

Rootstown Park Committee
3/25/2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Linda Hankins, Trustee
Dave McIntyre, Trustee
Joe Paulus, Trustee
Stephanie Farkash
Terri Haddad
John Lallathin
Jordan Michael
Jason Opritza
Andrea Steinlechner

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jason brought preliminary plans and showed them to the group. It included an estimated 15 acres for soccer fields, with 5 foot terraces and 150 parking spaces. The Soccer Club is interested in hosting tournaments and to do that they would need: 4 U5/U6 fields, 3 U7/U8 fields, 2 U9/U10 fields, 2 U11/U12 fields, and 1 U13/U14 fields.

The fields would be used for spring soccer in April/May and fall soccer August/September and into October. The number of fields per age group may be adjusted—2 U8s, 2 U6s, maybe another U14. They need to be oriented north/south.

The baseball field would be high school size, so we're trying to fit it on the larger half of the park. The walking trail will be 6 feet wide.

Andrea expressed concern about kids running across the drive from the playground.

Terri asked if the trustees are interested in a community center. Joe said it wouldn't be feasible because of access late at night and also in the winter when the park is closed. They are seeking an easement to add a driveway from Tallmadge Road. Linda said an easement would make sense along the power lines.

Restrooms were discussed, as well as a concession stand and storage room. A pavilion shelter could be attached for people to eat. Joe expressed concern about maintenance. John said the building couldn't be placed near an electric tower or under wires.

The trustees asked if we should also provide for high school soccer and baseball. Andrea said the high school soccer teams are pressured not to tear up the football field, so they will likely ask for use of fields at the park.

Joe said the boundary of pine trees should be continued along the west border. The trustees discussed putting a shed on the south end by the pond.

It was asked what the committee members want in the park and what the community wants. Jordan had a list from the previous meeting. The priorities were soccer, baseball, a walking trail, added parking, restrooms, a pavilion, storage building, and potential concession stand. Tennis and basketball has also been discussed. Linda suggested adding volleyball as well. Andrea also asked if there could be a survey for kids at the school office.

Terri asked why so much expense is going toward the soccer club, and expressed concern that the rest of the community is being pushed out. Joe said he wants to see a balance of organized space and open space. Andrea asked if lacrosse is an option, because currently lacrosse kids go to Southeast to play. Joe said youth football has also expressed interest in park space. He also suggested adding Frisbee golf.

Andrea said there's not much for the 14- to 18-year-old age group to do. Basketball and tennis courts would leave less to mow. Joe said we could add landscaping that's low-maintenance, to reduce mowing as well.

Dave asked Jason to have the layout re-done with a few options drawn out. The committee would need to meet again soon enough for the operator's union to know what to do. We could even have them do the walking trail. We could also integrate the Gracie Field area into the trail in terms of counting distance/miles.

Andrea said runners will be running early in the morning, so they'll need a restroom available as they use the portable ones now. The restrooms could be stainless steel like the ones in Copley.

John said it would be nice to have something near the other pavilion for kids to do, like the playground. The current playground was \$27,000 and had a lot of volunteer help to offset the cost.

Stephanie said the Soccer Club just wants to know the space will get used. Soccer fields would for sure be used. Jason said there was a lot of praise last year from soccer parents who didn't know the park was there. The park had a lot of additional use during those months.

Joe said the Lions Club would use the concession stand, and the community as a whole could use it, not just soccer. He said noise may be a concern for basketball courts so they should be placed away from houses. There was discussion of renting out the proposed pavilion attached to the concession stand but the group agreed it would best be left available for patrons to eat.

Jason said he would let Dave know when revised plans are ready.

Next meeting- April 12th 5 PM