people have said they'd like to offer some input. By what date should they contact you in order to have their feedback play a role in the decision of how the property can be best used?

Thanks again for your help,
Pam

Hotmail: Free, trusted and rich email service. [Get it now.](#)

Hotmail: Powerful Free email with security by Microsoft. [Get it now.](#)

Hotmail: Trusted email with powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

Hotmail: Trusted email with Microsoft's powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 11:33 AM
To: 'Pam Bruce-Staskal'
Subject: FW: RE: Proposed Skate Spot - Brink Road

From: riggio451@verizon.net [mailto:riggio451@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 1:11 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Re: RE: Proposed Skate Spot - Brink Road

From: riggio451@verizon.net [mailto:riggio451@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 3:48 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Proposed Skate Spot - Brink Road

Heidi,

Hello my name is Justin and I'm a local skater here in Germantown. I'm an upstanding sophomore and attend Northwest high school. I'm contacting you because I recently read the article in the Gazette news paper about a proposed 28 acre park at Brink Road in Germantown. I want to express an interest in the proposed amenities one of which is a skate spot. I have many friends that skate and we always wondered why there was never a skate spot or skate park built here in Germantown. We are teenagers and most of the time we have to travel to another town to skate. It would be great if we could say we have a local skate spot of our own here in Germantown. I understand a public meeting was held this past Thursday. Will you let me know if a skate spot is one of the amenities approved for the new park design? Can you tell me who will design the skate spot?

Sincerely,

Justin Turner

Sussmann, Heidi

From: KUTTY MENON [enkay32@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 5:08 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Request for a Cricket field at Seneca Crossing Local Park

Dear Ms. Sussmann,

I am a Montgomery County resident, having been living here for over a decade. I enjoy being in this county for the diverse opportunities it presents. The ability to interact with fellow beings from various cultures is a pleasure that not many can claim to have.

This county also boasts of a considerable representation from Asian communities, which is why I would like to bring up this sincere request for a Cricket field in the area. Quite like Football in the US, Cricket is reigion to folks from our part of the world. We humbly request you to strongly consider this. This will go a long way in bringing about more joy and purpose to those of us living here in the county. The Seneca crossing location is quite ideal because of its proximity to more than half of the community that indulges in this sport, popularly known as the "Game of the gentlemen".

Sincerely,
Narayanankutty Menon
8712 Kelso Terrace
Gaithersburg MD 20877
(240) 543-9579

Sunny Persted ✓

21230 Virginia Pine Terrace
Germantown, MD 20876
5 March 2009

Ms. Heidi Sussmann
Montgomery County Dept. of Parks
9500 Brunett Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Subject: Proposed Park in Cedar Valley Community: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Ref: Questionnaire Received (See attached)

Dear Ms. Sussmann,

I was surprised to find the attached Questionnaire under my front door mat on 3 March, both wet and asking for a response before 4 March, plus to learn that a meeting had already been held on 18 February 2010 to collect votes "with little representation from the Cedar Valley neighborhood", and that "The overwhelming need for this park was decided to be: A regulation size cricket field, including batting cage, bathroom facilities and a sufficiently large parking space to hold statewide cricket tournaments."

A few basic questions before you rush off to build a cricket field for "statewide tournaments":

1. In this "tight economic times" why is it necessary to spend the money to build another Local Park and who specifically made this decision?
2. What funding is available, from where, and what is the proposed and/or approved budget for this Local Park Project?
3. Have contractors been selected and contracts approved and/or issued? If so, to whom and in what amounts, and what was the selection criteria for award?
4. Have plans been submitted for approval and permits issued. If not, what is the schedule for this to take place?
5. Have any environmental impact studies been undertaken, if so who has the report? If they have not been stated, are they planned for and when? If they are not planned, why not?
6. What is the position and responsibility of the Cedar Valley Home Owners Association in reviewing, approving designs, issuing approvals?

I realize that as the Landscape Architect/Project Manager you may not be able to address all of the above questions, so I request the points of contact, i.e. names,

phone numbers, addresses, email addresses of the persons who can address the questions you cannot.

In regards to the Questionnaire, few questions:

1. What is presently planned for "Field 3"? (See the attached) I assume Field 1 and 2 are the "regulation size cricket fields", if this is not the case what are these fields? The questionnaire says "Field", however the layout map shows 3 Fields. I also find not location for the bathroom facilities noted.
2. Is lighting planned for the parking lots, walkways and cricket fields? If yes, who is responsible for lighting control, maintenance and running costs?
3. If lighting is planned for these areas, has this been presented to nearby residents, the Home Owners Association, DOT, etc. as I find no discussion of this topic?

As a resident on Virginia Pine Terrace I am totally opposed to having a nearby Parking Lot, within feet, to my house and property. Without knowing what is planned "Field 3" I find it hard to comment. However, I am very concerned about the noise, traffic, crime, loitering, lighting, house depreciation and other negative aspects this Park will bring. There is already a traffic, loitering and drug/crime problem in the immediate area and the Park will only make it worse.

With the various parks and play areas in the immediate, including the Dr. Sally Ride School basketball court, what is the compelling reason to spend money in this tight economic time to have "one more" Park in the area? Could it be that Montgomery County is not as "hard pressed" for funds as has been reported? If there is excess budget available I propose Montgomery County spend it more wisely. This in itself is a question and topic that needs to be addressed, perhaps in the media.

I look forward to your response to this letter.

Regards,



Don and Natalia Crenshaw

Phone: 301-240-5741 (office)

301-528-6323 (home)

Email: dacrenshaw@verizon.net

Proposed Uses for the Seneca Crossing Local Park



Street Address 21230 VIRGINIA PINE TERR.
 Anonymous
 I live <1 mile <2 miles from the site
 <5 miles >5 miles

I am very concerned that the park will increase: noise traffic crime drugs vandalism rodents loitering
 house depreciation water runoff stream pollution LIGHTING

Proposed park use

	Strongly Approve	Indifferent	Strongly Disapprove
A regulation size cricket field including: batting cages, bathroom facilities and a sufficiently large parking space to have statewide cricket tournaments. Reason: <u>SPECIAL FOR ONE SPORT GROUP, NOT "LOCAL PARK"</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Nature trail / walking trail / bike path / reforestation (i.e. Centennial trail) Reason: <u>BETTER USE FOR MORE RESIDENTS</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts (elaborate number of courts) Reason: <u>BETTER USE FOR MORE RESIDENTS</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreational sports league play (county/state) Reason: <u>BETTER USE FOR MORE KIDS</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Football field / soccer field (9:00AM -6:00PM Sat-Sun, i.e. Soccer-plex) Reason: <u>MORE PRACTICAL USE</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playground ages (2-5) or (5-12) Reason: <u>BETTER USE, BUT DOES NOT HELP TEENS/ADULTS</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts (elaborate number of courts) Reason: <u>BETTER USE FOR MORE RESIDENTS</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Parking lot <input type="checkbox"/> 100 vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> 75 vehicles <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50 vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> 25 vehicles <u>MAX</u> Reason: <u>THIS IS "LOCAL PARK"</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
No Parking lot (therefore no league or spectator sports) Reason: <u>AGAIN, THIS IS "LOCAL PARK"</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic area / pavilions / barbeque pits Reason: <u>FAMILY & RESIDENT USE - HAVE BLACK HILLS</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Community garden / garden plots Reason: <u>NICE USE FOR MOST RESIDENTS</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bathroom facilities / water fountains Reason: <u>SAFETY, HEALTH CONCERNS</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reforestation Reason: <u>IMPROVE OVERALL AREA</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do nothing / leave the space as is Reason: <u>SPEND AVAILABLE FUNDING ON MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS, I.E.</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reason: <u>SCHOOL PROGRAMS, TEEN PROGRAMS, ETC.</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Proposed New Park in the Cedar Valley Community: **Seneca Crossing Local Park**

Resident Input Needed by Thursday, March 4, 2010

Dear Neighbor,

The Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC is planning to start the initial phases of the design and planning of a park adjacent to the Cedar Valley community in the land available between the community and Brink Rd. On Thursday, February 18, 2010 there was a meeting to collect and vote on ideas on what amenities this park should contain. The meeting was attended by about 80 people, with a relatively small representation from the Cedar Valley neighborhood. The meeting was professionally conducted by the County and consisted of a presentation showing some possible uses of the land as well as possible road network/parking and street access plans. A very short question and answers session was followed by group brainstorming. After the ideas were listed, the participants were asked to vote on the ideas presented. Finally the vote tallies were presented to the group.

Since both ideas and voting were mainly done by residents outside the immediate neighborhood, issues that we believe are important to the Cedar Valley neighborhood were strongly outvoted. The overwhelming need for this park was decided to be:

A regulation size cricket field including: batting cages, bathroom facilities and a sufficiently large parking space to have statewide cricket tournaments.

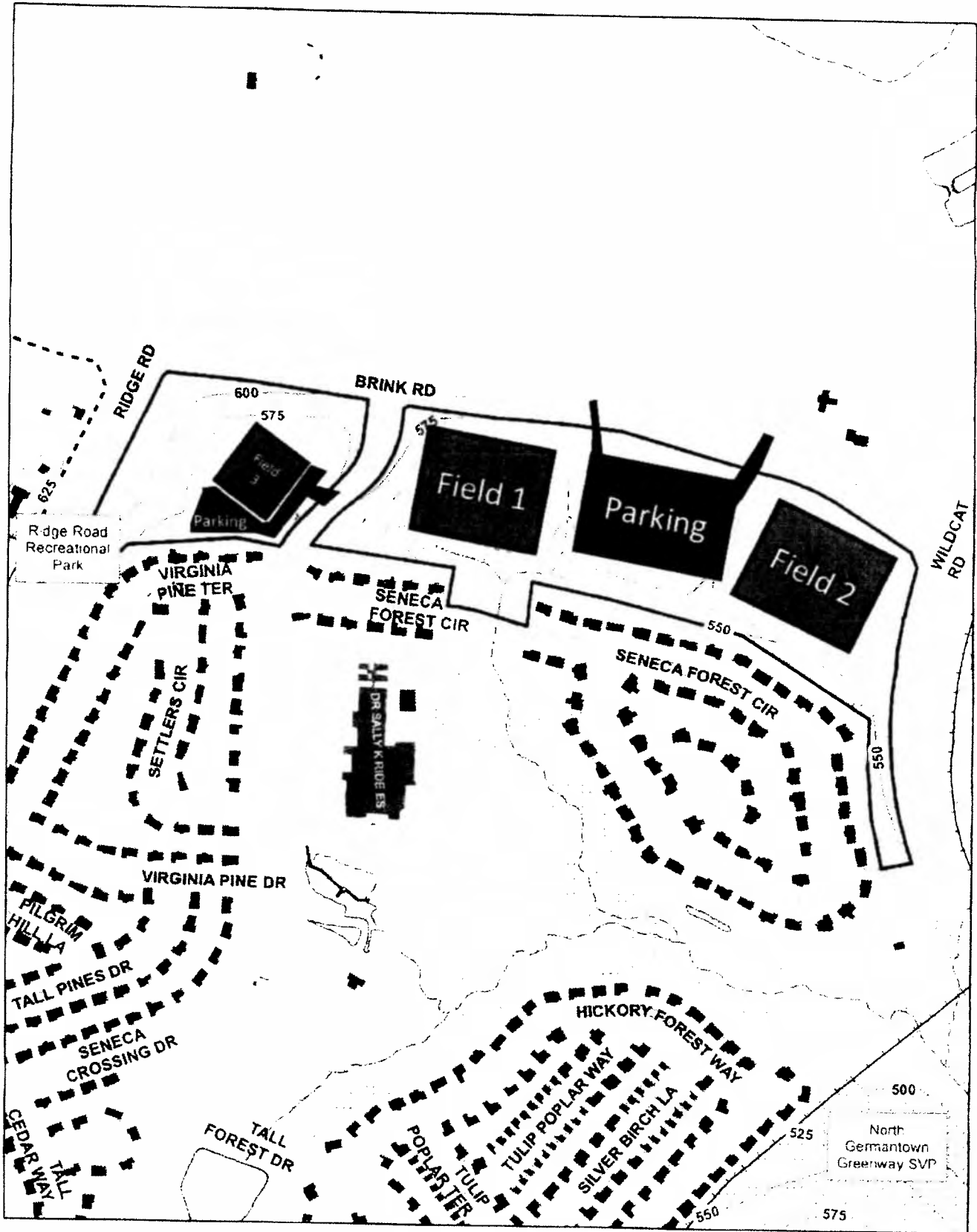
The county is going to start its plans to achieve the goals presented in this meeting and hold two more meetings to adjust and finalize the plans outlined. Heidi Sussmann (landscape architect/project Manager) from the Montgomery County Department of Parks said that the county will take under consideration other ideas/issues that may be presented by individuals that were not able to attend by writing to her.

