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MEETING NOTES

Project:	Allentown Comprehensive Recreation, Open Space, & Parks Plan (CROSP)	Project No.:	SC# 22028.00
Location:	Fearless Fire Company #14 and Microsoft Teams (Virtual)	Meeting Date/Time:	June 25, 2025 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Re:	Public Meeting #5	Issue Date:	July 3, 2025

ATTENDEES:

Simone Collins (SC):

William Collins, *RLA, Principal*

Pankaj Jobanputra, *AICP*

Rob Gladfelter, *RLA, ASLA, Project LA*

Toby Levin, *RLA, ASLA, Staff LA*

Certified Parks & Recreation Professionals

Derek Dureka, *CPRP*

Attendees:

City of Allentown Parks & Recreation Department (PRD)

Mandy Tolino, *Director of Parks and Recreation*

Bryne Heffner-Bair, *Program Coordinator*

NOTES:

1. Parks and Recreation Director Mandy Tolino welcomed everyone and gave opening remarks. Simone Collins Landscape Architecture (SC) then gave a presentation that reviewed feedback from the previous public meeting, updated public survey results, draft vision statement, goals and opportunities, Park Improvements Toolbox, park champions and success stories, and next steps in the process.
2. A member of the public brought up the issue of water access and providing education about water safety, bringing up multiple drownings that have happened in City waterways. They also suggested widening walkways and asked about community art initiatives.
3. Notes/Ideas about Andre Reed Park:
 - a. More shaded areas
 - b. More trash cans
 - c. Bring back water fountain at tennis courts
 - d. Sidewalk between tennis courts and softball field covered in mud
 - e. Tennis courts are cracked and tree debris is creating unsafe playing condition
 - f. Swing area needs safety surfacing
4. Notes/Ideas about West Park:
 - a. Multi-language signage
 - b. Additional lighting
 - c. Close off some areas to allow turf regrowth, currently patchy
 - d. How to keep a passive park?
 - i. Mix of passive doesn't necessarily work with pick-up active recreation
 - e. Could a staff person be present during events?
 - f. Partnership with Allentown High School?
 - g. Integrate native plants where possible
5. Notes/Ideas from Fountain Park:
 - a. Proposed recreation center – City's 2030 plan
 - i. Redundant if another recreation center is built at 424 N. 9th St?
6. Notes/Ideas from Roosevelt Park:
 - a. A number of basketball tournaments happening now

- b. Hydrants for heat relief open this week

7. Notes about Jackson Park:

- a. Connects Center City to Fountain Park via old stairs
- b. Mostly hills, not good rec space. Should be naturalized
- c. Plan for removal of invasive species
- d. Plan to manage music/noise in park system
- e. Along Union St.
 - i. needs litter pick up
 - ii. invasive plant removal
 - iii. add native trees + shrubs
 - iv. general beautification

8. Notes about 5th St. Park and Old Fairground:

- a. Upcycling to create naturescape
- b. Create multisensory experience
- c. Add native pollinator garden
- d. Create unique park experience

9. General notes:

- a. Safe crosswalk at S. Jefferson and 15th
- b. Adequate car share parking to reduced traffic on Lehigh St and MLK
- c. Volunteer spring cleanups with City's help

10. The meeting was adjourned with thanks to Fearless Fire Company #14 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



Toby Levin, RLA