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MEETING NOTES

Project: **Allentown Comprehensive
Recreation, Open Space, &
Parks Plan (CROSP)**

Project
No.: **SC# 22028.00**

Location: **Microsoft Teams (Virtual)**

Meeting
Date/
Time: **January 22, 2024
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

Re: **Committee Meeting #3**

Issue
Date: **February 17, 2024**

ATTENDEES:

Simone Collins (SC):

William Collins (WC), *RLA, Principal*

Pankaj Jobanputra (PJ), *AICP*

Robert Gladfelter (RG), *RLA, ASLA*

Toby Levin (TL), *RLA, ASLA, Project LA*

Certified Parks & Recreation Professionals

Derek Dureka (DD), *CPRP*

Kathleen Muller (KM), *CPRP*

City of Allentown Parks & Recreation Department (PRD)

Mandy Tolino (MT), *Director of Parks and Recreation*

Lucinda Wright (LW), *Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation*

Bryne Heffner-Bair (BHB), *Program Coordinator*

Chris Hendricks (CH), *Recreation Manager*

Other Attendees:

Laura Ballek-Cole, *Manager of Civic Innovation, City of Allentown*

Becki Kiss, *City of Allentown Board of Recreation*
John Leonard III, *Sargeant, City of Allentown Police*
Tiffany Serra, *Trails & Conservation Associate, D&L National Heritage Corridor*
Joe Michener, *Assistant Executive Director, Center for Independent Living*
Christian Martinez, *Environmental Planner, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission*
Janet Roth, *Chief Executive Officer, Trexler Trust*
Ana Tiburcio, *Board of Directors, Allentown School District*
Liz Rosencrans, *Director of Trails & Conservation, D&L National Heritage Corridor*
Carmen Bell, *Senior Director, Healthy Aging, United Way of Greater Lehigh Valley*
Kyle Edwards, *Owner, A True L.O.V.E. Story/Inkwell.*
Jose Rivera, *Community Engagement Coordinator, United Way of Great Lehigh Valley*
Scott Slingerland, *Executive Director, CAT Lehigh Valley*
Samantha Shaak, *Acting Executive Director, Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health*
Ce-Ce Gerlach, *Councilmember, City of Allentown*
Dave Snyder, *City of Allentown Board of Recreation*
Rick Daugherty, *Executive Director, Lehigh Valley Active Life*

NOTES:

1. **Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC) gave a presentation** that reviewed feedback received during the second Public Meeting, preliminary results of the public opinion survey, and analysis performed thus far, including:
 - community facilities benchmarking,
 - staffing and budgeting benchmarking,
 - other Allentown planning efforts currently underway,
 - park service areas and gaps,
 - the functions of an Official Map, and
 - staff interviews, as well as
 - next steps in the project.
2. **A committee member stated that the survey questions seem too leading and do not provide opportunities for open-ended feedback.**
 - a. PJ responded that many questions did provide room for open-ended responses and that the survey has a combination of question styles with some more open-ended than others.
3. **A committee member asked if LANTA could be involved in planning for the SS4A and Active Transportation Plan.**

- a. PJ responded that yes, LANTA is a great partner for community involvement and is involved in the network of improvements that form these planning efforts.
- 4. A committee member asked how equity plays into the service areas of parks.**
They noted that there are demographic factors that may increase the need for parks in some areas.
- a. The committee member asked if the park service area map could be overlaid with crime data or delinquency data to better understand where to address public safety issues.
 - b. RG responded the consultant team is working to acquire and map additional data on various social determinants of health and other demographic data than could impact the need for parks, such as population density.
 - c. Another committee member asked if age distribution could also be overlain on the park service area maps.
 - d. RG responded that age distribution data will be included.
- 5. A committee member asked if the committee would be able to join for the park site visits.**
- a. PJ responded that SC will coordinate site visits with the committee.
 - b. RG added that if there is information that committee members would like to share about any of the city's parks, please do not hesitate to share.
- 6. A committee member asked if Lehigh Carbon Community College would be included in the KPI's.**
- a. PJ responded that yes, they will be included in the KPI with other colleges and universities and thanked the committee member for the recommendation.

This report represents the Professional's summation of the proceedings and is not a transcript. Unless written notice of any correction or clarification is received by the Professional within ten days of issue, the report shall be considered factually correct and shall become part of the official project record.

Sincerely,
SIMONE COLLINS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Toby Levin, RLA