Please fill in the attached questionnaire and mail using the supplied envelope to

Heidi Sussmann
Montgomery County Department of Parks
9500 Brunett Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20901

(301)-495-2547 Heidi.Sussmann@MontgomeryParks.org

The concepts presented at the Montgomery County meeting Thursday February 18th showed one or two parking lots and two or three fields placed similarly as shown below



Sussmann, Heidi

From: Lauri K. Brown [lkb@ccaw.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 10:20 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi; ggrink@verizon.net
Subject: FW: Cedar Valley Park Project
Attachments: Park project survey.pptx; Proposed New Park in the Cedar Valley Community.docx

Importance: High

Please find attached the Park project survey. I look forward to learning more about the project at the meeting scheduled for this summer.

Thanks,
Lauri K. Brown

From: ASC Mail [mailto:asc@ccaw.org]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 3:04 PM
To: Lauri K. Brown
Subject: Fw: Cedar Valley Park Project
Importance: High

Lauri,

Gina Grinkemeyer called me today re: the park that is proposed across from ASC and asked if we had any concerns. I asked her to forward the enclosed information for your review and possible response. I also indicated to her we were planning to attend the meeting that will be scheduled for this summer.

Thanks,

Mike

----- Original Message -----

From: Gina
To: asc@ccaw.org
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 1:17 PM
Subject: Fw: Cedar Valley Park Project

Hi Mike,

thank you for taking the time to contact Heidi with your concerns. I've forwarded an e-mail I sent to neighbors this morning with Heidi's e-mail. Though I haven't corresponded with her directly, another neighbor told me she is very receptive and responsive. Here is the link to the project with a planning timetable.

http://www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/projects/seneca_crossing/SenecaCrossingLocalIPark.shtml

Regards,
Gina Grinkemeyer

----- Original Message -----

From: Gina
To: Grinkemeyer, Gina
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 12:23 PM
Subject: Cedar Valley Park Project

Already
Recorded Summary = 11405 Seneca Forest
Circle

Sussmann, Heidi

To: George Vaughan
Cc: mgraves@lsginc.com
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park Questionnaire

Thank you George for your input.

While the survey was actually prepared and distributed by a resident in Cedar Valley (I did not know about it), the survey responses will certainly be included in the collective public input. I'm not sure that the intensive use described/assumed in the survey is a known thing at this time, as far as what might be proposed for the permitting and use of certain facilities, like a field. I believe that this would be a 'to be determined' thing. This project is in its beginning stages, and residents can continue to email me with ideas or concerns without having a survey. I have received several emails (in non-survey format) as well.

Thank you again,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

-----Original Message-----

From: George Vaughan [mailto:Gvaughan@ifc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 1:03 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: parkervaughan@verizon.net
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park Questionnaire

Ms. Sussmann,

I found the questionnaire for the Seneca Crossing Local Park on my front door last night. I have attached a scanned version of my completed questionnaire to ensure you receive it by the March 4th deadline. I will also mail you the hardcopy today.

Obviously, you've taken some extra effort to ensure nearby residents are informed and consulted. I appreciate it.

Best regards,

George

(See attached file: Seneca Crossing Local Park Questionnaire - 11405 Seneca Forest Cir.pdf)

George Vaughan
Head, Client Relations - Investment Operations and Advisory Services
IFC Corporate Business Informatics
2121 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, MSN F-2P-202
Washington, DC 20433
Tel: +1 (202) 473-9602 Fax: +1 (202) 614-0394
E-mail: gvaughan@ifc.org Web: www.ifc.org

IFC is a member of the World Bank Group

Proposed Uses for the Seneca Crossing Local Park

Street Address 11405 SENECA FOREST CIRCLE
 Anonymous
 I live <1 mile <2 miles from the site
 <5 miles >5 miles

I am very concerned that the park will increase : noise traffic crime drugs vandalism rodents loitering
 house depreciation water runoff stream pollution _____

Proposed park use	Strongly Approve	Indifferent	Strongly Disapprove
A regulation size cricket field including: batting cages, bathroom facilities and a sufficiently large parking space to have statewide cricket tournaments. Reason: <u>SEE ITEMS CHECKED ABOVE</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Nature trail / walking trail/ bike path / reforestation (i.e. Centennial trail) Reason: <u>MORE APPROPRIATE FOR AN AREA SO CLOSE TO A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts (elaborate number of courts) Reason: <u>6 - 10</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Recreational sports league play (county/state) Reason: <u>SEE ITEMS CHECKED ABOVE</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Football field / soccer field (9:00AM -6:00PM Sat-Sun, i.e. Soccer-plex) Reason: <u>AS ABOVE</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Playground ages (2-5) or (5-12) Reason:	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts (elaborate number of courts) <u>6</u> Reason:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Parking lot <input type="checkbox"/> 100 vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> 75 vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> 50 vehicles <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 25 vehicles Reason:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
No Parking lot (therefore no league or spectator sports) Reason:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic area / pavilions / barbeque pits Reason:	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community garden / garden plots Reason: <u>PESTICIDE & FERTILIZER RUNOFF INTO ADJACENT STREAM</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Bathroom facilities / water fountains Reason:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reforestation Reason:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do nothing / leave the space as is Reason:	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reason:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Samuel Gogan [sgogan@umd.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:32 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Germantown Skatepark

As a hardworking college student, I am in favor of a skatepark/skate spot to be built in Germantown. It would be great to have another outlet to spread the love and knowledge of skateboarding.

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 10:22 AM
To: 'Juan Alejandro Burgos del Rosario'
Subject: RE: Skate spot

Hello Juan,

Thank you very much for your request. While at this time there is not a proposed plan yet, with a skate-spot, there is a project that is now starting design for a new park located at Seneca Crossing Local Park. A skate-spot type feature might be one of the options, as we are receiving some other requests for this as well. I'll keep you in the loop for future information and public meetings via your email. The next meeting is likely to be sometime in summer – fall of this year. If you would like to forward your address you can be on the mailing list also.

Thank you again,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Juan Alejandro Burgos del Rosario [mailto:janosoulcalibur@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:16 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Skate spot

Yo

I heard from a facebook group that theres a new proposed skate park near ridge road and Im here to say I fully support this idea since it'll be a better alternative then us skaters jumping off public property (Which is due to there being less skate parks open besides the one in Baltimore which is an inconvenience for some of us like me) It is in a perfect location and I would love to see it built soon

~ Alejandro Burgos

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Ehab Abdeldayem [skateehab@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 11:18 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: skatepark

OPEN ONEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE :))))))

Sussmann, Heidi

From: austin` requa [arequa10@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 11:23 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: skate park

Hello my name is Austin Requa and i would really enjoy a skatepark in the germantown area since there is nothing for skaters to skate legally. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 301-915-4640

Thank you: Austin Requa

Sussmann, Heidi

From: mario_spn@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:22 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Proposed skate park/spot in new Germantown park on Ridge road

Hello Heidi Sussmann I am a fellow skateboarder. And I hear that Germantown is thinking about investing in a skatepark/spot. And let me tell you if you do then it wouldn't be just great for skateboarders but for the community also. There would be less skateboarding on the streets and more at this skatepark/spot. You probably know that skateboarding has become very big over the years. And you dont even need to spend a lot of money for this spot. All you really need is to ask the skateboarders what they want. And have just a few of those obstacles in that area. But if you do make this park a reality then make sure that it had a good flow to skate. For example Greenbelt skate park, This skatepark was built up a hill, And the way the obstacles are put together just doesn't make any sense.

Sussmann, Heidi

From: themain@verizon.net
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 4:23 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: IN FAVOR OF SKATE SPOT.

I'm really, really in favor the proposed skate spot. PLEASE BUILD ONE.

Thanks,
David R.

Sussmann, Heidi

From: riggio451@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 7:18 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: From: Justin Turner

Hello Heidi,

I've received many responses from kids in favor of the proposal on a skate spot in Germantown.

I created a page on my facebook with information from the article in the Gazette. I have many friends who are in favor of the proposal. Can we do anything with the responses I received? Please let me know.

I hope I didnt do the wrong thing and hope it was okay to do it this way. It was the only way I thought to get the word out and get a quick response.

Justin

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 3:45 PM
To: 'Nesselt, Beth Anne'
Subject: RE: fax #

Thank you Beth Anne,

If you have the time to write all that you are thinking about for this park instead of or in addition to the neighborhood survey, that would also be helpful. The survey did not include all the ideas that we have received to date such as an area for dogs, a skate spot area, sledding hills, and volleyball, and, the survey defines any/all fields as tournament sized and very intensively programmed for statewide events, which is not the only version of a field. Also – please forward any additional ideas you would like to see.

Thank you very much,
Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Nesselt, Beth Anne [mailto:BethAnne.Nesselt@montgomerycountymd.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 2:53 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: fax #

Dear Heidi –

An overdue “thank you” . . . and apology . . . for not sending a note expressing my sincerest appreciation for your very informative email on the general process and anticipated schedule and milestones for the project. It was very helpful and I appreciate the time it took to craft it. I will finish and send to you the information pertaining to the project and will include my contact information. We’ve just been inundated at work w/ round-the-clock challenges as well as the complicated process involved with our budget submission Monday. My apologies and appreciation.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend. Sincerely, Beth Anne

-----Original Message-----

From: Sussmann, Heidi [mailto:Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 11:22 AM
To: Nesselt, Beth Anne
Subject: RE: fax #

Hello Beth,

I want to be sure I received your survey via the mail. If you included your name and address, then no problem. If it was sent with address and no name, then I can’t match up to you. So, if you provide me your address now, then I can be sure to include it as yours.

Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann

From: Nesselt, Beth Anne [mailto:BethAnne.Nesselt@montgomerycountymd.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 9:50 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: fax #

Sussmann, Heidi

From: Nesselt, Beth Anne [BethAnne.Nesselt@montgomerycountymd.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 2:53 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: RE: fax #

Dear Heidi –

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Best wishes for a wonderful weekend. Sincerely, Beth Anne

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From: Sussmann, Heidi [mailto:Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 11:22 AM
To: Nesselt, Beth Anne
Subject: RE: fax #

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Thank you,

Heidi Sussmann

From: Nesselt, Beth Anne [mailto:BethAnne.Nesselt@montgomerycountymd.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 9:50 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: fax #

Dear Ms. Sussmann,

Would you kindly advise whether you have a fax number and confirm that a faxed copy of comments regarding the proposed Seneca Local Park is acceptable to be included in the official project docket for review? I have not had luck catching you at the phone number provided to inquire and figured perhaps email would be the best avenue to get this information. Thank you very much.



11604 Seneca Forest Circle
Germantown, MD 20876
March 12, 2009

Ms. Heidi Sussmann, Project Director
Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Sussmann,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Seneca Crossing Local Park located 11400 Brink Road, Germantown, Maryland.

As the County faces a deficit of \$600 million dollars and the economic news continues to worsen, I would urge the M-NCPPC to respectfully consider to saving some "green" and leaving the land as is, i.e., "green," open space that is so rare in Montgomery County. With the closure of 11 M-NCPPC Centers and Parks in February due to lack of budget funds, it seems fiscally irresponsible to proceed with any of the elaborate and costly recommendations being considered to develop this park space into regulation cricket, organized sporting fields and other uses and should instead be channeled and concentrated on more important and pressing priorities in the current fiscal climate.

While I applaud M-NCPPC's commitment to providing residents with parks and recreational sites that promote healthy lifestyles, the proposed park represents a "nice to have" and not a "need to have" at a time of severe budget shortfalls, cuts in education and public safety and widespread layoffs and furloughs. Additionally, the proposed park is in close proximity to several other existing parks in the area including the Ridge Road Recreation Park less than a mile away which is a beautiful park already providing many of the amenities also under consideration for this park.

Programming this space for parking lots, athletic fields and stadium seating among other recommendations will result in increased traffic gridlock on the already congested Brink Road. The proposed park will have a detrimental impact on the adjacent community as a result of overflow and patron convenience parking, increased trash and rodent population, safety concerns after hours, existent or non-existent bathroom facilities, noise, etc. as well as serve to threaten the natural scenery and stability of the environment and protected wetlands in the area. Additionally, the recommendation that a pedestrian connector "pathway" be constructed from the neighborhood to the park should be immediately abandoned should the project move forward as it will only serve to make our quiet, residential street a major thoroughfare and parking lot for park patrons. There are additional concerns about the safety, noise and traffic that would impact the sanctity of the cemetery and funeral operations located across the street.

