



**Chesterfield County, Virginia**  
**Parks and Recreation Department**  
**Planning and Construction Services Division**

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**James D. Worsley, Ph.D, CPRE**  
Director

**MEMORANDUM**

**RE:** Notes from Public Information Meeting #1

**SUBJECT:** Harrowgate Park Replacement - Public Information Meeting #1  
Carver Middle School, 3800 Cougar Trail, Chester, VA 23831  
September 11, 2018 – 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Public attendance: 20 citizens

Elected officials present:

Dorothy Jaeckle, Bermuda District Board of Supervisors, Chairman  
Gib Sloan, Bermuda District Planning Commission, Chairman  
Carrie Coyner, Bermuda District School Board

Staff present:

Scott Zaremba, Deputy County Administrator, Community Operations  
Brian Gabriel, Chesterfield County Public Schools, Assistant Director, Department of Construction  
James Worsley, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Stuart Connock, Manager, Planning and Construction Services  
Jim Perdue, Assistant Director Parks  
Bob Smet, Assistant Director, Recreation  
Bill Carlson, Athletics Manager  
Joe Stovall, Parks Construction Manager  
Janit Llewellyn, Planning Manager

A public information meeting was held at Carver Middle School on Tuesday, September 11 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Parks and Recreation shared a concept plan for replacement of recreation facilities at Harrowgate Park. Replacement facilities address the relocation of the new elementary school to the existing Harrowgate Park. The twenty citizens attending the meeting had an opportunity to review the plan.

Dorothy Jaeckle, Bermuda District Board of Supervisors, Chairman; Gib Slone, Bermuda District Planning Commission, and Carey Coyner, Bermuda District School Board were present to talk with citizens and receive input. Citizens also engaged with county leadership and staff including Scott Zaremba, Deputy County Administrator, James Worsley, Parks and Recreation Director and staff involved in the park master plan. Brian Gabriel, Chesterfield Public Schools Assistant Director of Construction attended to provide information about the new Harrowgate Elementary School.

Attendees provided comments on the park design and existing use and conditions. Input received addressed park access, transportation, park uses, field management, athletic league use, athletic scheduling and maintenance.

Citizen comments recorded included:

#### Transportation & Pedestrian access

- A traffic light is needed at the intersection of Cougar Trail and Harrowgate Road. This was mentioned by several participants. The traffic problem is increased during sports events.
- Traffic and safety is a concern for pedestrians accessing the park.
- Concerned about increased traffic on Harrow Drive due to the new park entrance off Harrow Drive.

#### Dog park

- A portion of the park at Harrmeadow Lane and Park Drive functions as a dog park. The neighbors are mowing the grass on a regular basis in this area of the park and managing waste pick up from the dogs. A trash can, disposable bags and a water source is needed. A fence was reported as not necessary.

#### Playground

- The location of the playground near the woods and away from activity areas is problematic. Greater visibility from all sides of the playground is needed to enhance perceived safety. The playground location is preferred in a high use area of the park.

#### Fields

- Lights need to be on a timer.
- Extended hours for basketball lighting is not desirable to adjacent neighbors. Recommend a completely fenced basketball court.
- Due to noise from the athletic fields and courts to the neighborhoods, citizens discussed time of use restrictions including teen curfew or dawn to dusk operating hours.

#### Park maintenance

- Litter is a problem along park access streets.
- Basketball courts generate noise at unwanted times and result in litter adjacent to the neighborhood.
- Concerns include vandalism in neighborhoods adjacent to the park.

#### Schools comments

Approximately ten citizens visited the Schools table to ask about Harrowgate Elementary School. Most were interested in the placement of the school relative to Carver Middle and Harrowgate Park. Several citizens expressed interest in the area on the concept plan shaded blue (BMP) and one was concerned about BMP safety (explained it would be fenced). Another citizen was particularly interested in the layout of the educational wings and assembly space (ability to separate or combine the cafeteria and gym) and capacity. One citizen focused on the expanded gym and its use by the community. Bill Carlson from Parks and Recreation responded to questions about community/league demand. An attendee was very interested in façade selection process and citizen participation. Overall, staff received very positive comments about the prototype plan and siting.

#### Additional comments

Written comments received September 11, 2018 from a citizen recommends an option for 3 lighted tennis courts and 4 lighted pickleball courts.

Staff received follow-up from citizen identifying the location of the family gravesites on the newly acquired parkland located on the additional 26 acres southwest of the existing park.

If you have any questions please contact Stuart Connock ([connocks@chesterfield.gov](mailto:connocks@chesterfield.gov)) at 751-4484 or Janit Llewellyn ([llewellynja@chesterfield.gov](mailto:llewellynja@chesterfield.gov)) at 751-4482.