

Vision Committee Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2016

Members Present: Bruce Meringolo, Jerry Aroneo, Peter O'Neill, Neil Henry, Cornel Schuler, Lisa Scanlon

Don Farnell joined us.

The main purpose of this meeting was for the committee to meet with RBA—one of two Landscape Architects that gave us proposals for the “Central Park” property(ies). Joining us from RBA: James Brighton, Charlie Cunion, Mike Dannemiller, and Bryan VanderGheynst.

Charlie Cunion would be the Project Manager. He lives in Bernards Twp. He also handles landscape at RBA’s main office is in Parsippany.

RBA’s presentation points:

- *Kurz property—71 acres—about 10-15 acres are developable with a lot of questions and potential for trails and paths.

- *We can get 2 ingress/egress points from Valley Rd.

- *There are a lot of passive recreation opportunities with the property.

- *Permitting will be a big part of this project.

- *RBA presented two preliminary concepts:

1. Recreation / Sports Park Concept

Will require some terracing; 2 overlapping multi-purpose fields with 2 baseball/softball fields (225’ outfields); 145 parking spaces

2. Civic Park Concept

Ampitheater, playground, 1 multi-purpose field with overlapping baseball field; an event lawn; trail network, pavilion

- *Somerset County Mountain View Park in Hillsborough—RBA is doing Phase 1 (100 acres). This part comprises 7 grass baseball fields of all different sizes.

- *RBA worked on the South Mountain Reservation Project in Essex County—extensive trail project.

*For Central Park, RBA estimates we will need to do 6 borings and 2 PERC tests. For the public outreach part of the project, Kevin Miller, Mike and Charlie will be on it.

Start April 2016 3 months of Public Outreach

Preliminary Design (2 mos)

Final Design (4 Mos)

Construction Documents (2 mos)

Construction to begin Spring 2017 and go through Fall 2018 (16 mos total process)

*RBA recognizes that flow from Kantor Park over to Central Park will be a key consideration.

*RBA has worked on RR Crossings; new grade crossings; expensive—dictated by the RR

*6' wide natural materials trails—more easily permitted in wetland areas.

*Permits to the state (DEP)—likely to take longer than 4 mos.

*Public Outreach

2 big outreach meetings with public.

Start and work through plan with the Vision Committee first. Get input and build consensus.

2 days of “stakeholder” meetings—ex., the different sports groups—whatever we identify.

Environmental Education Component seems to be lacking in this??

*Construction Administration of 18mos is not included in the presentation and is projected to be \$100k - \$\$150k

*Fees presented by RBA are set for 90 days. After that, they will have to be looked at again.