Being a 14-year veteran of travel soccer and having been to just about every type of complex and park in the tri-State region, I can speak from experience on the impact to the community if regulation sports fields were constructed in the area under consideration. The result will be gridlock when combined with regular high volume traffic, cemetery traffic and the many accompanying access and egress issues associated with the traffic patterns on Brink Road, the cemetery located directly across the street and other existing limitations that will be costly to eradicate. I would urge you to spend some time at any of the soccerplex fields on a regular Saturday to become familiar with the intensity and frequency of traffic patterns and the logistics involved in the successful operations of such a park.

In closure, please respectfully consider programming funds where they are most needed – in the areas of education and public safety or in reinstating the community centers and parks M-NCPPC was forced to close last month due to budgetary shortcomings. Perhaps at a time when revenues have stabilized and County residents and County employees aren't faced with furloughs and lay-offs, it might be timely to engage residents in compiling a "wish list" for programming this space and planning a park. Until that time, the idea of developing this parcel of land into regulation fields should be respectfully dismissed and the land should remain "as is." Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely yours,

Beth Anne Nesselt

Seneca Crossing LP: Phone-ins from community

*Rhonda Fenstermaker
21224 Virginia Pine Terrace
Germantown, MD 20876

301-601-0627

Lives near small parcel and doesn't want field + parking there.
Original plan, when bought house, had 3 fields: 2 soccer fields + parking in main area; and 1 small softball and zero parking in separate small area.

Lo: 15
Mark
650-4389

Paniati, Kimberly

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2011 10:23 AM
To: 'Pam Bruce-Staskal'
Subject: RE: Cedar Valley/Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hello again,

Continuing to think about the speeding problem within your neighborhood. Clearly there is one because the County installed speed bumps. They didn't in our neighborhood because the problem is minor. I also asked my husband if he ever cut through your neighborhood when he used to work at Lockheed Martin in Gaithersburg. He said on rare occasions he did in fact cut through, but it was when coming from back of Montgomery Village versus from 355 to Brink. Nonetheless, obviously there is an issue on some level and it may vary at certain peak times. Are most problems around rush hours? When are the problems the worst? I still think speed cameras are a good idea.

I think the key elements to be sure to include in the park are:

- Make sure there is *very ample parking within the park* that is very close to active recreation (attracting all visitors)
- *Don't include a pedestrian connection in the back*, unless a great majority of residents want one (those who don't may likely want one later though = tbd).
- Provide a *very heavily landscaped 150' wooded buffer all along the back that creates a beautiful habitat and also separation* (this will be a *plus* for home values and will discourage anyone from walking through).
- Provide a park that is *visually attractive* as well as functional (as this will also be a plus for nearby home values).
- Provide *free open spaces and features that nearby residents can enjoy*, as well as active recreation.

Sometimes an attractive park can actually provide a unifying social place for a community or communities (sort of like a pool). The Damascus trail is near our home and everyone loves it, as well as the nearby recreational park that has tennis and summer concerts. We do have a wooded buffer between our neighborhood and the park, but it is also very close by for convenience.

Obviously I am in favor of parks. At any rate we'll discuss more as things progress.
Thank you.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 12:49 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: Irlingler@chambersmanagementinc.com
Subject: RE: Cedar Valley/Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hi Heidi,

Please see my responses in red below. Believe it or not, we understand that Parks and Planning is doing everything possible to minimize potential problems and on paper, the plans should prevent the problems to which I refer from happening. We are extremely grateful for that for we know it's not easy! However, what is not being taken into account is that the plans assume people will do the right thing, obey laws, and be considerate of residents, but they often do not and the plans can't guarantee that they will.

Our objective is not to prevent the park from being developed, but rather to ensure everyone understands the how the specific activities at the park may exacerbate problems that we already have. We understand that we may have some inconveniences because of the park and that's the price we have to pay – we're fine with that. We simply do not want two major problems to get any worse and that will likely happen if certain activities are allowed frequently.

I Subject: RE: Cedar Valley/Seneca Crossing Local Park
Date: Mon, 10 Jan 2011 11:44:23 -0500
From: Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com
CC: Iringler@chambersmanagementinc.com

Hello Pam,

I understand your concerns expressed below regarding potential negative effects of park user vehicles. I think there are a few things to consider that make Seneca Crossing a much more positive situation =

- The park is planned to have a substantial 150' tree-planted reforestation buffer with a sizable slope and drainage-way all along the back of the main portion of park, between the park and homes. This was in the 1991 approved site plan for the community (homes + school + park) and we wish to follow this. This is great. Thank you for keeping this.
- Only 1 of the 4 design options includes a connection to the neighborhood in back. If the preferred plan that is selected does not have a neighborhood connection, it is very unlikely people would want to access the park by going through a heavily planted reforestation area with drainage areas and a long steep slope – if easy and direct access options are available. Many residents want that access, but it will be a love/hate relationship if non-residents use it and park on our streets. I'd like to agree that people won't likely take this route, but I'm certain that many will.
- There is a lot of space *within* the large park to include sufficient parking on-site to serve fields or any other use, and on-street parking would not be necessary. While people should use a parking lot, they often don't and instead park on the street. This is a HUGE problem at the Clarksburg local park during soccer where the parking lot sits half empty, but cars line the streets. Cedar Valley has major parking issues right now because of numerous over-occupied homes. Many of our streets are only the total width of 3 cars and when there are cars parked on both sides of the street, they are reduced to one lane of traffic every day when only residents are parking on them. We currently have trouble seeing kids on the sidewalk because the wall to wall cars block visibility. If a substantial # of additional people start parking on out streets, it will only get worse.
- In the big area of the park, there would only be vehicular access directly from Brink Road into on-site parking. This vehicular entrance is accessible from an additional right-turn-only lane from Rte. 27 onto Brink Road that always moves well, and an extra lane along the frontage of the park. Most park users, traveling from Rte. 355 and I-270, would be encouraged to follow this route leading directly to on-site parking that would be close to proposed park facilities. I've already mentioned that a very high number of cars use Seneca Crossing to go from 355 to Brink on a daily basis. Many non-residents speed down Seneca Crossing at 40-45mph, right past the elementary school & park and through crosswalks even when children are waiting to cross. You seem to think that people will take 27 to get to Brink, but they don't do so now, so why would they for the park? You can't control which route they take, so please realize that no matter where the park entrance is, cars will come through Cedar Valley to get to the park. This is a valid concern for residents no matter what is planned.
- Due to the dimensions of the park and the 150' buffer, there is remaining space for a multi-purpose field that could serve rectangular sports and also cricket practices or youth games; but not enough space for a full size cricket field that cricket leagues desire. Our planning staff are continuing to work with cricket players and leagues to find a location in the county that can provide a full size cricket field. I'm relieved to hear that the full size Cricket field is not an option, but still worry about other league play.

These are some of the functional aspects of this park. I hope residents will consider the many positive attributes of a park and what they offer people. Thank you for your continued interest, and please contact me with ideas or concerns as the project progresses.

My objective is to ensure that Parks and Planning understand that we can't control whether people drive through Cedar Valley or whether they park on our streets, but we can control whether the activities at the park require scores of people come/go or are present at once. Minimizing the numbers present at any one time will minimize parking/traffic issues.

Again, no one is complaining about activities that would increase parking/traffic occasionally, but league play requires scores of people to be present all Sat/Sun, every weekend for months at a time. This price is too high. Just imagine trying to show your house to a potential buyer when they can't drive down the street because it's one way traffic and it's that way for months on end.

Please understand that your plans are great, but you need to take into account existing problems and realize that your plans likely won't prevent existing problems from getting worse depending on the activities planned at the park.

Thank you again for all your help. Hopefully, we'll all get this figured out and end up with a great local park that doesn't have unforeseen repercussions.
Pam

Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 07, 2011 8:37 PM
To: Iringler@chambersmanagementinc.com
Cc: Sussmann, Heidi; Gina Grinkemeyer
Subject: Cedar Valley/Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hi Lisa,

The next meeting for the Seneca Crossing Local Park in Cedar Valley is set for Jan 27, with a snow date of Feb 9. I'm hoping that this is enough notice that you can ensure no HOA meetings are also scheduled for those dates. At the last meeting for the park, it was the same date as an HOA meeting and an event at the elementary school in Cedar Valley, so people had trouble attending. The reason I bring this to your attention is that we found out after the fact that the plans for this park may significantly affect Cedar Valley in a negative way. A large number of players for a Cricket League attended the last meeting and since the majority ruled, their voices drowned out all others. They want to have a cricket league at the park and while this initially didn't sound like a problem, we've since realized that it possibly is.

I'm not sure you know, but league play is allowed from 9am-6pm, Saturdays & Sundays. It runs for months at a time and requires scores of people to be present during these times. One issue with this is that people bypass parking lots and park on streets - this is a huge problem at the Clarksburg Local park during soccer. A few extra cars at a time on any street is not a big problem, but league play results in scores of cars being present at the same time. Since the three Cedar Valley streets that border the area are only the total width of 3 cars (all of Seneca Forest & Virginia Pine Terrace and portions of Seneca Crossing), parking on both sides of our most of our streets results in our streets becoming one lane of traffic. Visibility is unacceptable and you can't see kids on the sidewalk. As you know, this is a huge problem now in Cedar Valley with all of the over-occupied homes. If we have activities at the park where scores of people are present at once, it will only be worse.

Also, the speeding on Seneca Crossing is out of control. Every day, there are people traveling 40-45mph, despite the speed bumps. Since Seneca Crossing is used as a short-cut between Brink and 355, high occupancy of the park will only result in more traffic and specifically more speeding.

We understand that we'll have more traffic/parking issues with any use of the park and accept that as the price to pay for having a local park nearby. However, we wish to ensure that park planners understand the issues with league play that may negatively affect Cedar Valley. If you can help us in any way, particularly ensuring that the dates are not a conflict, we'd be very appreciative. Please let me know if I can be of any other assistance.

Thanks again,
Pam Bruce-Staskal
11713 Virginia Pine Drive
Germantown

Paniati, Kimberly

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 10:38 AM
To: 'mgionet@lsginc.com'; Wallis, Mark; McManus, Patricia; Paniati, Kimberly; Kim, Ki
Subject: FW: Formal letter regarding Seneca Crossing Local Park
Attachments: Seneca Crossing Park.doc

FYI = forwarding letters as FYI and in preparation for Wednesday night meeting.
THX.

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 9:34 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Formal letter regarding Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hi Heidi,

Attached is my written request to avoid league play with explanations of why Cedar Valley residents fear any use of the park that requires high occupancy, such as league play.

Can you please confirm whether the meeting will take place tonight? Numerous residents are planning to attend.

Thanks again for all your help.
Pam

11713 Virginia Pine Drive
Germantown, MD 20876
January 25, 2011

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Planning Commission Members,

As a Cedar Valley resident for 8 years, I'd like to express my appreciation for the efforts to develop plans for the Seneca Crossing Local Park. This land is currently underutilized and with the right type of development, it will be a wonderful asset to Germantown.

With nearby Sally Ride Elementary offering basketball courts and a playground and Ridge Road Park just around the corner offering a playground, soccer and baseball parks, a dog park, tennis courts, and an in-line skating rink, it makes sense to offer alternative, complementary activities at Seneca Crossing Park. In speaking with neighbors, there's a consensus that this part of Germantown has a dearth of hiking, walking, bike, and nature trails and this land would be wonderfully suited for any of these. Another suggestion brought up repeatedly is a skate park. Since area children routinely board at Sally Ride, but are told to go elsewhere, creating a skate park nearby should be seriously considered. I personally am in favor of any activity that gives our children a safe place to go that's easily monitored.

One common theme in all these activities is that they are "low occupancy" uses of the park. Park patrons would come and go sporadically, in contrast to activities that are scheduled and require large numbers of people to be present at once. This is particularly critical to Cedar Valley residents because there are serious problems in Cedar Valley that will only be made worse with any plans for the park that require high occupancy on a regular basis. These issues must be considered when making the final decision as to the use of the park. Below I list the most serious issues and then explain in more detail in the following paragraphs how specific uses of the park will affect Cedar Valley.

- There are currently high levels of non-resident traffic driving through Cedar Valley daily, using Seneca Crossing Drive as a short-cut between 355 & Brink Road. Park patrons will likely continue to use this short cut to access park entrances on Brink, increasing traffic in Cedar Valley.
- Speeding is problematic on Seneca Crossing despite a 25mph speed limit, the presence of an elementary school, and the installation of speed humps. Many vehicles do not stop or slow down for pedestrians in cross-walks.
- Cedar Valley has numerous over-populated houses that routinely park 4-7 cars outside every day. Many are parked on our streets, most of which are the total width of only three cars. Parking on both sides of these streets causes the roads to be reduced to only one open lane for traffic, yet the roads must accommodate two-way traffic. This level of off-street parking blocks visibility of the roads and sidewalks and compromises safety.

