

Etta Lea & Lawrence Pope Memorial Park

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: May 16, 2018
Start: 8:30am
Location: Kernersville Town Hall – Executive Conference Room

Members Present:

Ernie Pages, Victoria Musumeci, David Largen, Rochelle Joseph, Joe Pinnix, Doug Cox, Scott Pope, Susan Fradenburg, Kevin Bugg, Susan Sear-Snow, Emily Blackwell, & Jenny Fulton

Members Not Present:

Doran Maltba, Joel Cooper & Kurt Aktug

Guest in Attendance:

Russ Graden & Kitty Pearson

Agenda

I. Visioning & Goals

- A. Review of Stated Vision – Three overarching themes are present: central park for Kernersville, greenway terminus/hub between Winston Salem and Greensboro, and a historical piece. Whether it's a preservation, display or drawbacks to the homage of Pope family and farming heritage.
- B. Review of Park Goals – looking for an open space or lawn. Design and construction an implementation respects the land. Regional park on community footprint; with the draw. Support the economic development in Kernersville.
 - a. Ernie defined a community park and regional park, the main dividing factor is the acreage vs drawing power. Community Park is about 80-120 acres but the drawing power to reach those in a 50-100-mile radius; think of Triad Park draw with 80 acres' structure. Since it is close to Downtown Kernersville, the draw will enable people to eat at Fitz or Cupcakes and All Things Yummy. Activities are starting to draw attention versus retail.
 - b. Ernie received a call from John Wolfe and talked on historical education of Pope Farm and land, and the tobacco barn. The museum is looking into having the same aspects. Susan is concerned about duplicating information at the Folly, Museum, Founders Park, etc. Do we have enough information? She suggested steering patrons with plaques that state to go "here" to learn more information. If we do structure create echo backs. Scott Pope suggested creating a Historical Trail Trip, which would also add economic impact.
 - c. Sear-Snow brought up connectivity through the elements. Would it start at the Greenway and route through downtown? Kevin Bugg brought to our attention that there isn't a straight inter-city connection (ex. sidewalks) This prompted Sear-Snow to suggest Emily to add connectivity to the vision.

- d. Rochelle brought up the connotation of what 'Central Park' or a central park means to most of the population/citizens. Emily has started research and for her she sees Central Park differently because she knows how much of it was crafted and constructed to look natural were other groups see it as the last bit of greenery in a concrete jungle that needs to be protected. Pinnix clarified that the 'Central Park' terminology was so citizens didn't think there would be an 80-acre athletic complex. We were wanting to keep it as natural as you could.

II. Site Analysis Report

- A. Physical Analysis – Went over options for entrances to the park. One potential entrance was near Lowes food, on Southern St. On the top side there were possible points for pedestrian access through neighborhoods We didn't want patron parking in other citizen's driveways. Would need to identify the primary/main, secondary/pedestrian, and Fire/EMT entrances to the park. Most points were through neighborhoods.
 - a. Jenny & Kevin brought up a neighborhood/development that has been approved by the board near one of the suggested entrances. Rochelle stated she would send overlays to Emily to know of projects and aspects to consider for construction.
 - b. Emily would like to preserve wildlife as they saw animal tracks when they walked the facility.
 - c. Pope also brought up landscaping needs as the property is currently so open, and asked about the current farming of the land. Ernie answered that the current farmer will be farming the land until we actually start breaking ground. Emily spoke on contacting a tree nursery early on since we will need a vast amount of trees at varying levels of maturity. Doug asked if a Boy Scout group would volunteer to place trees and/or upkeep when the time come. Emily is open to volunteer groups when the time comes.
 - d. Jenny asked about the tobacco barns. Emily informed her one has the racks whereas the other is being used as storage basically; she would like to incorporate them in some way. The barn on the southern side is in better conditions. Pope offered two of his other barns as 'repair' wood. Jennie suggested using as restrooms and Ernie suggested using for shelter.
 - e. Emily also informed us of grants and ADA requirements that are
- B. Initial Precedent Parks – Nearby parks that are of the same stature as this potential park are White Deer Park in Garner, Sugg Farm at Bass Lake Park in Holly Springs, and Village Park in Kannapolis. Emily is open to phasing out parts of the process as needed.
- C. Review of Town Needs – Trials, Biking & Walking, are among the top requested in communities. Dog Park and Aquatics are next up, Ernie stated a pool will not be an option but would be open to a Splash Pad but Winston is looking to do a water park so the priority of aquatic feature will change.

III. Public Input Process

- A. First Public Meeting – Pope Park Open House will be the first Public Meeting. We will offer a tethered Hot Air Balloon ride, Jenny brought up a drone as an alternative for those that don't want to ride on the balloon.
 - a. Emily suggested a coloring sheet of sorts to get them to draw what they would like to see. She then prompted how to gather the information, free form or voting. Victoria brought up the Civitan Park input session and how we had ideas posted and

allowing the participants to vote on them. That way it steers them towards the establish vision versus being open ended.

- b. Emily asked about drop-in versus concise time. We talked of a concise time being better. Rochelle suggested having a 'priority' aspect to the input session, she gave the example of having 10 marbles and using them amongst the various suggestions.
 - c. We looked at the calendar and Saturday was knocked out for church/mass and Town business, Friday for families ready for the weekend or if they have a child on travel teams they will be traveling elsewhere, Wednesday is another church day, Monday people forget as it's the beginning of the week. We selected Thursday June 14th for the Open House at 6pm-8pm. The raindate will be June 28th.
- B. Focus Groups – Emily created an extensive list and as a group we confirmed that those are the groups we would like to include. Suggested that if any other groups are thought of to please email them in.

IV. Draft Time Frame

- A. April
 - a. Initial Steering Committee Meeting
- B. May
 - a. Stewart Site Analysis
 - b. Focus Group Meetings
- C. June
 - a. "Kernersville Day at the (Future) Park" Public event at the park
 - b. Steering Committee Meeting
 - c. Steering Committee Field Trips

Next Meeting: TBA after Open House event on June 14th 2018