

I went to the CPSC Public Tour and Discussion meeting Monday night. It was comprised of City Council, Mayor, a couple people who live along Midsummer and one from Argosy, as well as a few others. It was a small group. We first walked around the site and went into the buildings, which were in poor condition. I think they were trying to prove the point that they were beyond repair and would best be suited for demolition. They all had very bad mold issues, lead based paint, asbestos and were built in the 50's with absolutely no upgrades leaving them in really bad shape. Originally I think they thought they could save a couple buildings and put them to use, but no longer. So the 7-9 buildings on the property will be demolished first off.

There is one large building built in 2003 that they will "save" and is in good shape. It's huge. We sat there for the actual "meeting". Plans are for it to house indoor soccer courts, indoor tennis courts, administrative offices – kind of like the sportsplex. It's a really big space (roughly 20-30 foot ceilings) and the only issue is how to air condition it because of the cost, (it has heat) but it has a flat metal roof and there was discussion of going solar.

The actual site inside the facility is quite lovely. It is tucked back in there and you don't realize how big it is until you get inside. There are lots of grassy areas, rolling hills and trees. There is one area that is flattish and they plan to put a baseball diamond/softball field and soccer field there. The rest would be picnic areas, bike paths, walking/running paths – think the Park in our neighborhood. They also want to add a nature center (one of the reasons they wanted to keep one of the existing buildings) and do class trips, etc. so that would be a newly constructed building. That is still up for discussion.

The budget is \$2.2 million each year (for now) so total \$6.6 and to be completed by FY 2018. They stress that this is preliminary, if they add nature center need to add staff, etc. etc.

The only way into the "Park" right now is the one lane road off Rt. 28. Obviously they need to make it 2 lanes but there is lots of discussion about having a public entrance for cars into the Park through our neighborhood. After looking at specs, one way to do that without cutting into someone's property would be to enter through Marsh Lane Road making that the main entrance into the Park. Other options are making the existing entrance 4 lanes. They also want some type of pedestrian entrance from our neighborhood into the Park but haven't found a good location yet. They were big on allowing connectivity through our neighborhood, Westleigh, the Park, etc. They want it all to be open and have hiking trails, biking paths and running paths circling the Park so they can go in and out of our neighborhood.

As of now they are not going to allow night time use of the playing fields because it would involve putting in lights and they don't think neighbors want that. They also feel that it should be strictly for recreational use and not scheduled teams playing soccer or baseball there. Again, like the Park in our neighborhood, the basketball court, tennis courts, all would be open to the public to use on a first come first serve basis. They want to encourage a pick-up game rather than scheduled games.

The houses along Midsummer that back up to the installation have really done a great job of putting up privacy fences or intense landscaping because I could not see many of those houses from the installation site. The same for Argosy – for the most part the people have lined their backyards to cover up any view of the Facility.

They are not taking the barbed wire part of the fence down now. For some reason they said residents were complaining about it and wanted it taken down. When they really start getting involved in the Park building both the gate into the Park and the chain link fence will come down leaving no real delineation between the

Park property and your home. It will be open spaces so although there are trees separating the properties there will be access to walk from the Park into the yards of those who live along Midsummer Drive and Argosy Drive, as well as Driscoll Court and Argosy Court.

In terms of security, they said it will be a sunrise to sunset Park with no visitors allowed at night. They stressed that neighborhoods need to be watchful, report anything and that police will be aware and will patrol. Residents should keep all doors locked, cars locked and garages closed to deter people from the Park walking through the neighborhood looking to commit a crime.

The Park will probably be very nice when all is said and done. An Ad Hoc committee will be set up, with more plans being drawn up. There will be future meetings and I really think that our neighbors who border the "Park" should be aware of what the future plans are and get involved by attending the meetings.

Liz Rubenstein