



PARKS & RECREATION

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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Public Input Meeting for Ed Herring Park Improvements

Date: March 24, 2025

Time: 6:23 pm

Prepared by: Brenda Williams

Location: Hope Mills Parks and Recreation Community Room

Attendees: Mayor Jessie Bellflowers, Town Manager Chancer McLaughlin, Commissioner Joanne Scarola, Marie Callendar, Evelyn Barnes, Antoine McGill, Dadma Consalvi, Mark Hess, Dr. Anthony Farrio, Lamarco Morrison, Maxey Dove, Brenda Williams

Absent: Tera Jordan- sick

Commissioner Craver phoned in during meeting but no comments.

The meeting was called to order by Lamarco Morrison at 6:23 pm.

Lamarco opened the meeting explaining that the Town of Hope Mills Parks & Recreation Department is creating a park master plan for Ed Herring Park improvements, and the importance of Town residents' input in identifying the park needs.

A PowerPoint presentation with accompanying handouts were delivered to those present.

Park Planning Definitions and Standards

- Ed Herring Park is classified as a Neighborhood Park and a Neighborhood Playground according to the Open Space Standards and Guidelines" (4th Edition) published by the National Recreation and Park Association.
 - Neighborhood Park Defined: Neighborhood parks are Town-owned recreational facilities serving a residential neighborhood within a 1/4 -3/4-mile radius. Generally, neighborhood parks range from 2 to 5 acres. Typically, a neighborhood park includes playground

equipment, playfields, and picnic facilities. Larger neighborhood parks may include tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, and restroom facilities.

- Neighborhood Playground Defined: Neighborhood playgrounds are Town-owned parks that typically serve a residential neighborhood within a ¼ radius and are less than 2 acres in size. They primarily include playground equipment, benches and picnic tables, and informal play areas serving the immediate neighborhood.
- Ed Herring Park- .94 acres

Reasons why Improvements Needed

- Ed Herring Park is a Town asset that we stand to lose due to deferred maintenance, vandalism, and lack of use.
- Park has become more of a nuisance than an asset due to its condition
- Park is not ADA compliant nor does it meet NPPR standards for neighborhood parks/playgrounds.
- Residents have asked for Park improvement

Deficiency Needs

Playground, and Swing Set

- Playground unsightly, outdated and unsafe
- Does not meet ADA requirements; no ADA route of travel and equipment is outdated.
- Structure does not add value to the park; may need to be demolished
- Playground area does not meet NCRPA standards for playgrounds; 3-5 age group and a 5-12 age group.

Engineered Surfacing

- Engineered playground mulch is not truly ADA compliant; should be replaced with rubberized surfacing according to new park standard

Picnic Shelter

- Picnic shelter and picnic tables are outdated and unsightly.
- Recommend returning to metal structure if needed
- The amenities do not meet ADA requirements for access.
- Needs to be painted

- Many of the wood members need to be repaired or replaced; recommend replacing structure with a metal shelter as the new standard.

Parking Lot

- Typical neighborhood playgrounds / parks do not have parking lots; intent is for residents to walk or ride bikes to park.
- Dirt lot has low areas that hold water; should be replaced with gravel or paved. There is no designated ADA parking area.

Park Amenities

- Park amenities including bollards, benches, picnic tables and grill are outdated, an unappealing
- New grills needed

ADA Access

- Park does not meet ADA requirements of accessible routes to the existing park amenities. ADA sidewalks are needed.

Programming

Project Goals

- Maximize the use of Ed Herring Park by providing park elements and programs for neighborhood residents.
- Provide a family friendly park that serves the neighborhood as well as the greater Hope Mills Community.
- Create an oasis in the neighborhood that promotes an active lifestyle and good health.
- Bring Ed Herring Park up to the NRPA Standard.

Elements

- New Playground Equipment
- New Swing Sets
- Community Garden
- Walking Track/ Trail
- Security (i.e. cameras)
- Outdoor Basketball Court
- Picnic Shelter Improvements
- Park Amenities (benches, trash receptables, lighting etc.)
- Enclosure Fence
- Paved Parking Lot
- Dog Park Are
- Open Space

MASTER PLAN PROCESS

Public Meetings:

- 1) Public Input Meeting #1 March 24th (kickoff Meeting Tonight)
- 2) Public Input Meeting #2 April 28th (Concepts Presentation)
- 3) Public Input Meeting #3 May 24th (Final Master Plan Presentation & Adoption by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board)

Project Deliverables

- Rendered Master Plan Presentation Board
- Written Document w/ master plan process
- Probable Cost Statement
- Phasing Plan & Associated Cost
- Documents will be available on Recreation and Parks Webpage.

DISCUSSION:

- Community Garden and trails in area
- Irrigation would possibly be needed if garden involved.
- Maximize the use of Ed Herring Park by providing park elements and programs to the neighborhood (Timberlake and Eaglewood) where Park itself is located.
- Four survey responses received; therefore, leaving the survey open for 30 additional days.
- Pond/lake is located in the neighborhood behind Ed Herring Park. Maxey Dove explained that area in detail using the Power Point presentation and showed the exact location of where the pond opening is located. Mayor asked if lake/pond was for sale.
- Possible pier, dock, reflecting pond addition- would this add value?
- Are benches available for Greenway Park? Lamarco and Maxey will follow up on that request
- How to engage the Community for survey and improvement participation
 - Contact local school Principals in areas
 - Contact local Churches in area
 - Contact Civic organizations
 - Next Door App
 - Sign at the park with survey QR code
 - Picnic- Hot dogs, burgers, chips, drinks at Ed Herring Park
 - Future date to be determined for picnic
 - Share the presentation on Hope Mills Town and Parks and Rec social media sites

ACTION: Mr. McGill made a motion to move forward to inquire about purchasing part or all of the pond. Ms. Calendar 2nd that motion and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Lamarco thanked all for their attendance and their input.

Next Public Input Meeting #2 April 28th (Concepts Presentation – Tentative)

Meeting closed at 7:10 pm.

