ATTENDEE COMMENTS
EBENEZER PROPERTY PUBLIC INPUT MEETING #2 8/7/19

Introductory comments from Mr. Gisi and the park designer Dave Blakeley:

- There is currently no funding source identified to build this park, but we want to complete this planning process now, so that we can move faster when funding becomes available.
- Hours of the park will be dawn to dusk
- This is the second public input meeting for this master planning process. There will be two more opportunities to provide input – when we present the updated plan to the Recreation Board and subsequently to the Board of Commissioners.

- There are two houses on the site. One will be demolished and the other may be modified for future public use.
- The parking lot shown on the plan will hold +/- 30 cars. There is room adjacent for potential expansion.
- Restroom building
- Lake side trail will be hard surface, with ADA access from the house and parking.
- Creek side trail will be natural surface
- Picnic areas
- Fishing decks/docks extend from the shore
- Pedestrian access trail connecting to existing Canton Road sidewalk
- Sidewalk is included along Ebenezer Road at park frontage

Public Comments

- Will the sidewalk extend farther east along Ebenezer?
    - No, just in front of the County property
- How much will this cost?
    - We are not sure yet. An opinion of probable costs will be developed when the plan is finalized. This is likely to be in the $2.5 million range.
- Can this be built in phases? E.g. renovate the house last
    - Yes it can be built in phases, but we may not be able to address the house last, because we would need to keep it from deteriorating.
- Will there be bikes allowed on the trails?
    - No, pedestrian only

- Will you restock the fish in the pond?
    - We have started doing fish population studies once or twice a year
    - We will restock strategically, to keep the various species in balance
- I live directly next to the property and I apologize that my dogs bark at you while you are fishing.
- Can you make this more like Logan Farm Park in Acworth? That has led to additional economic development.
    - This park must be dedicated to passive recreation – no ball fields, etc. We have heard an overwhelming public sentiment for passive, natural areas.
- How solid is this plan with respect to the location of the entry drive? I own and will develop the property across Ebenezer Road on the corner. It will be good if the driveways line up.
    - The park drive will likely line up directly across from the existing church drive to their parking lot.
- Are there any plans to develop a regional connecting trail along Canton Road?
    - Cobb DOT has a plan which would connect Bells Ferry Road to a trail heading towards Woodstock
- What will the house be used for?
    - Small meetings, small events, small weddings. There is a size limit based on the size of the house and parking lot.
- Emerson UUC owns adjacent property on other side of Little Noonday Creek. The existing tree buffer and that shown on the plan is good, but please increase the native vegetation along the creek, for water quality and stream bank health. There are wetlands and floodplain where the creek goes under Canton Road. This is a good place for additional flowering trees, wildflowers, etc. for pollinators.
- How far from the property are the train tracks?
    - About ¼ mile from the park entrance drive to the tracks
- What will the hours be, and will there be a gate that can be locked at night?
    - Hours are dawn to dusk. Site lighting will be limited to the entrance and the parking lot, enough for safety but also to discourage night time activity.
    - Any gate would only be locked if there is a caretaker on site. This has not been discussed for this property. There is currently some Cobb Police presence at the house.
- When is the Strother house to be demolished? Whenever that is, please have an exterminator visit in advance.
- If the main pavilion is rented, for example for a wedding, will there be sufficient parking for casual park visitors?

- This is something to consider when we begin reserving facilities at this park.
- There are currently no funds available, but when might there be?
  - Commissioner Birrell plans to include development funding on the 2022 SPLOST List. There is no guarantee that it will be funded that way, however.
  - This can be a very long process.
- Concerned with security, with no gate and no staff, there can be problems.
  - We have very few security issues in any of our 90 parks and properties. Development of a park like this can often improve security problems versus vacant land.
  - We encourage Cobb Police and Rangers to be present in our parks, even if just to complete paperwork in a parking lot. There is a police presence at the Ebenezer property now.
- How many of those 90 park properties have lakes?
  - We have 14 lakes in our system
- Is there a plan for a Friends group?
  - Yes, we will promote the idea, and be willing to help however we can.
- Very happy that we bought this property. People are already using it, but perhaps not in a controlled way. People are driving and parking where they shouldn't. Need to better define where they should park.
  - This is a good comment, and we have gotten started by installing a gate to keep vehicles off the dam. We will consider better ways to control this, and install more signage and try to develop a clear parking area.
- Please clean up the corner of Canton and Ebenezer. This is frequently very messy.
  - We will work together with Cobb DOT to do this.
- Until there is a new restroom, can we use the bathroom in the house?
  - No, we may be able to install port-a-johns if needed. The house does not now meet codes for public access and use.
- Neighbor is willing to donate one acre of land to Noonday Baptist Church, could be used for overflow parking.
  - This may work if the Church agrees.
- What is the ideal number of parking spaces for a park like this, of this size?
  - We will keep it reasonable, such as the 30 – 35 spaces shown. We would not want to overpopulate the park.
- Canada geese are a problem at the lake. Is there a plan to control them?
  - We have no plan in place to control the geese. It was pointed out that these are a federally protected species, with consequences for harming them or their eggs.

- People drive all the way around the lake.
    - We have recently installed a gate.
    - If you see something, say something. Call 911. Not just for parking or driving problems, but for anything that doesn't look right.
- Are canoes or kayaks allowed on the lake? People drive down near the dock to unload.
    - No boats are allowed on the lake. Again, if you see something, say something.
    - We will install signs indicating no driving or parking on the grass.
- Trees are hanging over the road along Canton Highway.
    - We will contact DOT about that.
- Will there be sidewalks along Ebenezer Road?
    - The plan includes sidewalks just in front of the park, to the end of the park property.
- Don't let folks drive over the septic tank.
- Can restroom be on sewer rather than septic tank?
    - We always prefer to connect to gravity sanitary sewer when it is available.
- Has there been a traffic study done to anticipate any increased traffic due to the park?
    - No
- Do you need a fishing license to fish at the lake?
    - Yes, for those older than 16
- Can you designate an area for dogs?
    - Dogs can be on a leash, but there won't be a dog park with fencing.
    - PARKS will install a couple of dog bag stations in the next week or two.
- Thank you for keeping it passive, leaving it alone.
- Is the lake aerated?
    - We will likely install an aeration fountain in the lake.
- Concerned with water quality in the lake and the creek. Please don't use herbicides.
- When are the zoning hearings coming up on neighboring properties?
    - Sign up for Commissioner Birrell's newsletter. These schedules will be sent to you.