Cedar Valley residents have repeatedly contacted the police and county to rectify the above issues, but have received little help.

We know that the Parks and Planning Commission has tried to minimize any negative effects of the park regarding traffic and parking in Cedar Valley. We appreciate their ensuring the entrances to the park are positioned away from Cedar Valley and their proposing what they believe will be ample parking. Unfortunately, while these plans look great on paper, they assume people will not use Seneca Crossing to access the park and that patrons will only park in parking lots. Below I present information that proves we cannot assume either of these will happen.

As stated above, Seneca Crossing Drive, the main artery in Cedar Valley, is used daily as a shortcut by non-residents traveling between 355 and Brink Road. Therefore, there is every reason to expect that many park users arriving from 355 will travel through Cedar Valley to access the park entrances on Brink. Upon submitting this concern to the county, I have been repeatedly told that the county is confident that park users will use Route 27 and Brink to get to the park rather than come through a subdivision. To provide data to support my claim, I recently followed cars that entered Cedar Valley from 355 on a few occasions at various times of day. I found that nine of fifteen vehicles went straight through to Brink, corresponding to 60% of traffic on Seneca Crossing being non-resident traffic in this limited experiment. Ms. Sussmann then took my concerns seriously and also did an informal study at 4:30pm one day. She counted 47 cars traveling Seneca Crossing near its intersection at Brink in only a ten minute period. Extrapolating these numbers suggests that at certain times of the day, over 200 cars an hour may traverse through Cedar Valley, with over 100 of them possibly being non-residents. Cedar Valley is a not a large subdivision and this level of traffic is unwarranted. Non-resident use of Seneca Crossing is a very real existing problem and the county must acknowledge that it will only get worse if many people use the park on a schedule, such as you'd have with league play.

Further, many vehicles speed on Seneca Crossing and fail to stop, or even slow down, for pedestrians in cross-walks. Seneca Crossing is a 25mph zone, with an elementary school and a neighborhood park on the road, yet drivers routinely show no consideration for pedestrians. The county installed speed humps, but after a speed monitor showed less speeding than residents reported, the police claim there is no speeding problem. What the police fail to consider is that vehicles slow down for speed monitors, but only temporarily. Speeding is indeed so rampant and drivers are so inconsiderate in Cedar Valley that many residents fear for the safety of children crossing their own streets. Again, this is a problem that will only increase if park users travel through Cedar Valley to get to the park.

Another issue of concern is off-street parking by park users. Upon relaying this fear to the county, I've been repeatedly told that the county is certain that people will park in the proposed lots. However, this does not happen at other local parks in Montgomery County. The parking lot at the Clarksburg Local Park during soccer always has open spots, while the streets are lined with parked cars, many parked illegally and unsafely. This could easily happen in Cedar Valley, regardless of the number of parking spaces. People obviously park wherever they wish, without regard to laws or consideration of home owners. A number of us have remarked that we'd never buy a house near the CLP because of how unsafe the parking is every weekend during the Spring and Fall soccer seasons. We cannot allow a situation like this to happen in Cedar Valley, particularly on Seneca Forest Circle where the homes are the highest priced homes in the area. Any perceived decrease in their attractiveness, particularly in Spring and Fall when most homes are shown, will result in lower sales prices, which will translate to decreased home values for all of Cedar Valley. Further, Virginia Pine Terrace and Seneca Forest, both of which border the proposed park, are the width of only 3 cars. Cars parked on both sides of the streets reduces them to only one lane for traffic, but they must accommodate traffic in both directions.

Emergency vehicles can proceed down the streets, but must go very slowly. Cars have to zig zag around one another to allow traffic to simultaneously proceed in both directions, and visibility is so poor that you cannot see the sidewalks or children on them. This is currently a large problem in Cedar Valley because there are numerous over-occupied homes in Cedar Valley, many of which have 4-7 cars parked outside every night. The streets already have too many cars parked on them every day and night, and cannot possibly handle any additional parking from users of the park. The county must realize that no matter how well designed the park is, people won't always do the right thing. They currently park wherever they wish at CLP and they'll do it in Cedar Valley as well.

In light of these existing problems, Cedar Valley residents are very concerned that any plans for the park that require a high number of people to come/go or be present at the park on a routine basis will result in additional traffic and parking problems that will be beyond acceptable levels. Specifically, we're concerned that activities such as any league play will bring non-stop traffic down Seneca Crossing and too many cars that will park on our streets – streets that cannot handle the current level of off-street parking. This type of activity will adversely affect the entire community.

To further explain why league play is specifically feared, practices are allowed every evening and games are scheduled from 9am to 6pm, every Saturday and Sunday for months at a time. During games, teams with 15-18 players each will require 30-36 vehicles be present per field. Any reduction in this number due to drop-offs/carpooling is negated by the additional number of vehicles present because of grandparents attending or families bringing two cars so they can tag-team taking kids to overlapping games, both of which are common in my kids' leagues. Since teams arrive to warm up before the previous game has ended, there must be enough parking spaces for 4 teams, or a minimum of 72 parking spaces per field, or cars will have to park on our streets. This also correlates to up to 72 vehicles that will come/go every hour for each game. If there are 3 fields, there could be over 200 vehicles coming/going from this park every hour. If there are 5 games each day per each of three fields, there will be 1000 cars per day traveling to/from the park, every Saturday, every Sunday, for months on end. Even if drivers didn't cut through Cedar Valley and everyone parked only in lots, this level of use would still result in too much noise, trash, after-hours loitering, rodents, etc., very close to homes that are currently in a very quiet area. Add in the fact that non-residents do cut-through Cedar Valley and people park wherever they wish during soccer at Clarksburg. Collectively, this is why we are very concerned that no matter what the park layout is, league play will result in extreme traffic and parking problems all weekend long, every weekend for months on end. Further, the problems will not be limited to weekends as weekday practice ensures the parks are used constantly by high numbers of people. The constant use of the park will surely decrease the quality of life in this quiet neighborhood and will ultimately affect our home values.

Parks and Planning may feel strongly that people will not access the park by cutting through Cedar Valley and that people will park only in parking lots. However, they cannot guarantee either of these and the question is what happens if they're wrong and league play is scheduled at this park and the problems we've outlined get significantly worse? The police and county won't help fix the current problems in Cedar Valley, so we have no reason to believe they will help us later. Therefore, the best we can do is prevent any activities from occurring at the park that exacerbate the current problems. We ask that the park does not host activities that require high numbers of people to be present at once on a routine basis, such as league play. Few would complain about high occupancy of the park if it happened rarely, such as for a festival once a year, but every evening and every Saturday and Sunday during Spring and Fall is too much to

ask of this quiet neighborhood. If this land must be developed, please ensure that the activities at the park are low occupancy and unscheduled, so that heavy traffic and significant on-street parking by park patrons do not occur in Cedar Valley.

I thank you again for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information regarding this park or Cedar Valley. I only wish to work with Parks and Planning to ensure this park is a great asset to us all.

Sincerely,

Pam Bruce-Staskal

Paniati, Kimberly

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 12:01 PM
To: 'murglass@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Park

Importance: High

Hello Lisa,

Thank you very much for your interest in this park project and your expressed concerns. I have received 50-100 emails in the past week, so I am now responding to your questions with the information that I can provide to date and in order of your list below. Thank you for your patience. I am also happy to correspond more with you in the future as well, and determine specific information that you might be interested in as this project progresses.

1) Based on Maryland State law, a Natural Resources Inventory was completed and approved for the Seneca Crossing Local park site (this is done for all of our sites that are to be developed). The site has few to little constraints as it was completely engineered by the developer of the Cedar Valley area, Winchester Homes. When the residential area was constructed (15+ years ago) the park was used as a fill site for the homes. It was pre-graded into the plateaus you see today in order to accommodate recreation facilities in accordance with the approved Site Plan for Seneca Crossing. This approved site plan also includes a 150' buffer all across the back of the park, which all of our design options are adhering to.

2) The park project is in the current phase of 'Facility Planning' which is defined as a *30% completion level* of final construction documents and permits. 'Facility Planning' results in a park design and corresponding budget that is approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board, and then entered in to our Capital Improvements Program (CIP). As such we do not yet have a preferred plan and corresponding budget but the current project will result in this. Based on current CIP budget parameters, this project will realistically not begin final design (construction documents) and construction for 7 to 10 years (+-2018).

3) When the 1991 Site Plan for Seneca Crossing was approved, the greatest need was for large multi-use rectangular sports fields and therefore the Site Plan and grading today reflect this. Assessment of recreational needs is completed by our planning department through several studies and is based on supply, demand, demographics, and what is currently on the list for planned facilities. Current assessment of recreational needs still indicates that this is a top need with 77 fields needed across the county, 8.7 fields needed in the Germantown planning area, and 19.4 fields needed to serve the I270 study area. There are also other recreation and park needs to be considered for example - skate parks, hard-surface trails, volleyball, dog-parks, picnic areas, playgrounds, tennis, hard-surface courts, and community gardens. Our planning department continually evaluates these needs in order to stay current.

4) There will be a Storm Water Management (SWM) Concept Plan prepared for the preferred plan, once it is compiled, and it will be in accordance with Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) – Environmental Site Design (ESD) requirements. The SWM concept permit will also be acquired. When this project is final design (7-10 years away), Final Storm Water Management and Sediment Control Plans and construction permits will then be completed.

Here is some additional information regarding some other topics you have described (not on the list).

5) Regarding concern about adult league cricket games, this site *cannot* provide the full size field that cricket leagues have been patiently requesting. This is primarily due to the depth of the site, once the 150' forest buffer is delineated across the back of the site. While there will be some disappointment concerning the potential for a field at this site, M-NCPPC is still working with cricket leagues to locate a better site than can fit a full-sized field for their games. The current Seneca Crossing design options that show a large rectangular/oval field are designated as *multi-use* and could be for soccer, field-hockey, lacrosse, football, and 'youth' cricket or practices. Flexibility for permitting this type of field can

offer the most opportunities for park users and M-NCPPC does not wish to exclude a valid sport. There is also growing interest in cricket and many children are interested in learning the sport.

6) Concerning speeding traffic on Seneca Crossing Drive, I have contacted both Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) - Traffic Calming Division and also County Police and have spoken with several people familiar with this area. I will provide exact contacts for your HOA in order to pursue improvements to current conditions. I also have results from the County Police study 1.5-2 years ago in response to a request from the head of your HOA, but these results did not yield in any change to what is there today. M-NCPPC is a separate agency from MCDOT and we have no jurisdiction over county roads or their processes to initiate improvements, therefore these issues will have to be pursued with and through them. However, I will remain in communication with them and these issues and try to be helpful. I did sit on this roadway to observe traffic (and plan to do so more). I am not a traffic engineer so I cannot provide the appropriate analysis or solutions to control speeders on this primary residential street, although I believe a possibility may be to reconstruct the 4 speed bumps (now somewhat flat) to be higher in order to slow people down and to discourage drivers that may want to cut-through the neighborhood to use the main roads instead. This will have to be determined though through MCDOT.

I hope we will correspond more on your concerns and also ideas you may have for the future park and hope to see you at the meeting next Wednesday.
(Hope for NO SNOW.)

Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann

From: murglass@aol.com [mailto:murglass@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 6:17 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: Jtd429@aol.com
Subject: Seneca Crossing Park

Hi Heidi, my name is Lisa Murdock and I live on Seneca Crossing Drive in Germantown. I have lived there for 11 years and watched the traffic increase greatly. The speed bumps do not help at all. We have a neighborhood filled with school age children too.

I would like a few items if it would not be too much trouble:

1. The environmental impact report for the park
2. The budget for the park's completion
3. The justification for the park. Did you know we have Ridge park a block away, Sally K. Ride ES field, Black Hills Regional Park less than 2 miles away. We have leagues and practices on all these fields and overflow for major events ends up in our neighborhood.
4. Storm water management plan for construction and after the park is in place.

We already have had experience with a cricket league playing without permission and parking in front of my home during the Spring and Summer. They often picnic and leave litter in our common area. The signs put up by the HOA stop no one. We have even had them organize a fundraiser like event in our common area and sell dinners.

I like parks but I also want safety first and equity. We are a community filled with kids and everyone is very nice. We have not tried to have the police arrest these groups for trespassing, however, maybe we should have to set a precedence. I hope that you will understand my frustration that now the group will have greater impact on my little subdivision.

