

# Meeting Notes

## Black Hill Regional Park SEED Classroom Facility Plan

Montgomery County Department of Parks

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

### **Park Staff Present at the Community Meeting**

**Wen Huang**, Project Manager, Park Development Division

**Erin McArdle**, Project Engineer, Park Development Division

**Judie Lai**, Architecture Section Supervisor, Park Development Division

**Jen Scully**, Black Hill Nature Center Manager

**Grace Yick**, Natural & Historical Resources Manager

**David Vismara**, HFEE Division Chief

**Steve Root**, Park Manager, Southern Region

**Alex Girr-Borrayo**, Public Relations and Outreach

### **Number of attendees from the community: 5**

3 of the guests are members of the Friends of Black Hill Nature Program (FOBHNP)

### **Meeting Summary**

The Project Manager shared a PowerPoint presentation of the project, including the introduction of SEED concept and existing SEED Classrooms nationwide, and the proposed site plan for Black Hill SEED Classroom.

The second part of the meeting allowed attendees to provide feedback and comments regarding the site plan.

Input from the meeting will be used to further develop the site plan. The project will be presented to the Montgomery County Planning Board in an open session in June 2019.

### **Community Comments**

Comment 1: If the planter beds next to the greenhouse are located as shown on the plan, then they will be subject to deer browse.

*Parks response: We can add fence around the area of concern.*

Comment 2: The greenhouse is probably already past at least halfway through its product life (it was purchased at least 12 years ago). It may not be sturdy enough for a relocation. The shed is also likely

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not sturdy enough to be relocated. FOBHNP may be able to fund new structures. FOBHNP is willing for their Greenhouse to be located adjacent to the SEED Classroom so it can be utilized for the nature education program.

*Parks response: Parks can evaluate cost comparison of moving the structures vs. installing new structures. If FOBHNP is willing to contribute to a new greenhouse and shed, Parks can install them to the proposed location as shown on the site plan.*

Comment 3: FOBHNP currently maintains two meadow areas in Black Hill. It takes a lot of effort to maintain meadow areas. The size of P2 type meadow seems like a big area. How will it be maintained? Have you considered reforesting this area?

*Parks response: The P2 meadow is proposed on top of the septic field, so planting trees in that location is not possible. Parks maintenance and wildlife management teams will evaluate the feasibility of this type of meadow in this area.*

Comment 4: An increase in speeding cars along Lake Ridge Drive over recent years has been observed.

Has Parks considered installing a speed camera and using the ticket income to raise money to support the SEED Classroom project?

*Parks response: Park Police have jurisdiction over traffic violations in our Parks. Staff will alert Park Police of this concern. Two speed humps along Lake Ridge Drive are proposed as part of this project.*

Comment 5: What will happen if the funding is not approved by Planning Board?

*Parks response: Parks staff will continue to advocate for this project as we know it has significant community support. Interested parties are also encouraged to reach out to the Planning Board and County Council to voice their support. Black Hill Visitor Center staff have been fundraising for this project and have received some donations to date. They plan to continue these efforts.*

Comment 6: Is the parking shown for the site sufficient?

*Parks response: An accessible parking space is provided on the site plan. Intended uses of the site include a Nature Preschool, school field trips, and potentially the FOBHNP annual plant sale. For the field trips, the circle driveway can accommodate a school bus. For preschool drop offs, there is potential for the preschool to operate in a manner that parents drop-off children without getting out of their cars. For the plant sale, Visitor Center Staff will work with FOBHNP to determine the best way to operate. Ideas discussed during the meeting included relocating the plant sale to Parking Lot 1, providing pull-up loading for large purchases, or providing carting of purchases down to the parking area from the Greenhouse site. A final decision regarding the plant sale format can be determined later.*

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*Should more parking spaces become necessary during future operation, parking lot 1 can be used, and Parks will study the possibility of providing a natural surface trail that connect Parking Lot 1 and the SEED Classroom site with a secondary entrance on the south side of the site.*

*The goal for this site is redevelopment of the existing pad without adding additional impervious, which is achieved on the site plan as shown except for a small portion of the circular driveway.*

**END OF MEETING NOTES**