



M E M O R A N D U M

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PROJECT: Kemp Mill Urban Park  
LSG JOB NO. LSG Job No. 28084.00  
M-NCPPC Contract 290453

RE: Minutes, Public Meeting 2 held Wednesday October 7

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On Wednesday October 7, 2009, M-NCPPC and LSG held a community meeting at Kemp Mill Elementary School in Silver Spring, MD. A list of 32 attendees is included at the end of this document. The following is a summary of concerns and other feedback from community members.

The community meeting convened at 7:15pm with an introduction of the design team by M-NCPPC project manager Clark Lilly. Project Manager Dave Norden from LSG Landscape Architecture reviewed existing site conditions and summarized comments from the May 2009 public meeting before presenting three proposed alternative design concepts to the community group.

Following an on-screen presentation, the design team answered questions and took comments from citizens in the audience. Printed graphics of the options were displayed in the gymnasium for review.

Design Concept Summary (all figures approximate):

- *Existing Features*- The current pond is 21,000 square feet (SF). Existing play features total 8000 SF.
- *Option 1* retains a pond with a size and shape matching the existing. The playground is 200% in size.
- *Option 2* provides an 'urban stream' 85% in area of the existing pond, and a playground 300% in size.
- *Option 3* provides an interactive feature 10% of the existing pond size, and an expanded playground 250% in size. An irregularly shaped lawn replaces the area of the existing pond.

1. General Comments

- a. The park serves two main purposes: it's a place for children to play as well as a place for peace and solitude. Preserve both aspects of the park without one aspect



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- infringing on the other, and provide a balanced program to best serve the wants and needs of the entire user base.
- b. Enhance the existing park elements and character in the spirit of the original award winning plan.
  - c. Retain an open water feature of similar area to the existing pond with plantings and other elements to re-establish more variety and diversity of native wildlife, such as waterfowl, herons, red winged blackbirds, etc.
  - d. Expand the playground and improve equipment to better serve users at peak times.
  - e. Provide improvements for visitor safety and to allow parental surveillance, including fencing at the playground, railings or barriers to separate visitors from the water's edge, and area lighting.
  - f. Provide a site opportunity for teenagers in some form other than as a skate park, possibly with exercise equipment. There was general consensus that there are other better locations in the nearby area for skating, such as Wheaton Regional Park.
  - g. Preserve the existing cherry and plum trees which are strong community symbols and continue down Arcola Avenue.
2. Playground Area
- a. Expand the existing playground and provide opportunities for supervision by parents. Option 2 has the largest playground and was generally preferred by community members with small children.
  - b. Provide fencing for the play area.
  - c. Provide seating with views to the play areas.
  - d. The loop walking trail around the playground is a nice idea.
  - e. Consider an interactive water feature as a play element, similar to the water feature in downtown Silver Spring. Since this is a religious community, there were some concerns about older children walking around in bathing suits.
  - f. How long would the playground be closed during construction? Approximately 9-12 months. Since this is a walk-to park and community members do not use cars on Saturday, it is important to minimize the amount of time in which the playground is shut down for construction.
  - g. Keep the existing park and playground, but expand and upgrade nearby playgrounds in Sligo Creek Park and at Wheaton Regional Park.
  - h. Consider re-orienting the basketball court and using the area behind the court for additional play area. The court is also a nice feature for children's play.
  - i. There may be some community interest in fundraising for the playground or upgrades to the playground.
3. Water Feature and Landscape
- a. Maintain a large enough water body to support wildlife, as well as to maintain the reflective qualities of the water. Option 1 does this better than Option 2. The reflections of the cherry trees are beautiful in spring when in bloom and also in autumn for the fall color.



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- b. Maintain fragrant plants in the park, such as the wisteria.
  - c. Consider water lilies and other emergent plants.
  - d. Some people liked the urban stream water concept, although it would be less attractive to wildlife.
4. Other Comments
- a. Provide lighting for safety but not to encourage nighttime use of the park.
  - b. Park maintenance is a problem and needs to be considered.
5. Summary
- a. Option 1, which had the largest open water area for the pond and wildlife, was generally preferred by community members interested in a passive park experience.
  - b. Option 2, which had the largest playground, was generally preferred by community members with small children.
  - c. Option 3, with the open lawn area and skatepark, was not preferred. There was general opposition to the skatepark, and comments expressed that the lawn area could turn into an area for people to walk their dogs.
  - d. The general consensus was to combine the best aspects of Options 1 and 2 by providing a large playground and a water feature with an open water body to provide reflective qualities and wildlife.