Feel free to call me any time (301) 972-4284. I am happy to stop by and look at the files if they cannot be sent by a pdf.

thank you,

Lisa
murglass@aol.com

Paniati, Kimberly

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 1:25 PM
To: 'Michael James'
Subject: RE: proposed park at Seneca Crossing

Hello Michael,

Thank you very much for your interest and enthusiasm for this future park. I believe it will become a true asset to the area. The 4 options that will be shown next Wednesday include most of the ideas you have suggested below, except they do not yet include volleyball. Up to about 1-2 weeks ago we had only received 1 request for volleyball but it is becoming apparent that there are many residents who are very interested in the sport and including it here at Seneca Crossing Local Park. Based on the high level of interest, volleyball may be designed into the final plan that will be prepared after next week's public meeting.

I hope to see you at the meeting.
Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael James [<mailto:volyfrog@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:58 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: Gabriel.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: proposed park at Seneca Crossing

Hi Heidi and Gabriel,

I recently learned of the proposed park for Seneca Crossing. I live in the community and would like to provide my input for ideas for the park. First of all I wanted to say I am glad to have the county put a park nearby there. I hope the plans that will be moving forward include a couple tennis courts, walking trail, sand volleyball court, and a ball field. It might also be nice to have an open flat field of some sort that others can set up and play what ever sport they choose whether it be football, soccer, flying a kite, family picnic or anything that would lend itself to a generic open grass play area. I will be looking forward to attending the meeting to learn more. Thank you.

Michael James
volyfrog@gmail.com

Paniati, Kimberly

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 1:33 PM
To: 'asheu@comcast.net'
Subject: RE: In favor of sand volleyball courts at the proposed Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hello Amy,

Thank you so much for your interest in this project and for volleyball, as it is a great sport. It will be seriously considered in the final plan for Seneca Crossing Local Park. Could you please forward to me your address so I can be sure to include you in future mailings?

Thank you,
Heidi Sussmann

From: asheu@comcast.net [<mailto:asheu@comcast.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:46 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: In favor of sand volleyball courts at the proposed Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hi Heidi,

I am happy to learn that there maybe more sand volleyball courts for us volleyball players. I know our group has taken advantage of the court at Great Seneca. I wish I can attend the community meeting next Wednesday but I am playing in a league on Wednesday nights.

I look forward to hearing the proposal has been approved.

Thank you,
Amy

Paniati, Kimberly

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 1:41 PM
To: Paniati, Kimberly; McManus, Patricia; Wallis, Mark
Subject: FW: Lighted sand volleyball courts in the Seneca Crossing Local Park

This site is a very good summary regarding traffic calming issue.

From: Mark Gionet [mailto:mgionet@lsginc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 4:52 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Re: Lighted sand volleyball courts in the Seneca Crossing Local Park

Maybe publish the link to their traffic calming program . . .

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/trstmpl.asp?url=/content/dot/traffic/speed_calming.asp



Mark C. Gionet ASLA AICP
Principal

T: 703.821.2045 ext. 102

1919 Gallows Road, Suite 110, Vienna, VA 22182
1800 Camden Road, Suite 107-30, Charlotte, NC 28203

LSG LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

<http://www.lsginc.com/>

From: "Sussmann, Heidi" <Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org>
Date: Wed, 2 Feb 2011 16:40:41 -0500
To: Mark Gionet <mgionet@lsginc.com>
Conversation: Lighted sand volleyball courts in the Seneca Crossing Local Park
Subject: RE: Lighted sand volleyball courts in the Seneca Crossing Local Park

No. No call back. Ki Kim has tried to call them as well. I think it is ok though because I can convey what I know about traffic issue(s) and who the DOT contact(s) are, process for them/HOA to pursue, etc. The park meeting should not transform into a traffic-roads meeting.

I think a very simple answer to the speeding is to raise the four currently flat speed bumps. I also think Pam's Staskal's mathematics is very flawed (thousands of cars a day?).

From: Mark Gionet [mailto:mgionet@lsginc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:00 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi; McManus, Patricia; Wallis, Mark
Subject: Re: Lighted sand volleyball courts in the Seneca Crossing Local Park

Ok, these folks are even better organized than the skaters.

Heidi, have you ben able to get anyone from MCDOT to speak about traffic calming?



Mark C. Gionet ASLA AICP

Principal

T: 703.821.2045 ext. 102

1919 Gallows Road, Suite 110, Vienna, VA 22182
1800 Camden Road, Suite 107-30, Charlotte, NC 28203

LSG LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

<http://www.lsginc.com/>

From: "Sussmann, Heidi" <Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org>
Date: Wed, 2 Feb 2011 10:47:09 -0500
To: Mark Gionet <mgionet@lsginc.com>, "McManus, Patricia" <patricia.mcmanus@mncppc-mc.org>, "Wallis, Mark" <Mark.Wallis@mncppc-mc.org>
Conversation: Lighted sand volleyball courts in the Seneca Crossing Local Park
Subject: FW: Lighted sand volleyball courts in the Seneca Crossing Local Park

From: beadlacing@aol.com [<mailto:beadlacing@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 10:03 AM
To: MCP-Chair; mary.bredford@MontgomeryParks.org; Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Lighted sand volleyball courts in the Seneca Crossing Local Park

Dear Ms. Heidi Sussmann, Ms. Françoise Carrier and Ms. Mary Bredford:

This email concerns not only the design of a new Seneca Crossing Park, but also other outdoor projects in our County that are handled by your Department and Planning Board.

That is alarming that in spite of the increased popularity of volleyball among the County residents your Department and Planning Board completely ignore the needs of this sport fans. I have reviewed your documentation pertinent to the statistical analyses, inventory surveys, plans for future developments, and money allocation for the County parks and outdoor recreational facilities and couldn't find a single word about volleyball. Though, such "popular" among ordinary folks sports like equestrian, archery, ice rings, etc. are constantly discussed in this documentation.

I reviewed the following documents:

Vision 2030 Strategic Plan Executive Summary - DRAFT
<<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/about/vision/documents/vision2030-draft.exec.summary.pdf>>

Volume 2: Strategic Plan <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/about/vision/documents/Vol2.vision2030-strategic.plan.draft_web.pdf>

<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/about/vision/documents/vision2030findings-mcpb-july.ppt-web.pdf>
<<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/about/vision/documents/vision2030findings-mcpb-july.ppt-web.pdf>>

<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/about/vision/documents/vision2030-surveyfindings-report.6-2010.pdf>
<<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/about/vision/documents/vision2030-surveyfindings-report.6-2010.pdf>>

Not a single word about volleyball can be found there! That is a very disturbing fact for the thousands and thousands of the County volleyball players.

It is a shame that in our vast and reach County there are only 6-7 outdoor VB courts.

It is a shame that our County has only a single place with the lighted VB courts at the Olney park. During Summer evenings players spend more time sitting on the grass waiting for their turn to play than actually playing on the court.

Outdoor volleyball courts (lighted if feasible) should become an integral part of each and every new built or refurbished playgrounds at the Community Centers and parks in our County. Your Department and Planning Board can make that become a reality.

I would appreciate your response to my email.

Thank you for your time,

Boris Muchnik

5111 Crossfield Court, #16

Rockville, MD

Phone: 301-529-3899

Paniati, Kimberly

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 11:22 AM
To: 'mgionet@lsginc.com'; Hanley, Wendy; Nelligan, Art
Cc: Paniati, Kimberly; McManus, Patricia; Wallis, Mark; Kim, Ki
Subject: FW:
Attachments: Seneca Car TripsGenetrated fromTypical field use at local Park.doc

Importance: High

Hello Wendy and Art, and all,

FYI: I have *not been* forwarding a ton of very recent emails from volleyball playing residents to you (about 30 to date) but I believe several will attend Wednesday (see below).

I am forwarding this email now though = from Pam who is the most actively corresponding Cedar Valley neighbor and she identifies the most prominent concern which is added traffic generated from this new park, as well as traffic problems now. See attached info above that I compiled to analyze what the additional trips might be.

*Pam is also now under the impression that athletic fields are a 'profit making venture' for Parks and that's why we want them. Please be prepared, at the Wednesday night meeting, to briefly describe operating/maintenance requirements of these fields (rotating, reseeding, aerating, etcetc, compost tea if applicable, etc) and the "profit margin" she is thinking of (I believe it *might be an OBI loss actually?*). It will be important. If you have some numbers, regarding revenue and "profit" from fields, that you can provide quickly then I can respond to her before Wednesday night. Let me know your thoughts.*

Back to volleyball topic: As mentioned, I have also received +- 30 emails from volleyball players who would like to see >=2 (4 perefereable) sand courts at Seneca Crossing. I think Mary Bradford is favoring the idea as well (this unfolded last week). I am wondering if there is any potential for putting some courts at Ridge Road, where future ice rink would've gone, as an interim feature (this is totally my idea/question)?

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 8:07 AM

To: Sussmann, Heidi

Subject:

Hi Heidi,

I was just clued in that a major reason to have league play at Seneca Crossing Park is because it's revenue generating. I'm more naive than I thought for I hadn't appreciated that motivation for the county.

The county and police have repeatedly told us we don't have problems in Cedar Valley, but we do. In fact, I have numerous emails from you stating that no one will park on the street and that no one will cut through Cedar Valley. So what happens if these problems get worse? Who will listen to us? Who will fix it?

Cars do park on the streets, ignoring parking lots, at all of my kids' games.

People do use Seneca Crossing every day going from 355 to Brink. Take out a map and think about traveling north on 355 from 118 and wanting to get to Brink to travel east. Taking right turns at the stop signs on Henderson Crossing and then on Seneca Crossing takes you right to Brink and allows you to avoid 4 stop lights, two of which are long lights at which you must go straight. Seneca Crossing also has much less traffic than 355 and 27 and the speed humps are not a deterrent. The police don't enforce speeding, so it's a sweet little cut-through.

With league play, there will be 36 cars coming to the park and 36 cars leaving the park every hour. With three fields, that's over 200 trips every hour. With 5 games per field, that's 1000 cars every Saturday and every Sunday for months on end. You saw 47 cars come down Seneca Crossing in just 10 minutes. This level is already unacceptable. Do you really think we can handle an additional 2000 cars coming to Cedar Valley every weekend.

Heidi... I'm begging you to please realize that this park could do so much more harm than good to Cedar Valley if league play is allowed.

Please don't tell us that park patrons will be considerate of Cedar Valley because they won't. In fact, our school was just heavily vandalized this past week. Cedar Valley was built with upscale homes to try to improve the area. With heavy use, this park will destroy the attractiveness of the subdivision for who would want to buy a house on Seneca Forest if they view it during league play, but find the street has only one open lane because of off-street parking from park patrons?

There is no reason for this park to have league play except that the county wants to make money. That should not happen at our expense.

Other than show up at this meeting, what else can I do to ensure the county is considering the negative impact of heavy use of parks on nearby homes? I had hoped that common sense would prevail, but now that I realize money is involved, I'm scared that heads will be stuck in the sand (for they certainly have been in the past). Everyone thinks that putting in the park is doing us a favor, but with league play, the negative impact on Cedar Valley will be extreme and unavoidable.

Please help us!
Pam

Komes, Linda

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 4:35 PM
To: McManus, Patricia
Subject: FW: Proposed park at Seneca Crossing

...a positive email ☺ RE Seneca crossing

From: Sheri Beauregard [<mailto:sheribeauregard@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 2:32 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: Gabriel.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: Proposed park at Seneca Crossing

Ms. Sussmann and Mr. Albornoz,

Thank you very much for sending the public notice postcard regarding the community meeting on the proposed new park at Seneca Crossing. I live in the Seneca Crossing/Cedar Valley community that is next to the proposed park. Before this postcard I was not aware of the proposed park. I always thought the land was part of our community. I am excited at the prospect of a park in walking distance.

I looked at all the material on the proposed park at http://montgomeryparks.org/pdd/projects/seneca_crossing/SenecaCrossingLocalPark.shtm and see that a survey was sent last year to some of the residents in our community that live next to the proposed park. Wish the entire community had been included in the survey. Hopefully, my input below could still be considered. I am planning on attending the meeting tomorrow night.

Here are my requests/thoughts for the proposed park.

- 1 - sand volleyball court (with lights*) next to open field so we could have plenty of room around the court plus place to set up additional nets when needed.
- 2 - tennis courts - 4 courts would be great with one having a hitting wall or having hitting wall(s) on the outside of the courts (with lights*)
- 3 - walking/biking trails
- 4 - parking
- 5 - restrooms and water fountain(s)
- 6 - open field for general purpose use
- 7 - covered area with picnic tables

* - If possible to have lights would be great. If cost is an issue, one thought is to have the lights be coin-operated so one would have to pay to turn them on.

I have been playing volleyball for about 20 years and love the sport. I also play tennis. I know of several neighbors in our community who also love to play tennis (and volleyball), including my husband. Sometimes we like to just hit against a hitting wall to warm up before playing. It is very hard to find courts with hitting walls.

