

TOWN OF DARIEN
WEED BEACH COMMITTEE OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2015

ATTENDANCE: Lorene Bora, Chair, Werner Domittner, Amy Doering,
Goody Gray, Diane Conologue, Marc Ioli, Mary Flynn

STAFF: Pamela Gery, Parks & Recreation Director; Jim Coghlan, Assistant
Director

OTHERS: Dan Biggs, Sheri Ruane & Jack Grieshober, Weston & Sampson;
Erika Morris, Parks & Recreation Commission

OPEN HOUSE

Ms. Bora, Weed Beach Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. She introduced and welcomed Dan Biggs, the presenter of the project expansion.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT BY WESTON & SAMPSON

Dan Biggs (from Weston & Sampson) welcomed everyone to the first official public presentation meeting. He introduced Sheri and Jack from the team of designers and planners of the project.

The purpose of the meeting was to kick-off the project, collect ideas and to hear what the public wants in terms of the project. The online survey has 1,700 respondents so far. This was important to get to the ‘heart’ of what the public wants to see happen in the Weed Beach Project.

- 1st step---Planning
- 2nd step---Design completed
- 3rd step--Design implemented

Objectives:

- develop a vision while celebrating the existing park
- develop a park design
- develop a sustainable park

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- develop a phased implementation and expansion

A map was shown of the Weed Beach and surrounding property. The areas were pointed out that will be part of the expansion. Community engagement presently was described and further alternatives will be discussed at this meeting as well as the next public information meeting which will be held January 26, 2016.

Developing the program:

- Staff feedback
- Refine alternatives
- Environment concerns
- Survey Monkey results

All of these aspects and results will be considered when finalizing the program recommendations.

Facilities & Activities:

Active Recreation, as well as Passive Recreation are both being considered in the planning of the project.

Tonight's input includes four stations:

1. Dot Survey (where participants place Red, Yellow, Blue or Green Dots on desired aspects of plan)
2. Online Survey
3. Paper Survey
4. Suggestions/Comments Box

Survey demographics were given. It was noted that 2% of respondents were under the age of 25. The project managers will digest the feedback after the open house. All are welcome to the second open house being held in January.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Ms. Debbie Parnon (*203 Old Kings Highway North*) asked if this will be on the Darien Parks & Recreation website for others to see.

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Ms. Peggy Hersam (*9 Midbrook Lane*) asked, “What is the budget for this project?” Dan answered: None at this time. The budget will be determined based on the project results and will go to the appropriate Town Boards.

Ms. Gery then reminded the attendees that surveys are currently available at:

- The Senior Center
- The Parks & Recreation office
- The Nature Center
- The Youth Commission office
- Darien Public Library
- Darien Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Further time for participation in the Open House continued after the meeting’s adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Kronick