

BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL
MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 12, 2009

Meeting No.: 104

Project: Herring Run Master Plan

Phase: Staff Presentation

Location: Northeast Baltimore

PRESENTATION:

Will Doane, Baltimore City Planning Department, introduced the master plan for Herring Run Park and the work that has been done to date, including why it was being presented to the Panel. Mary Porter, Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, discussed the purpose of the master plan, the current Advisory Committee that was formed to guide the development and adoption of the plan, and introduced the design team, Tom McGilloway and JoAnn Trach Tongson, from Mahan Rykiel Associates. Tom and Joann took turns presenting the analyses, goals, and recommendations that have been developed. The overall goals of the plan were 1) the restoration and preservation of the stream valley park; 2) the inclusion of a variety of recreational activities; and 3) provide connectedness to the adjoining neighborhoods. Specifically, the master plan addressed the following issues/themes:

- Natural resources
- Recreation
- Recognizing the past (Olmsted legacy and historic elements)
- Connecting neighborhoods
- One park, many jewels (the creation of smaller places within the park)
- Clean, safe, functioning
- Building stewardship

Howard Aylesworth, a member of the Herring Run Park Advisory Committee, described further the make-up of the advisory group, their role, and the key issues that they wanted addressed, which included safety, restoration of the forests and stream within the park, and parking. The presentation concluded with Mary Porter describing next steps, which included the review of the draft master plan by the Advisory Committee and surrounding communities, the creation of a final plan, and adoption by the Planning Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL:

The Panel is pleased to be reviewing master plans of this nature and encourages the Planning Department to continue presenting similar projects to the Panel. As to the draft Herring Run Park Plan, the Panel complements the design team for a thorough presentation of a great deal of

material and the creativity and thought behind the recommendations, which seem to be sound and fitting to the natural and social components of the park. The Panel comments are:

1. Consider the adjacent public land near the southern end of the Park (the DPW landfill and the State-owned land) in the master plan and how it can, in the future, benefit the park.
2. Consider how the park is both a regional draw as well as an asset for adjoining neighborhoods. This will guide the programming of the park, access, and parking decisions.
3. Consider how issues of safety are balanced with a desire to have a restored natural area, in particular forested tracks.
4. Continue to work with Morgan State University and how the recommendations made in the Herring Run Park master plan might guide the University in how it treats its connection to the park as well as its relationship to the Herring Run and Chinquapin streams (since it is just outside the boundaries of the master plan).
5. As described in the presentation, a number of smaller design projects will develop from the master plan. We welcome any of these projects to be brought before the Panel for further review and guidance.

PANEL ACTION:

Discussion with comments.

Attending:

Tom McGilloway, JoAnn Trach Tongson – Mahan Rykiel
Mary Porter – Recreation and Parks
Howard Aylesworth – Friends of Herring Run Parks
Ed Gunts – Sunpapers

Messrs. Bowden, Ramberg, Britt and Cameron – Panel
Tom Stosur, Gary Cole, Laurie Feinberg, Will Doane, Anthony Cataldo, Bob Quilter - Planning