

A meeting of the Normandy Oaks Task Force held on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at the Mahaney/Meininger Center located at 3500 Marias, Royal Oak. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Ripinski.

Present
Chairperson Ripinski
Mayor Pro Tem Douglas
Commissioner Gibbs
Commissioner Macey

Absent
Ms. Jill Robinson

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Macey
Seconded by Douglas

Be it resolved, the agenda is amended to include public comment immediately following city commission comments.

Adopted unanimously

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Douglas
Seconded by Macey

Be it resolved, the minutes of November 21, 2017 are hereby approved.

Adopted unanimously

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CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

There were none.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Patrick Mcgee, 4524 Elmhurst asked the committee what they would want to live by during construction. It is critical to keep in mind as most of the city will not be dealing with dust and trees being removed. There has been a ring of water that causes major flooding around the area; so much that there has been a rework at the retention pond. He was taken aback by comments on facebook with decisions already being decided publicly before the meeting. He questioned the survey regarding how many people that live within ½ mile wanted nature vs construction features. He also wanted to know how many of those people visit Elks Park.

Mr. Ryan Ballard, 4112 Custer, was surprised that he didn't see any minors in the room other than his son. He stated that they play basketball all the time and hoped to have a nice court to play at.

Mr. Tom Reid 4322 Tonawanda, was looking for a low development, low maintenance setting. If you look at the area you see how beautiful it is there. Many suggestions were for natural settings although they weren't all added up. He understood soccer was popular but were there any children who were not able to play soccer this year? He had concerns with flooding. They should have a world class park instead of another playground.

Mr. Mark Comptois, 4127 Elmhurst, didn't know what was going to be presented, but he hoped for the least amount of damage to the property as possible. The park is pretty much a nature area already and the least they do their the better. He knew a lot would be dedicated to park, but at least the southeast corner should be left as natural as possible. He also hoped the trees would kept on Normandy. He didn't want to see artificial lighting and was concerned with flooding on Normandy.

Ms. Jean Cosis, North Blair, lives across from exchange and was upset about the trees that were torn down. She supported preservation of land and protecting bees and butterflies. She was in support of the least damage of the property.

Mr. Ben Schneider, 202 Austin, has two kids and they didn't have a place to play soccer. He was supportive of a natural environment. It is hard to lobby a coalition for that. If royal oak had something like that it would be special

Mr. Matt Beatty, 4136 Auburn, stated there is a master plan in place and they needed to follow that. He wanted to see the selection criteria prior to them voting on anything.

Ms. Stephanie Comptois, 4127 Elmhurst wanted to see the park kept natural due to the flooding. If there is going to be artificial turf in the park, they needed to consider keeping it enclosed.

Mr. Rick Karlowski, 419 Virginia stated at the last meeting Mr. Farhat made a comment of putting some money into other parks. He knows that people want to have a soccer field, but is it the best place for it? What about the middle school? They need to do an overlook of what they currently have and what they are lacking.

Ms. Jennifer Acevedo, 1122 Pleasant, had questions of the storm water management. It would be nice to see details of plans to maintain that. Dust management is a huge issue and they need to stay on top of that during the construction. She has kids that play in the football and sandlot league and currently they don't have anything like that for soccer.

Mr. Tom Williams, 706 Marlin, is with ROYSA and over the years they have lost the use of 11 soccer fields. They wanted to see at least two full size soccer fields. With this park it is going to be a citywide park where everyone from the city will be going. There is going to be a tremendous use and they needed to keep parking in mind.

Mr. Brent Fritz, 319 S Connecticut, has two kids in the ROFC program and he did not want to see soccer at the park. He wanted to keep it natural and the size of the parking concerns him. They need to keep the greenspace. There are other areas they could put fields and they should explore those.

Mr. George Gomez, 2018 Guthrie, thought there was going to be a presentation. He asked what the process was and if there was going to be public comment through to the city commission. He didn't understand why they were talking about public comment prior to knowing what they were going to be recommending.

Mr. Robert Kopf, 4123 Elmhurst, didn't have anything against soccer. He thought the proper location of soccer would be by the ice rink. He didn't want to look at the inflated bubbles as they are eye sores. He thought they should have something for the kids such as bike trails.

Mr. Ron Snow, 4002 Edgar, stated that 40 acres is 1,380 square feet on one side. If they put in soccer fields and parking, there isn't a lot of room for anything else. He wasn't in favor of soccer in the park. He wanted to see the park left natural.

Mr. Joel Hershoren, 4509 Hampton, thanked the board for doing this as they are in a no win situation. In regards to soccer, he is pro soccer and kids activities, but if they have 2000 kids in soccer they are not all from royal oak. Elks Park looks ignored and needs attention. They need to do this in phases and not be in a race to spend money.

Mr. Jason Schmidt, 3129 N Altadena is a fields manager for ROFC and stated that other than Quickstad, any other soccer in the city is just greenspace. They don't have an actual soccer facility in the city of royal oak.

Mr. Ben Gault, 4112 Custer, is a fan of basketball. He didn't feel there were many courts in good shape except for Elks Park. They need to keep it in good condition and keep it there.

Mr. Luigi Coletta, 437 Charlotte, saw a lot of negativity on facebook regarding soccer. The reality is all of his kids have gone through ROYSA and what they do here for the community is amazing. Exchange Park has a soccer field, but it is not maintained properly. The size of the soccer field is 1.3 acres. It was great to have the charrette meeting.

Mr. Brandon Kolo, 600 E Hudson, stated there are many new things to have in parks such as wi-fi and that would be nice to add to the park that hasn't been brought up yet.

Mr. Tony Snow, 343 W Harrison, wanted the committee to keep in mind how many months during the year things would be used. Nature paths would be used throughout the year. He remembers discussion with soccer and how they only use the fields for two months in the spring and two months in the fall.

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BUSINESS
RECOMMENDATION OF PARK FEATURES
FOR NORMANDY OAKS

The committee discussed different cost options, as well as accessibility and maintenance of the park.

Chairperson Ripinski had each member discuss what amenities they envisioned in the park and then had the committee vote on recommendations to present to the city commission.

Moved by Douglas
Seconded by Gibbs

Be it resolved the Normandy Oaks Task Force recommends the following park amenities to the city commission:

Playground, parking lot, restrooms, pavilion, pathways, 1-2 soccer fields, habitat area, fitness station, medium sized sled hill and fitness equipment.

Adopted Unanimously

Upon motion of Commissioner Gibbs and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Douglas, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Melanie Halas, City Clerk

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