I enjoy walking and would really like to have another area that I could walk in. I pass quite a few residents also walking - sure they would enjoy a walking trail. We also bike and like the thought of a trail that would allow

for both walking and biking. It would be nice if the trail is in a form of a loop so that you don't walk to one end then have to turn around to go back.

Some form of parking is needed. If not, I can see people parking along Seneca Crossing Drive, possible clogging the road (as well as neighborhood streets near the park). Having more than one entrance would be good.

I agree that some form of buffer, preferably with landscaping, should be done between the park and the residence.

I am *not* in favor of a pool or dog park.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input. I look forward to hearing the plans for the park tomorrow.

Cheers....Sheri

Komes, Linda

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 4:38 PM
To: McManus, Patricia
Subject: FW: proposed park at Seneca Crossing

... just 1 more + email

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael James [<mailto:volyfrog@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 2:58 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: Gabriel.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: proposed park at Seneca Crossing

Hi Heidi and Gabriel,

I recently learned of the proposed park for Seneca Crossing. I live in the community and would like to provide my input for ideas for the park. First of all I wanted to say I am glad to have the county put a park nearby there. I hope the plans that will be moving forward include a couple tennis courts, walking trail, sand volleyball court, and a ball field. It might also be nice to have an open flat field of some sort that others can set up and play what ever sport they choose whether it be football, soccer, flying a kite, family picnic or anything that would lend itself to a generic open grass play area. I will be looking forward to attending the meeting to learn more. Thank you.

Michael James
volyfrog@gmail.com

Komes, Linda

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 10:18 AM
To: 'Ronald Welke'
Cc: McManus, Patricia; Farquhar, Brooke; Hanley, Wendy; Wallis, Mark; 'mgionet@lsginc.com'
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hello Ron,

It was good to see you again. I can see you are really enjoying your well deserved retirement.

The preferred plan for Seneca Crossing will be prepared in March and will include volleyball courts, so thank you again for prompting those interested in this great sport. Your sketch will also be very useful in designing the layout so thank you for providing that as well. The project website will be updated shortly with the 4 alternatives for further comment during February as well as the timeframe and strategy going forward. The project will be going to the Planning Board either in June/July or in early September and specifics will be decided in the near future.

I am copying Brooke - because Brooke (working with Mark Wallis) is leading the Vision 2030 effort and would be the M-NCPPC contact regarding the Advisory Board and coordination for Leo Buscher to become a member on it.

I am also copying Patricia, Wendy, and Mark with your suggestions for Ridge Road to accommodate additional volleyball on the new properties there. They would be looking at the big picture planning of facilities and potential sites in the up-County area, and I believe additional opportunities for this are already being looked at.

Thank you again Ron, and we can coordinate more as the project progresses.

Heidi Sussmann
301-495-2547

From: Ronald Welke [mailto:Helives4ron@MSN.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 5:56 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: Wallis, Mark; Bradford, Mary
Subject: Re: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Heidi

It was good to see you again. Thanks for a very thorough and professional presentation by your consultants and staff. It's always tough to "control" our "public" at a meeting like that. It reminded me of my days with the County and M-NCPPC.

The volleyball community voice was heard and we appreciate that. We look forward to seeing the revised layouts that go to the Planning Board later this year. I spoke with Patricia McManus and we were not sure how the revised plans would "get back to us" since we did not give our e-mail addresses. She thought maybe a postcard would be mailed out letting us know when something is on your web site. (FYI, my full address is 12212 Stoney Bottom Road, Germantown, MD 20874.)

I did leave with Patricia a very rough sketch of a six-court volleyball complex with approximate dimensions. I had not intended to leave it with her, but she asked that I do. Please confirm dimensions when you look at locating it on your plans.

As an aside, I spoke with Mark Wallis and he told me that M-NCPPC has purchased or is in the process of purchasing three properties adjacent to the Ridge Road Recreation Park across the street from proposed Seneca Crossing Local Park. That may be a better location for some lighted volleyball courts.

Also, he encouraged a volleyball presence at the upcoming Vision 2030 meeting run by the County's Department of Recreation on February 23. We intend to be there.

We have also expressed interest in having one of our people, Leo Buscher, President of Mid Atlantic Volleyball, a large-member local volleyball organization, be on the Advisory Board. Is that a joint County/M-NCPPC Board or just County Recreation Department? Leo's e-mail was addressed only to M-NCPPC staff. Could you forward it to Gabe Albercross, Director, Department of Recreation, if that is appropriate?

Thanks again,

Ron Welke

----- Original Message -----

From: Sussmann, Heidi

To: Ronald Welke

Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 10:22 AM

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hello Ron,

You are correct, the meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 9th. Hope to see you there.

Do you know if there are others interested in volleyball? We only received this request from you, to date.

Thanks.

From: Ronald Welke [mailto:Helives4ron@MSN.com]

Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011 9:45 AM

To: Sussmann, Heidi

Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Dear Heidi:

I assume that your public meeting scheduled for yesterday evening was postponed until February 9 due to the inclement weather and related school closings. I understand that you have prepared four alternative plans for the park, and I look forward to seeing them.

I want to continue to urge you to consider providing some sand volleyball courts at the new park. I recommend a minimum of two 30' X 60' courts and up to six. I am aware that there are a couple at Black Hills, but they are single courts that are part of picnic areas. My thought is to have several together like at the Tidal Basin in D.C. where volleyball players could gather for a day for a fun fellowship event. I assume they would be reserved just as ball fields are reserved. Volleyball is the highest participation sport in our country and often gets slighted at our public recreation facilities.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing you on February 9.

Sincerely,

Ron Welke
301-540-8257

Komes, Linda

From: Ronald Welke [Helives4ron@MSN.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 1:22 PM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: Nelligan, Art; Hanley, Wendy; McManus, Patricia; beadlacing
Subject: Re: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Heidi

In response to your request, I have spoken with a couple outdoor volleyballers, including Boris Muchnik who was also at the meeting. Here is their response.

First, thank you for agreeing to provide two to four courts at Seneca Crossing Local Park. Since it is likely that they would not be lighted, most play would occur on weekends or early evenings during the week and could be doubles (i.e. two on two) to six on six. The play could range from informal pick up games to organized local tournaments.

The use of the volleyball courts would depend on the number of courts and the existence of lighting. There is a great need in Montgomery County for a "volleyball stadium" with six lighted courts. At the same time, we understand that a large space is required for this type of facility and that County resources are limited.

We would prefer to have a small space with two lighted courts (similar to those at Olney Park) to be built in a few years rather than a larger facility with six lighted courts to be built in ten or more years. Could the smaller space be included in the expansion of Ridge Road Recreational Park or in M-NCPPC's Strategic Plan for the next three to five years, and the larger one placed in the Vision 2030 Plan?

We do see that the Vision 2030 Plan is to be adopted in March 2011. Is that by the Planning Board or the County Council? Is the date and time set for this action?

We wish to continue to work with you and other staff at M-NCPPC and the Department of Recreation on details for both plans at such time as the space is specifically allocated. We can provide more specific answers to your questions at that time when we know how many courts and if they are to be lighted.

Boris Muchnik should be your future point of contact. I have copied him on this e-mail.

Ron

----- Original Message -----

From: Sussmann, Heidi
To: Ronald Welke
Cc: Nelligan, Art ; Hanley, Wendy ; McManus, Patricia
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 12:11 PM
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hello again Ron,

I am reviewing your layout sketch. I have a few questions about how you envision sand court volleyball use at Seneca Crossing Local Park.

- o Would it be league tournament play (2 on 2)?
- o Would it be 5 on 5 practices?
- o Or both?
- o When would which occur (M-F nights versus weekends)?

I'm trying to figure number of parking spaces according to how 2 or 4 sand courts might realistically fit in at Seneca Crossing LP.

Also – from informal discussions, I think Ridge Road *new parcel* might accommodate a bigger group of courts or the *open space in middle* of current park. TBD by planners. May involve a trade off of uses.

Your assistance is very appreciated.
THX.

Komes, Linda

From: beadlacing@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 3:38 PM
To: Helives4ron@MSN.com; Sussmann, Heidi
Cc: Nelligan, Art; Hanley, Wendy; McManus, Patricia
Subject: Re: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hello Heidi,

Nice talking to you at the meeting. I would be happy to work **together with Ron** helping your Department with all issues concerning indoor/outdoor volleyball facilities.

Also, we all hope that the co-optation of Leo Buscher, Mid Atlantic Volleyball President, on the Advisory Board would facilitate the County efforts in meeting volleyball community needs.

We are waiting for your response to questions in the Ron's email. Also, what concrete steps should be done to make Leo a member of the Advisory Board?

Hope to see you at the meeting February 23,

Boris

-----Original Message-----

From: Ronald Welke <Helives4ron@MSN.com>
To: Sussmann, Heidi <Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org>
Cc: Nelligan, Art <Art.Nelligan@mncppc-mc.org>; Hanley, Wendy <Wendy.Hanley@mncppc-mc.org>; McManus, Patricia <patricia.mcmanus@mncppc-mc.org>; beadlacing <beadlacing@aol.com>
Sent: Tue, Feb 15, 2011 1:22 pm
Subject: Re: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Heidi

In response to your request, I have spoken with a couple outdoor volleyballers, including Boris Muchnik who was also at the meeting. Here is their response.

First, thank you for agreeing to provide two to four courts at Seneca Crossing Local Park. Since it is likely that they would not be lighted, most play would occur on weekends or early evenings during the week and could be doubles (i.e. two on two) to six on six. The play could range from informal pick up games to organized local tournaments.

The use of the volleyball courts would depend on the number of courts and the existence of lighting. There is a great need in Montgomery County for a "volleyball stadium" with six lighted courts. At the same time, we understand that a large space is required for this type of facility and that County resources are limited.

We would prefer to have a small space with two lighted courts (similar to those at Olney Park) to be built in a few years rather than a larger facility with six lighted courts to be built in ten or more years. Could the smaller space be included in the expansion of Ridge Road Recreational Park or in M-NCPPC's Strategic Plan for the next three to five years, and the larger one placed in the Vision 2030 Plan?

We do see that the Vision 2030 Plan is to be adopted in March 2011. Is that by the Planning Board or the County Council? Is the date and time set for this action?

We wish to continue to work with you and other staff at M-NCPPC and the Department of Recreation on details for both plans at such time as the space is specifically allocated. We can provide more specific answers to your questions at that time when we know how many courts and if they are to be lighted.

Boris Muchnik should be your future point of contact. I have copied him on this e-mail.

Ron

----- Original Message -----

From: Sussmann, Heidi

To: Ronald Welke

Cc: Nelligan, Art ; Hanley, Wendy ; McManus, Patricia

Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 12:11 PM

Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hello again Ron,

I am reviewing your layout sketch. I have a few questions about how you envision sand court volleyball use at Seneca Crossing Local Park.

- Would it be league tournament play (2 on 2)?
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Also -- from informal discussions, I think Ridge Road *new parcel* might accommodate a bigger group of courts or the *open space in middle* of current park. TBD by planners. May involve a trade off of uses.

Your assistance is very appreciated.

THX.

Komes, Linda

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:41 AM
To: Pedoeem, Mitra; Bradford, Mary; Riley, Mike
Cc: McManus, Patricia; 'mgionet@sginc.com'
Subject: FW: Cedar Valley park article

FYI – interesting!!! I will encourage this person to write more.

From: Chuck Benjamin [<mailto:chuckdebb@verizon.net>]
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2011 8:36 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Fwd: Cedar Valley park article

Take two. Last one came back. Wanted to include you on this.

Feb 17, 2011 08:28:34 AM, chuckdebb@verizon.net wrote:

Dear Ms. Bondeson--

I read with interest this morning your article about the Seneca Crossing park proposal meeting on page A-7 of the Germantown edition. As a resident of Cedar Valley and an attendee of the meeting, I feel you may have misrepresented the community just a bit.

The tenor of the article implies that ALL Cedar Valley residents are against the proposed park. I, for one, believe the potential benefits far outweigh the potential issues and would rather work with the county to come to an amicable solution. There are others in the community who believe the same. Those who repeatedly interrupted the meeting (of which there were only a handful) refuse to believe there will be any benefit for the community at all. It's frequently said that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. In this instance, the squeaky wheels got the press. There were others there who asked intelligent, thoughtful questions, but they didn't make it into the article. You should also know that those who spoke up against the park so vociferously are squeaky wheels about anything and everything in the neighborhood. This is just their cause du jour.

