

WASHINGTON BOROUGH RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes April 9th, 2005

A special meeting of the Washington Borough Recreation Commission was held at the proposed Railroad Avenue Park site on Saturday, April 9th, 2005 at 12 noon. In attendance were Terry Finnegan, Chairman, Rick Feldman, Treasurer, Candy DeFillippis, Commissioner, Jeff Bottger, T&M consulting landscape architect, Adam Payne, Park Director, and Judith Noonan, Commission secretary.

Two plans for the site were distributed, one with two tennis courts, and another with four tennis courts. The total park area encompasses 15.6 acres.

The sides of the former railroad bed will need to be stabilized. There is up to a 40 foot change in grade throughout the land, and much earthwork will have to be done to balance the fields, which should have only a 1 to 2 foot grade change to allow for drainage. (Note: not having this proper drainage grade is the problem with Washington Meadows field.)

Most of the trees on the lot are locust and wild cherry, and will have to be removed. Wetspot plants will be used for the landscaping, such as inkspot and red maples. Retention basins will be used for water runoff.

The fields will be laid out in a north to south plan, which is ideal for sports and actually makes best use of the existing grade. The four utility poles will have to remain, as creating underground service would be prohibitively expensive. Lights around the fields might be a possible drawback to the neighbors. T&M strongly recommends an irrigation system for the fields, which costs \$40,000.00.

The plan for four tennis courts will require building an earthen wall backing up the last two courts to the railroad tracks, and will be quite expensive, approximately \$122,500 extra. The plan for two tennis courts will have the utility building with restrooms and concession stand more centrally located, as well as the tot lot closer to the parking area.

In addition to the two layout plans, Jeff Bottger supplied itemized cost sheets for every item and phase of the project. The total project cost including four tennis courts, contingencies and design fees would come to \$3,000,000.00.

T&M can show a reduced version, using two tennis courts, gravel rather than paved parking lot, no lights but footing for future poles, seed, not sod for the fields, and a reduced utility building.

The next step will be presenting the plan to the Borough Council. T&M will be available and wait to hear from the Recreation Commission on the date for this presentation.

Adjournment

The meeting was concluded at 2:05 PM.