

Open Space & Brownfields

April 14, 2021

1:00pm-2:00pm

Zoom



NOTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

- 14 attendees; 5 Camden residents/businesses

II. Education/Special Presentations

a. Maria Richardson, Director, Recreation, Natural Resources & Culture, City of Trenton

- History:
 1. In 2011 the administration obliterated the parks department and placed responsibilities for parks in the Department of Public Works
 2. 63 parks, 16 recreation facilities, \$300,000 budget when Maria came in
 - a. Now the budget is \$2.9 million
- Process since then:
 1. Assessment of all facilities
 2. Set goals and drafted a short term plan
 3. Adjust plan based on available funding opportunities as needed
 4. Urban forestry: Trenton has an old inventory of trees with no management plan (previously), had been out of compliance for 10 years
 - a. Got inventory and certification from state eventually then qualified for more funding for urban forestry management program
 - b. Due to Emerald ash borer infestation, they have to remove about 3,000 trees. Since they have a tree inventory, can apply for money to replace those trees
- Keys to success:
 1. Current mayor has passion to fix parks and rec situation
 2. BRS has a lot of institutional knowledge; their best partner (consultant)
 3. Establishing relationships with other arms of the government essential for funding (Housing and Economic Development and CDBG manager)
 4. Adjust priorities depending on funding availability (capitalize)
 5. Green Acres funding is a significant resource
 6. Hire contractors locally from Trenton
 - a. For tree work, park cleanup, and building renovations

- b.
- Issues:
 1. An issue with the city council- they like to complain and not fund anything
 2. ATVs:
 - a. Exploring possibility of an ATV specific park
 - b. Police unable to deal with problem
 - c. Recently passed an ordinance to take any found ATVs but they can't be chased
 - d. Closed a road to traffic recently which has led to less litter and more peaceful park usage but ATVs still find a way to get in
 3. Bathroom: closed park bathrooms and put in Porta Potties in some parks (the company cleans them every so often)
 - a. Opposed to having bathrooms in parks due to lack of manpower to keep them clean
 - b. Considering a city-wide program to help people learn how to keep park clean (including bathrooms)
- Other notes:
 1. Have one 'friends' group for Cadwalader Park due to historical significance
 2. Relationship with the county: abysmal
 3. Teen programming: poetry slams, lounge, etc.
 - a. Keep participation rates to track success
 4. For facilities tracking success: not too complicated, completion is considered a success
 5. Security + wifi
 - a. 9 full time park rangers, 18 total park rangers and DPW-supplied security guards
 - b. No wifi currently; with rescue plan, looking to have city wide wifi

The following agenda items were not addressed due time constraints:

III. Park Planning

- a. Current Issues
 - Develop list of questions
- b. Key Next Steps
 - Invite Discover the Delaware to present at future meeting

IV. Park Security & Maintenance

- a. Current Issues
 - ATVs
- b. Key Next Steps

V. Brownfields

- a. Current Issues
 - Lot 1, Block 1
 - Other
- b. Key Next Steps
 - List of brownfields projects underway

VI. Programming

- a. Current Issues
- b. Key Next Steps

VII. Additional Information/Resources

DISCLAIMER: This is a summary of the meeting and is based upon the written notes and memory of individuals from Cooper's Ferry Partnership and members of the CCI Core Team. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made in the meeting, and they reflect comments on work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented at the meeting. Report any corrections to camdencollaborative@coopersferry.com