I'm sure you interviewed many people for the article--I know you interviewed at least two of the squeaky wheels because I have heard from one of them who was not named in the article--but I'm not sure you got a fair representation. If so, that representation did not make it into the article. Instead of noting that "Cedar Valley residents" are against the park, perhaps you should have noted that "some" Cedar Valley residents are against the park.

This letter is only intended for those in this distribution list and is NOT for publication.

Sincerely,
Chuck Benjamin
Cedar Valley resident

Paniati, Kimberly

From: Sussmann, Heidi
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 1:13 PM
To: Paniati, Kimberly; 'mgionet@lsginc.com'; 'dnorden@lsginc.com'; Wallis, Mark; Hanley, Wendy; Nelligan, Art
Subject: FW: Cedar Valley park article

I forgot to fwd this one to you.



From: Chuck Benjamin [<mailto:chuckdebb@verizon.net>]
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2011 8:36 AM
To: Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: Fwd: Cedar Valley park article

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This letter is only intended for those in this distribution list and is NOT for publication.

Sincerely,
Chuck Benjamin
Cedar Valley resident

Friday, Feb. 11, 2011

4 concepts presented for new Germantown park

Residents resist playing fields at Seneca Crossing site

by Jen Bondeson | Staff Writer

The county's park planners are cruising ahead with visions of sports fields and walking paths at a Germantown site, but some residents are calling for them to put on the brakes.

Members of an 85-person crowd repeatedly interrupted Mark Gionet, a landscape architect with Lewis Scully Gionet Inc., as he presented four design schemes for Seneca Crossing Local Park on the southeast corner of Brink and Ridge roads in Germantown.

Residents of the 498-home Cedar Valley community called out questions about traffic and safety throughout Wednesday's meeting at the Upcounty Regional Services Center.

All four concepts for the 28-acre park include two rectangular sports fields, a walking path with exercise stations, shelters with picnic areas, children's play areas, a 150-foot reforested buffer area, two parking lots and open space.

Some plans include additional amenities, such as a skate park, community garden and tennis courts, which could also be volleyball courts.

The park abuts the backyards of 31 houses on Seneca Forest Circle and Virginia Pine Terrace in Cedar Valley.

Commuters and street parking jam traffic on Seneca Crossing Road, which extends from Brink Road through the park and into Cedar Valley, said Patty Sites, a past president of the Cedar Valley homeowners association who lives on Virginia Park Drive.

She and other residents said the traffic problems will worsen after the park opens.

Sites estimated about 30 of her neighbors attended the Wednesday meeting.

Officials with the Montgomery County Department of Parks want the transportation department to conduct a traffic study, said Heidi Sussmann, the park's project manager.

Sussmann believes most of the traffic is not commuters, but residents who live in the area.

Other audience members said keeping the park unlit at night will lead to more crime in the area.

The five to 10 cricket players who attended prefer the concept with a 450-by-300 foot field that could accommodate their game, said Manish Lodaya, president of the Montgomery County Cricket Association.

The Cedar Valley residents do not want fields for league sports, such as cricket, which they believe would create more traffic.

Sussmann promised that the parks department would listen to all ideas, merge them into a final design, and post it on its website in April for public review.

The parks department will present a final design to the county's planning board this summer, either at a June or September meeting. It will include a budget and construction schedule, Sussmann said.

If the planning board approves the plan, it will be included in the 2013-2018 Capital Improvements Program budget.

Construction will not be completed for seven to 10 years, Gionet said.

The project will compete for funding against other requested parks and park updates; 32 requests are now listed on the parks website.

Some residents questioned why plans were moving forward while the county makes budget cuts.

Greenbriar Local Park, 25 acres at 12525 Glen Road in Potomac planned with similar amenities, has a \$3.5 million budget.

Germantown has 11 local parks and two recreational parks; residents see no need for another park in the area.

Ridge Road Recreational Park, across Ridge Road on Brink Road, has two rectangular sports fields, three diamond sports fields, tennis and volleyball courts, a play area, an in-line hockey rink and a dog park.

Gionet said county studies showed a need for the new park's amenities.

jbondeson@gazette.net

See illustrations of the four proposals for Seneca Crossing Local Park at gazette.net/links.

For the most updated information about the park, visit www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/projects/seneca_crossing/SenecaCrossingLocalPark.

Komes, Linda

From: Pedoeem, Mitra
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 7:17 PM
To: McManus, Patricia; Sussmann, Heidi
Subject: FW: Outdoor lighted volleyball courts

Heidi

I believe he is talking about Seneca crossing LP. Do you usually reply to these kind of e mails?

-----Original Message-----

From: Bradford, Mary
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 5:56 PM
To: 'sark10@juno.com'
Cc: Pedoeem, Mitra
Subject: Re: Outdoor lighted volleyball courts

Mr. Stuart,

Thank you for your message. I am forwarding it to the park development design team. As one who has been heavily involved in volleyball, I do appreciate your thought and interest.

Regards,

Mary Bradford, Director
M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks

Mary R. Bradford, Director
Department of Parks, M-NCPPC

301-495-2500
www.montgomeryparks.org

-----Original Message-----

From: sark10@juno.com <sark10@juno.com>
To: Bradford, Mary <mary.bradford@mncppc-mc.org>
Sent: Tue Mar 15 11:04:33 2011
Subject: Outdoor lighted volleyball courts

I ran a rec volleyball program for the city of gaithersburg for many many years and know there are a lot of volleyball junkies out there. So I support the proposal to construct lighted courts at Brink Road and Rt. 27 in Germantown. I am not running the program for the city but rent out Rachel Carson elementary for my own open volleyball session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I prefer indoor play to sand. In order to be successful I think these courts need to be promoted and play needs to be supervised to a small degree. Sand draws the doubles crowds and occasionally big egos. But I think it is a great idea.

Jeff Stuart
128 Spring Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301-869-3882

<<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3142/4d7f8e77f2fa2238cfest01duc>> Globe Life Insurance
\$1* Buys \$50,000 Life Insurance. Adults or Children. No Medical Exam.
CoverageFor1Dollar.com <<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3142/4d7f8e77f2fa2238cfest01duc>>

Komes, Linda

From: Mikhail Batkhan [mbatkhan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 7:09 PM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Instead of 1 "field" will be great to build Swimming pool.

Mikhail Batkhan
11625 Scarlet Leaf Cir.
Germantown MD 20876
301-916-1525

Komes, Linda

From: Sean Yarborough [seanyarborough@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 11:44 PM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: Feedback on Seneca Crossing Local Park - Facility Plan

Hi Linda,

Thanks for the reminder and information card on the proposed Seneca Crossing local park. I took a look at the site and have a few major concerns that I would like to get your input/response on. I live in the Seneca Crossing Community and close to the location of the park, so the items below need to be addressed before I and many in our neighborhood would support this plan.

- 1) From what I understand, there is currently no plan to provide nighttime lights in the park. This is a huge mistake as it invites teens to hang out in the park after dark (which leads to graffiti and damage to park facilities) or it invites criminal activity. We dealt with both of those activities in our own community for lots until we added adequate nighttime lighting that eliminated the hiding places that were being used. I can't understand how the county can propose and plan to spend a large money to build a park, but not allocate the funds to adequately secure it. Obviously, as you allow crime in the park it will move into our community of families and young children. Essentially, what is the plan to properly light the park?
- 2) Currently, there is already traffic back up on Route 27 because it goes from a 4 lane road to a 2 lane road at the corner of Brink and 27. Adding a park on this intersection will add to the traffic back-up on 27. What is the plan to increase/widen 27 and Brink road past and around the park to accommodate additional traffic? Without these changes, it will result on a larger burden to both the community and those to travel Brink and 27 during their commute.
- 3) What is the plan for parking in the park? I am concerned that if there is not enough, visitors to the park will park in the community, which already has narrow streets.

I look forward to your response and additional information.

Thanks,
Sean

Komes, Linda

From: Ronald Welke [helives4ron@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 6:10 PM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park-Facility Plan

Dear Linda:

On behalf of the entire volleyball community, I would like to thank you and other staff at M-NCPPC for including a four-court volleyball facility in the preferred Facility Plan for Seneca Creek Local Park in Germantown. Several of us attended your public meeting on February 9, 2011, and it is gratifying to see that our voices were heard when we pointed out the popularity of volleyball at all levels of skill within our community and the need for more courts both outside and inside for pick up, league and highly-skilled levels of play.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the public meeting of the Montgomery County Planning Board scheduled for October 6, 2011 as I will be enroute to St. George, Utah to play volleyball in the Huntsman World Senior Games. The volleyball community strongly supports the staff recommendation to provide funding for final design and construction of the project in the Fiscal Year 2013-2018 Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

We understand that this facility will not be lighted because of its classification as a "local park" and proximity to a local neighborhood. Myself and Leo Buscher, President of the Mid-Atlantic Volleyball Club (MAC), have applied to serve on local Recreation Advisory Boards, and we look forward to working with M-NCPPC staff and staff of the Montgomery County Department of Recreation on future projects. Of particular interest to us is the expansion of the Ridge Road Recreation Park located on Frederick Road (MD 355) across MD 27 from Seneca Crossing Local Park. In talking with Brook Farquhar and Bill Griese, I know that efforts are underway to purchase three additional residential properties adjacent to the park. I urge M-NCPPC to strongly consider providing a four or six court **lighted** volleyball facility here as expansion plans are developed over the next couple years.

With kindest personal and professional regards,

Ron Welke
301-540-8257

Komes, Linda

From: Ronald Welke [helives4ron@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 6:10 PM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park-Facility Plan

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With kindest personal and professional regards,

Ron Welke
301-540-8257

Komes, Linda

From: The Londons [naclondon@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 6:32 PM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: Re: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Ms Komes,

I now realize that the thumbnails at the site (http://montgomeryparks.org/pdd/projects/seneca_crossing/SenecaCrossingLocalPark.shtm) show the preferred plan for the park. And it looks like you have already posted all 4 alternatives. Thank you for such a prompt response.

It looks like scheme 4 is the preferred plan (could you let me know if that is not the case).

One major concern that I brought up at the previous meeting was the proposal to have a walkway/path from the park to Seneca Forest Circle, my street - is that still in the plan? To me this path would just encourage visitors to use my street as parking for the park, crowding out residents, adding car traffic, and bringing strangers into the neighborhood. Given how easy and short a walk it would be for residents to get to the park through the other entrances (e.g. Seneca Crossing), I do not see a benefit of having the path that outweighs the downsides.

If it is still in the plan, I would like to submit a comment on this. How should I do that? Or will there be another public meeting before the comment period ends?

Again, thank you.

Neal London

From: "Komes, Linda" <Linda.Komes@montgomeryparks.org>
To: The Londons <naclondon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 4:39 PM
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Dear Mr. London,

Thank you for your interest in Seneca Crossing Local Park. We posted the Preferred Plan which evolved from the four schemes which were presented to the Community for review and comment during the February meeting. I do think it is a good idea, however, to post the four schemes. I have requested that they be added to the web site. Hopefully that should be completed by today's end. Thanks again for your comment.

Please let me know if you have any further comments or concerns.

Linda

Linda Komes, RLA, AICP, CPSI
Project Manager, Park Development Division
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901
301 650 2860

From: The Londons [<mailto:naclondon@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 8:52 PM

To: Komes, Linda

Subject: Seneca Crosssing Local Park

I went to the ParkProjects.org website, read the description, the minutes and the comments. I could not find anything describing the 4 schemes/proposed designs and uses. Why isn't this posted? Seems a major oversight in providing the park description and status. Or did I miss a link on the site?

Neal London

11532 Seneca Forest Circle.

Komes, Linda

From: Jiahong Xu [xjh9000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2011 9:03 AM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: Seneca crossing local park

Dear Lisa:

I am the resident at 21112 Silver Birch Lane, Germantown and glad to hear that you plan to build a park closeby. I think it is great project and will benefit the residents around. So, I and my whole household will vote for this plan.

Thanks!

Jiahong XU
Xiaoping Li
Yiwei Li

Komes, Linda

From: Britton, Jim [JBritton@aar.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 4:07 PM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Linda:

Thank you for the notice to go to your website and provide comments. At the February 9 meeting I do not remember a lot of discussion, if any, about a skate park. I see that is on three of the four suggested drawings.

I would rather see option four (without a skate park) rather than the other three.

Thank you.

James G. Britton, Jr.
11519 Seneca Forest Circle
Germantown

Komes, Linda

From: Britton, Jim [JBritton@aar.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2011 3:30 PM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Linda

Thanks and welcome. I agree that the main issues were traffic, etc. However, no one brought up the skate facility so no one spoke in opposition of it. There were some attendees that supported a volleyball court.

From what I understand, nothing is going to happen for a couple of years if at all. With the budget crunch Maryland and others are facing, I hope they direct these funds to keep police, fire department personnel, and teachers on the payroll. And Park and Planning as well.

