JJR landscape architecture
planning
urban design
civil engineering
environmental science

MEETING NOTES

JJR Project Name:	Kenosha KD Parklands Master Plan 50394.000
Meeting Subject:	Work Group Interviews
Location:	Gateway Technical College / Kenosha County Center
Meeting Date:	6/29/2011
Issue Date:	7/6/2011
Participants:	JJR / SmithGroup: Gregg Calpino, Jessie Fink, Mark O'Leary, Bethany Johnson, Matt Sturz Work Group Members
Prepared By:	Matt Sturz / Jessie Fink, JJR

DISCUSSION:

Sustainable Technology Work Group
Gateway Technical College Center for Sustainable Living
8:30 AM

Wind / Solar Power Opportunities

- Small-scale operations are feasible
- Have demonstration sites already that are accessed through virtual technology. Concerns over demonstration of several wind turbines at KD park = rapid change of technology, cost and security. (Security would be greater concern for solar installation than wind.)
- Wind turbine installation class instruction focuses on site assessment
    - Examine soil types and topography
    - KD = Dynamic site, including hydrology
    - Pricing exercise and feasibility study
- Needs for wind power demonstration / classroom lab site:
    - Good access, safe environment, ADA accessibility
    - Parking
    - Ability to drill a 4" core to 75-100' deep for foundation assessment (once per semester – safe for drilling without calling Digger's Hotline each time)
    - Possible installations in several different microclimates on site

    - Infrared cameras to show wildlife interactions / dispel bird kill myths
    - Area of exposed soil profiles for teaching geotechnical analysis
- Midwestern Renewable Energy Association (MREA)
    - Demonstration site = Stevens Point, WI
    - Offer classes / training
    - Related demo's, but not comparable to our site – MREA = flat field vs. varied site like this one
        - Terrain, soils, water…
- EcoFair 360, Walworth County Fairgrounds in Elkhorn
    - Mini version of MREA
    - Move to this site?
    - Tents instead of fair buildings?

Biofuel Opportunities

- Small-scale ethanol production is growing
    - Cattails are a good species, lots of starch
    - Not sure about phragmites use
    - Hazelnut bushes used for biodiesel production, large percentage oil by weight (Hazelnuts = 70% oil as compared to soybeans = 40%); alternate = hybrid chestnut (Univ. of MN)
        - Would require 1/10 to ¼ acre for demonstration fields
        - Plant in rows, 50' apart
- Michigan company trying to break into the market may be a potential partner

Alternative Building Materials

- Straw bale construction – easily built with relatively unskilled labor
    - Partnership with neighbors + community involvement
    - Ties into horticulture initiatives

Agricultural / Horticulture Learning Opportunities

- Learning Gardens for horticultural teaching tool
- Bee hives
    - Another opportunity to create a community connection
    - Need a flowering garden and a spray-free zone
- Organic processes of reclaiming soil
- Only 2% of food is locally produced in Kenosha County
    - Create microclimates on site

Permaculture Operation

- Energy production, stewardship to lake, food production, shelter production, etc.
- Waste as energy
    - Small scale biodigester needs a waste stream
    - Dropoff site for community lawn waste? Dog park? (Portland, OR example)
    - Opportunity for biomass training for counties/cities would be unique

FACILITIES AND CONNECTIVITY

- Charging station
    - Powered by biodigesters and/or small wind generator?
        - Could also use gas to light the building
- Gathering/classroom space for about 20 people
    - Seating, plus overflow for larger tour groups
    - Video capability for presentations
    - Passive solar desired
- Wireless coverage throughout park
- Winter use would be much easier with an enclosed structure
    - Could also serve as an orientation point year-round for wayfinding
- Other gathering spaces on site that are outdoor classrooms, either with or without shade protection
- Scotland Precedent: Wind farm married into natural landscape, educational destination
    - Operations paid for by restaurant incorporated into scheme
- Site should embrace and promote the rough, hands-on experience
    - Classroom space on-site to fit the lecture/lab model of class
        - Different than a “field-trip” logistically
        - Share classroom with Parkside, Gateway, and High Schools
- Welcome Center with restrooms / attached classroom space? Allows for security.
- Agricultural building desired for housing equipment
    - More of a public space, smaller would be better
- Small kitchen
    - Flexible program – cooking demonstrations, catered events, etc.
- Partnership with Snap-on, Case

