



SIMONE COLLINS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
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MEETING NOTES

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

Project
No.: SC# 22028.00

Location: Theatre514 and Microsoft
Teams (Virtual)

Meeting
Date/
Time: April 30, 2025
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Re: Public Meeting #4

Issue
Date: May 22, 2025

ATTENDEES:

Simone Collins (SC):

William Collins, *RLA, Principal*

Pankaj Jobanputra, *AICP*

Rob Gladfelter, *RLA, ASLA, Project LA*

Certified Parks & Recreation Professionals

Kathleen Muller, *CPRP*

Attendees:

Matt Tuerk, *Honorable Mayor of Allentown*

City of Allentown Parks & Recreation Department (PRD)

Mandy Tolino, *Director of Parks and Recreation*

Bryne Heffner-Bair, *Program Coordinator*

NOTES:

1. Mayor Tuerk and Parks and Recreation Director Tolino welcomed everyone and gave opening remarks. Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC) then gave a presentation that reviewed feedback from the previous public meeting, preliminary public survey results, and a recap of public participation events to

date (including the Easter Egg Hunt at Bucky Boyle Park and the Earth Day Event at Cedar Beach Park).

2. **The meeting then shifted to five breakout groups for design charettes.** In person breakout groups were organized around Allentown's parks – Fountain Park, Bucky Boyle Park/McHose Plaza, Roosevelt Park, and All Other Parks. Participants were invited to rotate to a different breakout group every 20 minutes but could also remain in the same group. The final breakout group was online.

3. **Notes/Ideas from the Fountain Park breakout group:**

- a. Jackson St. / Amphitheater – Arts walk
 - i. Park
 - ii. Urban forestry
 - iii. Food forestry
- b. Lantern Festival
- c. Benches
- d. Programming
- e. Public education on water
- f. Lighting
- g. Community
- h. Past community leaders
- i. Community gardening / schools
- j. Positive communication
- k. DaVinci Science Center
- l. Waterfront pier and fishing and seating along Creek
- m. Colorful crosswalks and traffic calming at 10th and MLK Dr.

4. **Notes/Ideas from the Bucky Boyle Park/McHose Plaza breakout group:**

- a. Bucky Boyle Park
 - i. Restrooms – needed and open all the time
 - ii. Health issue if not open
 - iii. For all parks years-round
 - iv. Need to be weatherized
 - v. L.V. Boat Club
 - vi. Watch towers
 - vii. Can riverside access be created?

- viii. Like Philly's Boathouse Row
- ix. Benches
- x. Need lights in parking lot
- xi. New Parking – D&L Trailhead needed close to City Center
- xii. Add a River Walk Trail
- xiii. New bus stops along Riverside Dr.
- b. McHose Plaza
 - i. Why have seating at the top of McHose?
 - ii. Plaza w/ Benches & Tables
 - 1. Shade structure and/or plantings
 - 2. Community gardens
 - iii. Low shrub planting – Native plants
 - iv. Lawn/Overlook/Sitting – Add benches & tables/umbrellas at edge
 - v. Riverside Drive
 - 1. Speed controls
 - 2. Pedestrian control
 - vi. N Front St
 - 1. Speed control
 - 2. Safe crossing (@ Pump Pl.)

5. Notes/Ideas from the Roosevelt Park breakout group:

- a. Install an interactive 3D map of the United States (or at least the original 13 colonies) where the pavilions are located
- b. Native gardens as a border
- c. Additional seating by soccer field
- d. Lighting that doesn't cause light pollution
- e. Fence in the area around the tennis courts
- f. Stormwater at soccer field
- g. Plantings along sensory trail w/ signage
- h. Bike racks by the playground
- i. Pollinator garden / community garden
- j. Have school buses drop off kids after school to participate in programming

- k. Have a portion of the sensory path covered or canopied / Add shading along path
 - l. Benches
 - m. Possible school bus stop at Saucon and Filmore
 - n. Activate triangle at Race & Woodward
- 6. Notes/Ideas from the All Other Parks and Online breakout groups.**
- a. Mack Pool
 - i. No nearby parks
 - ii. Extra space with nothing in it
 - b. Union Terrace Park
 - i. More programming in the amphitheater
 - c. West Park
 - i. Maintain historic properties as an arboretum w/ specimen trees
 - d. Andre Reed Park
 - i. Pavilion by pool/playground
 - ii. Picnic tables
 - iii. Tennis courts- need renovations
 - iv. Water fountain tennis courts
 - e. Franklin Park
 - i. Missing swings
 - ii. Graffiti inside hut of playground
 - iii. Sumner Ave. connection from Ridge to Jordan Park using sidewalk
 - f. Cedar Beach Park
 - i. Planting program to maintain willows
 - g. General notes
 - i. More police presence in all parks
 - ii. Less Riparian Buffers
 - iii. No open space for anyone from 15th West & North of Tilghman (other than Muhlenberg Elementary)
 - iv. More community gardens
 - v. Safe crossings at parks (ex. Irving)
 - vi. Wayfinding and interpretive signage

vii. Bus service along Riverside to provide students with access to Bucky Boyle

viii. Partnership between DaVinci Center and Allentown School District

7. The meeting was adjourned, with thanks to Theatre514 for hosting the public meeting at their facility.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Toby Levin', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Toby Levin, RLA