Fall Creek Work Group

October 5, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Summary

Sixteen members of the community and two City planners attended the meeting at Cathedral High School. Staff opened the meeting by asking participants to introduce themselves. Each person shared where he or she lived, and their interest in Fall Creek.

Staff passed out and reviewed excerpts from the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Kessler Park and Boulevard System, which includes Fall Creek Parkway and Woollens Garden.

Next, staff presented a summary of Planning documents related to Fall Creek. These included:
- Comprehensive Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan (2009)
- Indianapolis Greenways Plan (2002)
- Fall Creek Parkway, Woollens Garden, and Skiles Test Park Master Plan (1988)

Staff recently acquired the Lower Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan and will summarize it for an upcoming meeting.

Question: Is there an easement into Woollens Garden? Park staff response no, but it is assessable from Brendon Forest Drive cul-de-sac. The homeowner at the end of the drive has been receptive to guided tours but this is not advertised.

Question: What does a plan mean? City plans are adopted by the Metropolitan Development Commission as segments of the state-required Comprehensive Plan. They are a guide for future development and are used by the parks and zoning boards. Plans are used to make funding decisions, but it does not mean that it is automatically funded.

Question: What are the results of the issue and concern rating list? Staff passed out the results of the prioritization list to date. They are a tally of the responses received from the mail. Staff will add the responses received at the meeting to the total.

The meeting participants were asked to review the list of assets and resources, issues and concerns, and visions and add any items they thought were missing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets and Resources:</th>
<th>Issues and concerns:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenic walking area</td>
<td>Downed trees in the stream hamper canoeing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing and fishing</td>
<td>No picnic tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes and ponds</td>
<td>Invasive plants such as Honeysuckle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational trail</td>
<td>Water quality of Fall Creek is threatened by highly erodible soils and septic systems in the floodplain and nearby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good fishing for small mouth bass in the lakes and ponds</td>
<td>Possible City of Lawrence sewer treatment plant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
100 different species of birds | Millersville Road is deteriorating through erosion of the Fall Creek streambanks
---|---
Feel safe along the greenway | Drainage and Sewer Issues
Low traffic on the parkway street | Lack of connectivity
Concerned neighbors | Litter
 | No restrooms

Discussion on the prairie planting and how it was a cost saving measure to reduce the amount of mowing per year. It was mentioned that the greenway in the area did not feel safe because the grasses were so tall. The solution made by Park staff was to push back the border to provide better visibility.

Question: What is the condition of Geist Reservoir? Fair, it lacks beneficial vegetation.

The harmful effects of sediment and the bacteria count of Fall Creeks was discussed along with the possibility of Lawrence disconnecting from the Indianapolis sewer treatment system. The concern with a possible Lawrence sewer treatment plant on fall creek was both quantity and quality of water.

**Drainage and Sewer Issues**

Windridge shopping area flooding: can we move the street? The street is also a levy. Joy & Associates, Inc. are aware of the flooding problems at the center and looking at flipping the shopping center design. Pervious concrete pavement and rain gardens would help with the drainage problems in this area.

**Other topics**

Trails need to be connected east and west to other trails and bike routes. All streets should have sidewalks on at least one side of the street.

The Neighborhood committee will address recreation needs including all sports.

Issues and concerns that cross committees will be addressed in a common meeting.

Implementation happens with each decision made by Zoning, Parks, Metropolitan Development and Public Works boards. Neighborhood groups can help implement plans by building their capacity, collaborating with public and private groups, and seeking funders.

Idea to add litter free signs and trash cans to the greenway.

Next meeting tentatively set for November 4, 2010