    - Retreat area for corporate events? But not like a resort, more rough.
    - Industrial photography – shoot photos for advertisements/catalogs for large equipment
- Sustainable Racine, SC Johnson Wax as case studies
    - Integration of usage and energy production
- Looking for a way to integrate the public/design community with performance information on technologies and processes
    - Ties into Gateway mission
    - Could turn Gateway into a hub for information, could build regional connections
    - Selling point for Gateway, laboratory goes beyond the classroom. Every school has classrooms, few have a natural lab.
- Tents could provide flexibility as temporary structures
- Parking – maybe 40 car lot, larger events could use mown field or offsite shuttle
- Site could generate and share all kinds of information
    - Could create a layered experience
        - Technical / Student
        - General public – may be more interested in animals / habitats
    - Also, a *marketing* aspect to making it a hub of information/technology
    - Could incorporate interpretive signage about landscape transformation

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- How to make this site function as a business attractor?
- How to make this site a regional draw?
- How can we integrate some of the sustainable practices discussed into the landscape?
- How can we connect our local and regional program elements?
- VIRTUAL vs. FIELD TRIP vs. CLASSROOM – what is the student experience and how is it structured?
- What kinds of technologies are feasible on-site, and how much of a footprint will they require?
- What kind of large-scale organization should the site strive for? CENTRALIZED vs. SCATTERED vs. VIRTUAL vs. DISTRIBUTED

Sustainable Recreation Work Group
KCC
11:00 AM

Local Recreational Program Needs:

- Currently use Randall and Twin Lake Elementary schools for recreation program
- Teach CPR, yoga, cooking, athletics, crafts, etc., 59 classes for students and adults
- Softball, Basketball courts are high in demand
    - No community courts in vicinity, only schools
    - Pleasant Prairie/Lake Geneva closest for indoor rec
- Desire is for a gym facility, with smaller community rooms to promote flexible program
    - Important to keep costs down for admission
    - Indoor walking track, skatepark, rock climbing walls are all desired uses
    - KD site is centrally located for constituents
    - Possibly place near Bassett Park for neighborhood connectivity?
    - Waterpark?
- XC skiing trails might be nice, but no manpower to groom trails
- Continue to accommodate snowmobile trail pass through at south end of park
- Scuba diving = destination for Chicago/region. Racine quarry used to be destination, but now has contamination issues.
    - Divers will want to set up on flat grassy area near water level
        - Could incorporate with fishing pier
        - Close to parking for equipment
        - Pavilion, restrooms, changing rooms, shower, picnic tables desirable
        - Sink a bus / structure in bottom for exploration? Nothing down there now.
        - Underwater platforms provided by local dive shops. They will pay to position a training platform.
        - Example = Black River Falls old quarry now dive site
- Emergency boat ramp necessary
    - Could be concrete, gravel, or grass surface with solid base

    - Town of Randall rescue boat = 26' catamaran / deck boat that provides platform for rescue operations. Pulled with an old ambulance. 150 hp motor.
- Fishing:
    - Handicap accessible fishing pier needed
    - If DNR controlled lake per state statute, can't restrict motorized boats, only no wake. However, Jon put a fish farm license on the property so they can restrict / control uses.
- Other uses:
    - Kayaks, windsurfing, other non-motorized water recreation. Can use facilities built for fishing / diving. Equipment rental not needed.
    - Frisbee golf course? No, already one in Fox River.
    - Bikes, hikers, etc – need to establish a trail hierarchy
        - County ordinance currently prohibits bikes on all hiking trails.
        - Silver Lake Park may be opened to mountain biking to relieve pressure on other parks (Pets).
        - Connection to Twin Lakes is important. Possibly provide a single bike trail connection into the site to keep kids away from traffic on KD?
    - Camping? No, not supervised. Scouts already permitted to group camp at Fox River.
    - Winter activities: Snow shoeing, sledding, etc.
    - OK with no swimming if not feasible to incorporate into program
    - Dog training/competitions? How does this tie into dog park program? Current dog park is 5 acres, field training needs 15 acres.
- Final note: there is no topsoil in the mined portions of the park. Soil is waste washed sand from quarrying operations. May pose problem for thick grass desired for scuba lawn.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- How do these activities interface?
- What are the most desirable/locally-underrepresented activities we can offer?
- Which uses are incompatible?
- How do locations of different site program elements affect recreation possibilities?
- What kind of views do we want to create that will be desirable for passive recreation?

Our summarization of this meeting is transcribed as above. Please notify the writer within five (5) business days of this transcription of any disagreement as the foregoing becomes part of the project record and is the basis upon which we will proceed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jessie Fink / Matt Sturz, JJR