

Mill Woods Master Plan Sub Committee Meeting Minutes - Thursday, March 16, 2006

The meeting was held at the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Joseph Slepki, Craig MacGovern, Wesley Sargent, Bill Smyers, Mary Ellen Bonelli and Martha Mayer. Staff present were Salvatore Cucia, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation and Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation. Guest present was Town Council member Jeff Kotkin.

1. Public Comments.

No public comments.

2. [Minutes - February 23, 2006.](#)

Minutes were approved.

3. Old Business.

a. T-Shirts.

Ms. Bagley displayed the T-shirts and thanked Craig MacGovern for working on the T-shirts and getting a donation for the funding of them. Ms. Bagley asked committee members what they thought would be an appropriate price to charge for the T-shirts. These funds will be put into the Mill Woods Master Plan account. After some discussion, committee members thought \$10 per T-shirt, since it is a donation towards the Master Plan. Ms. Bagley said she would have the T-shirts available and Craig reported that he could order as many new T-shirts as needed as we continue to sell them. Committee members then discussed when and where to sell the T-shirts. Mary Ellen volunteered to sell the T-shirts at different Little League or soccer events when they are bringing a lot of people to a park for games. Ms. Bagley will also sell the T-shirts at the Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Bagley reported to committee members that the dog park is having a fundraising event June 11 where they are hoping to attract media attention. It's the "Paws in the Park" event that will be a dog walk in Cove Park. Committee members thought it would be appropriate to have a table to sell the T-shirts there. Ms. Bagley will talk with the Dog Park Committee to get permission from them.

b. Publicity.

Committee members talked about getting publicity for the Master Plan fundraising process and identify accomplishments to date. The accomplishments to date would include the soil study, the skate park, the Nature Center, the upcoming Bocce courts and the future dog park. Committee members thought it would be a good idea to develop a pamphlet on the Mill Woods Master Plan and accomplishments to date. Members thought, Charlie Wood, a Park and Recreation Advisory Board member, might be interested in helping with the design for this pamphlet.

c. Naming Fields.

Committee members then discussed naming rights for the Little League Field and the soccer field and what dollar amount would be associated with those fields. Ms. Bagley is going to have staff do research to see what dollar amounts might be appropriate for selling naming rights for the ballfields. Another idea discussed for fundraising included engraved bricks. Ms. Bagley reported that UNICO will be doing this for this Bocce courts. Other ideas we also need to look at were corporate sponsors and advertising signs on the outfields. Ms. Bagley reported that she is working with Little League on advertising signs. A question came up about the renovation costs for the high school baseball field. Ms. Bagley will research this cost. Committee members discussed a variety of ways to publicize the Master Plan. They thought about going on the public access station to talk about the project. By Memorial Day, they want information on naming the fields and approaching corporate sponsors. Ms.

Bagley will begin this process.

d. Other Fundraising Ideas.

An idea discussed was to have a bird walk in the park and bring in experts to talk about birds in Mill Woods Park. Another idea was to make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to ask them to send a letter to the sports leagues to consider the possibility of charging an extra amount of money on registration fees to put towards the Mill Woods Master Plan fund. A third idea was the possibility of using Bell Pond Dam to generate electricity. There might be a way to get grant money to hire a firm to do an assessment on the feasibility of this dam providing power for electricity. Ms. Bagley reported that there will be a study on Goff Brook and its ponds. Bell Pond will be in that study. She will discuss with the consultant how to go about looking at the feasibility of whether or not the dam could provide electricity.

4. New Business.

a. Budget Process.

Ms. Bagley reported that the public hearing for the town budget will be April 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school auditorium. She told committee members if they were interested in approaching the Town Council about any budget items, this is the time to speak to Council with their ideas. Currently in the budget, funds have been requested for a design fee to hire an architect for the Mill Woods Master Plan. She will e-mail members the exact dollar amount that has come out of the manager's budget for the architect for this process. Committee members felt it was the time to start building momentum for the park and hopefully the state will come through with the grant of \$700,000 to begin building the fields. Hopefully, the process will go forward for the implementation of ballfields in the Mill Woods Master Plan.

5. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.