

Ovid Hazen Wells Facility Plan for Athletic Field Area Expansion

Public Meeting Summary

The meeting was held on 6-3-15 at 7:00 pm at the Rocky Hill Middle School cafeteria at 22401 Brick Haven Way, Clarksburg, MD 20871.

Park staff provided a 30 minute power-point presentation.

There was a question and answer period for the remainder of the meeting, including the following items:

- Will the images and presentation be available? *They will be posted on the project web page following the public meeting.*
- Is there an ETA for the park to be built? *If the project is placed in the FY 17-22 at the earliest time possible, design could occur in FY 17-18, with construction to follow in FY 19-20. There are many competing projects for construction funds so the timing is uncertain.*
- What is the budget? *The budget has not yet been determined. This will be the next step following tonight's meeting.*
- What happened during construction?
- Is the entire area between the ball fields getting graded? *Alot of the open space in the park may be regraded.*
- What community is M-1 & M-2 located (the noise collecting locations)? *The noise study included devices that were placed in the vicinity of the closest residential homes to collect background sound levels. These levels were used in computer modelling to predict sound levels with the carousel at these locations.*
- Provide clarifications on dog parking, parking and area near Piedmont Road. *The access road and parking in the vicinity of the dog parking are also intended to be used for the two athletic fields. We will move the field access to this vicinity of this lot, which will create more space for the playground in the lower lots near the entrance. This portion of the site may be refined after the property acquisition and plans for the corner parcel are determined.*
- Are the plan elements set in stone? *The plan elements are based on the program of requirements that was approved by the planning board in the recent master plan update.*
- What is happening with the triangle area adjacent to the park? *The Parks Department is currently in active negotiations to acquire this property. The County is currently initiating a study to determine the site selection process for the future UpCounty/Clarksburg Recreation and Aquatics Center. The parcel at OHW Park is one of a number of possible sites to be considered. If it is not selected for the Aquatics Center, the Montgomery County Planning Board requested that it be considered for a cricket field.*
- What about wildlife impacts? *We are incorporating the new park elements into the footprint of the existing developed area, which will minimize wildlife impacts.*

- Will there be lighting? *This park is classified as a recreational park, which means that lighting would possibly be installed in the future. Recreational parks contain our fields of the highest quality which are used for game play only. The fields at OHW are currently permitted at the local park level because irrigation is needed for an improved quality level. We included the lighting language so that residents will be aware of future improvements, but would envision separate public meetings to discuss ballfield lighting at the time that improvements will be considered/funded.*
- Will the skatepark be ticketed or free? *Free.*
- Is Arora Hills parking part of this plan? *No. The master plan proposes a natural surface trail that connects the middle section of Ovid Hazen Wells with Arora Hills, but that trail will be planned/constructed in a later phase.*
- Clarify the discussion on the water feature. *The water feature is intended to be a splash pad that is free of charge. It is co-located with the picnic shelter that has restrooms and spaces for changing and also near the playground.*
- Feedback from citizen – *The skatepark is a good idea and would be willing to provide information on the design.*
- Discuss playground replacement – *The playground will be relocated and expanded to become a “destination”. The current playground is in good condition, so we plan to phase in the removal of the existing playground when it reaches the end of its useful life.*
- Are there any plans to widen Skylark Road – *No. A traffic study is being performed, but is not yet completed. The preliminary indications are that the capacity on Skylark is sufficient to accommodate the expanded facilities.*
- How soon will work start? *We are requesting that this project be included in the FY17-22 CIP for design and construction. It will be competing for other important projects in the county. The earliest possible timeframe would have a two year design FY 17-18, with construction to follow in FY 19-20.*
- Can you break up the project into pieces to get funding sooner. How will the project be broken up. Will you ask the community about what the priorities are for phasing? *We anticipate that it may be advisable to build the project in phases because the total budget will be large, making it difficult to fund quickly. We plan to identify an initial phase that includes the carousel and other supporting elements to create a smaller project.*
- What is the best place to get information on the park? *Contact Kim Paniati or visit the project webpage.*