Jim

From: Komes, Linda [<mailto:Linda.Komes@montgomeryparks.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2011 3:25 PM
To: Britton, Jim
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Hi Mr. Britton,

I just was assigned to this project as the former Project Manager, Heidi Sussmann recently retired. I was not at the community meeting but when I asked about a discussion regarding the skate park I was told that the meeting discussion was dominated by resident's concerns regarding existing traffic issues and the fear that development of the park might make these issues worse. I was told that skateboarders were there to support inclusion of a facility in the park but left before speaking as the traffic discussion went on for a long time. Apparently no one spoke out in opposition to providing the facility during the meeting either.

I will find out more about how the need for this type of facility in this area was determined. I do know that we have recently built several similar skate spot facilities and they are very well used and enjoyed by the community. Thanks again for your interest in the park.

Linda

Linda Komes, RLA, AICP, CPSI
Project Manager, Park Development Division
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901
301 650 2860

From: Britton, Jim [<mailto:JBritton@aar.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 4:47 PM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

I don't understand how we have "public meetings" where it is not discussed (though a few kids did show up but promptly left before we started) and then "staff" says there is a demonstrated need and now it appears in three of the four drawings.

Thanks again.

From: Komes, Linda [<mailto:Linda.Komes@montgomeryparks.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 4:31 PM
To: Britton, Jim
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Dear Mr. Britton,

Thank you for your interest in Seneca Crossing Local Park. We were advised by staff from the Park Planning and Stewardship section that there is a demonstrated need for Skate spots in this area of Montgomery County. It was included in option 4 that was presented to the community. I will keep your preference in mind as we move forward. Thanks again.

Linda Komes

Linda Komes, RLA, AICP, CPSI
Project Manager, Park Development Division
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901
301 650 2860

From: Britton, Jim [<mailto:JBritton@aar.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 4:07 PM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park

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I would rather see option four (without a skate park) rather than the other three.

Thank you.

James G. Britton, Jr.
11519 Seneca Forest Circle
Germantown

Komes, Linda

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 05, 2011 10:15 AM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park

I apologize for this coming in after the deadline, but I only found out that you were soliciting input on the Seneca Crossing Local Park and thought you may wish to know the following.

Cedar Valley has numerous traffic and parking problems that will be exacerbated by any type of league play at this park. If this weren't the case, most residents would welcome the proposed fields. Unfortunately, numerous residents raised these issues to Heidi Sussman, only to have her dismiss our concerns as invalid. It was clear that there was an agenda to have league play at this park and data that supported this agenda was embraced while data that pointed out the negative aspects of league play was downplayed or ignored. Despite our requesting Parks and Planning to offer a plan without league play, every plan presented had 2-3 fields.

To explain the issues in Cedar Valley, Seneca Crossing Drive is used by scores of vehicles daily as a short-cut between 355 & Brink Rd. Doing so avoids 4 stop lights on 27 & 355. There is much speeding despite speed bumps and the presence of an elementary school and neighborhood park. Traffic is bad enough that many parents won't let their older kids go to the park alone because they need to cross Seneca Crossing and it's not safe because people speed and do not stop for pedestrians in cross-walks.

We also have illegal parking and excessive levels of off-street parking on narrow streets because numerous houses are over-occupied and have 4-7 cars per house. Most of our streets are reduced to one lane of traffic and have horrible visibility because of these issues.

We have contacted the police and county about these issues, but have received little to no help. The county claims the speed bumps are sufficient to control the speeding and I was told by the police that they do not have the manpower to ticket the illegal parking. Further, the residents of the over-occupied houses lie to the county when questioned, preventing the county from taking action.

Cedar Valley residents are concerned about league play at this park because each game will result in ~70 vehicles accessing the park. Five games are allowed per each of two fields, resulting in ~700 additional vehicles every Saturday and Sunday during the season. Despite what Ms. Sussmann thinks, many of these vehicles will travel through Cedar Valley to access the park. Further, just as we see at our children's soccer games, people will park on our streets rather than the parking lot if they think it will save them a nanometer or a millisecond of time. People these days are too inconsiderate to consider how their parking blocks driveways and visibility. Even if the police came upon being called, it's likely offending cars would be gone before the police arrive. Our streets will not be safe for our children.

The additional traffic and parking caused by league play will negatively affect the quality of life for Cedar Valley residents and decrease the attractiveness of the homes closest to the park, which happen to be the most expensive ones in the area. Property values will suffer as league play occurs during the hottest time of the year to sell houses.

Ms. Komes... please consider the negative effects of league play on our community before you support funding the development of this park. I understand that there will be competition for funds to develop parks. Normally, residents should be fighting to get that funding, but instead, many Cedar Valley residents would prefer you take the development of this park off the table and use the funds elsewhere where its use won't be detrimental to a community.

I truly appreciate your consideration of the above issues before supporting funding of this park's development. I have fields for league play. If you would like further information or more data to support my claims, please contact me at this email address or at 301-528-8559 (evenings/weekends).

Pam Bruce-Staskal

11713 Virginia Pine Drive

Germantown, MD 20874

Komes, Linda

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2011 4:08 PM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Thank you for getting back to me, for I didn't know that Heidi retired.

I truly understand that the park was designed to mitigate the effects on Cedar Valley. I also believe that the planners did everything they possibly could to prevent the problems I outlined and their efforts are sincerely appreciated. I contacted you because despite all the efforts put into this, league play will exacerbate problems we already have. We've contacted the county repeatedly to get these problems addressed, but they are unable to do so. If the county could address them, I wouldn't be contacting you.

As a soccer mom for 8 years, I understand and agree that we need more fields. However, one major problem is that patrons do not park legally, nor are they considerate of homeowners. At my kids' games, I routinely see parents ignore empty parking lots and park in front of driveways, in intersections, and in cross-walks. They squeeze their vehicles wherever they can if they think it will save them time. These vehicles block visibility and endanger pedestrians, who are already at risk because of the speeders. A number of us have repeatedly commented that we would never buy a house near these fields because we wouldn't be able to safely access our own driveways every Saturday and Sunday for 4 months of the year. In Cedar Valley, off-street parking by patrons will cause an even worse problem because most streets are only the width of 3 cars. We already have too many cars parked on the street and our streets are often so clogged that only one lane of traffic is open. You have to zig-zag around parked cars to get down the street. It's unsafe now and Seneca Forest will be unbearable if even another ten cars park on this street during the games.

A second major issue is the vehicles cutting through Cedar Valley to travel from Brink to 355. I run/walk in Cedar Valley almost every day. I routinely see construction vehicles and even police cars cutting through Cedar Valley and many vehicles speed down the street only to slam on the brakes for the few speed bumps we have. The county claims we have all the traffic calming measures they can possibly put in, but it's not enough. The fact that vehicles can trade 4 stop lights for 2 stop signs encourages many people to cut through and frankly, I don't blame them. We've asked for more stop signs or traffic cameras and the police say no. Heidi actually took this concern seriously and sat near Seneca Crossing and Brink one weekday afternoon at 4pm. She counted 49 vehicles in 10 minutes, but then tried to tell me they were all residents of Cedar Valley. With only 500 houses in the area, it's not likely that 10% of all houses were at that intersection on a weekday before the full rush hour started. Her study proved the high number of vehicles we have now, despite her interpretation. It will get worse with 700 more trips to the park every Saturday/Sunday.

While I appreciate the intent of this park, I'm concerned that Parks and Planning is looking at the plans on paper only. Yes, they planned it well and if people behaved the way they should, then I would not have any concerns about this park. In fact, I would be first in line to fight for the funding. Unfortunately, I see at my kids' soccer games and elsewhere that people are too selfish to consider how their behavior negatively affects others. The speeding, illegal parking, and over-occupied homes already have a serious negative impact on our community. League play at this park will make it significantly worse.

If league play is allowed at this park... Patrons will cut through Cedar Valley to get to the park entrances. Patrons will speed because there is no enforcement of the speed limit and they're in a hurry. Patrons will park on our streets, clogging them and blocking access and visibility. Patrons will cut through the yards to get to the park. Residents will get angry and move. In fact, I already know of at least 4 on my street who plan to move if this park is developed and we are not close to the park.

All of this can be avoided by not offering league play at this park or by miraculously finding the funding that would allow the county the manpower they need to enforce the current laws. The latter will never happen... please seriously consider the former.

Thank you again for your time and if you can please forward me the date/time of the planning board meeting, I would appreciate it.

Pam Bruce-Staskal
11713 Virginia Pine Drive
Germantown

From: Linda.Komes@montgomeryparks.org
To: pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com
Date: Wed, 7 Sep 2011 12:17:40 -0700
Subject: RE: Seneca Crossing Local Park

Ms. Bruce-Staskal,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful input on Seneca Crossing Local Park. As you probably know, Heidi Sussmann retired and I was recently assigned as the Project Manager for the Facility plan. Seneca Crossing Local Park is designated as a Local Park which means that it is intended to serve the recreational needs of the overall community. Naturally, in almost every case there are many differing views. Please know that we really do listen carefully to all the input we receive from the community. Seneca Crossing was carefully designed to limit and mitigate any possible impacts to the community while trying to meet the overall community's recreational needs.

The Facility Plan for Seneca Crossing Local Park will likely be reviewed by the Planning Board in October. I would encourage you to attend the meeting and address your concerns to the Planning Board at that time. I will also include a copy of your email expressing your concerns in my report to the Planning Board. Thank you again for taking the time to email me with your concerns, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions or comments.

Linda
Linda Komes, RLA, AICP, CPSI
Project Manager, Park Development Division
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901
301 650 2860

From: Pam Bruce-Staskal [mailto:pam_bruce_staskal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 05, 2011 10:15 AM
To: Komes, Linda
Subject: Seneca Crossing Local Park

I apologize for this coming in after the deadline, but I only found out that you were soliciting input on the Seneca Crossing Local Park and thought you may wish to know the following.

Cedar Valley has numerous traffic and parking problems that will be exacerbated by any type of league play at this park. If this weren't the case, most residents would welcome the proposed fields. Unfortunately, numerous residents raised these issues to Heidi Sussman, only to have her dismiss our concerns as invalid. It was clear that there was an agenda to have league play at this park and data that supported this agenda was embraced while data that pointed out the negative aspects of league play was downplayed or ignored. Despite our requesting Parks and Planning to offer a plan without league play, every plan presented had 2-3 fields.

To explain the issues in Cedar Valley, Seneca Crossing Drive is used by scores of vehicles daily as a short-cut between 355 & Briar Rd. Doing so avoids 4 stop lights on 27 & 355. There is much speeding despite speed bumps and the presence of an elementary school and neighborhood park. Traffic is bad enough that many parents won't let their older kids go to the park alone because they need to cross Seneca Crossing and it's not safe because people speed and do not stop for pedestrians in cross-walks.

We also have illegal parking and excessive levels of off-street parking on narrow streets because numerous houses are over-occupied and have 4-7 cars per house. Most of our streets are reduced to one lane of traffic and have horrible visibility because of these issues.

We have contacted the police and county about these issues, but have received little to no help. The county claims the speed bumps are sufficient to control the speeding and I was told by the police that they do not have the manpower to ticket the illegal parking. Further, the residents of the over-occupied houses lie to the county when questioned, preventing the county from taking action.

Cedar Valley residents are concerned about league play at this park because each game of will result in ~70 vehicles accessing the park. Five games are allowed per each of two fields, resulting in ~700 additional vehicles every Saturday and Sunday during the season. Despite what Ms. Sussmann thinks, many of these vehicles will travel through Cedar Valley to access the park. Further, as we see at our children's soccer games, people will park on our streets rather than the parking lot if they think it will save them walking a nanometer or a millisecond of time. People these days are too inconsiderate to consider how their parking blocks driveways and visibility. Even if the police came upon being called, it's likely offending cars would be gone before the police arrive. Our streets will be not be safe for our children.

The additional traffic and parking caused by league play will negatively affect the quality of life for Cedar Valley residents and decrease the attractiveness of the homes closest to the park, which happen to be the most expensive ones in the area. Property values will suffer as league play occurs during the hottest time of the year to sell houses.

Ms. Komes... please consider the negative effects of league play on our community before you support funding the development of this park. I understand that there will be competition for funds to develop parks. Normally, residents should be fighting to get the funding, but instead, many Cedar Valley residents would prefer you take the development of this park off the table and use the funds elsewhere where its use won't be detrimental to a community.

I truly appreciate your consideration of the above issues before supporting funding of this park's development. with fields for league play. If you would like further information or more data to support my claims, please contact me at this email address or at 301-528-8559 (evenings/weekends).

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