

Plans for waterfront park in Moon are fluid

May 24, 2012 5:02 am

By Sonja Reis /

Will Moon's new waterfront park be designed for passive, active or maybe both types of activities?

Should it include a boat launch, spray park, concessionaire, day dock, skate park, sunken garden, outdoor pool, floating fishing dock, community center, ropes course, art installation, zip line or maybe an off-leash dog park?

Conversation about converting the former RB&W Corp. manufacturing site to a waterfront park flew back-and-forth during a May 15 interactive forum for the public.

About 30 guests spent the evening discussing interests for the park and provided feedback by taking a visual preference survey to rate photographs of suggested designs and activities. The guests also talked with project managers providing additional ideas not covered in the photographic survey.

The proposed waterfront park is adjacent to the Sewickley Bridge and Route 51 and is a brownfield site, which was a bolt manufacturing plant.

Moon purchased the site in 2002 and tore down the structure in 2006, leaving intact the basement, which may become part of the park's plans.

The 17-acre tract is located between the CSX railway line and the Ohio River and includes 1,750 linear feet of riverfront property. Comparatively, Point State Park in Pittsburgh is 17.8 acres and Riverside Park in Bridgewater, Beaver County is 15.2 acres.

Safety along the train tracks and crossing are a high priority . The trains can take as long as 15 minutes to pass by and can be as

frequent as every 20 minutes, said Sean Garrigan a principal project manager with Stromberg/Garrigan & Associates.

The park also will parallel the future Ohio River Trail project connecting Coraopolis and the juncture of West Virginia and Ohio in one direction and to the Great Allegheny Passage in the other.

"The trails become the thread," said Tim Stromberg, a principal project manager with Stromberg/Garrigan & Associates. "The trails need the park, and the park needs the trails."

In 2001 and 2004, the brownfield site was investigated to see how much of an impact the production of carbon steel nuts and bolts had on the property.

Environmental studies showed localized impacts and minor groundwater impact, said Mary King with Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

"It's so localized, it's not reaching the water supply," she said. Water supply for the township is drawn from the Ohio River near the site and from various underground wells also on the site.

According to Mr. Garrigan, the township already has pursued funding for remediation, which we ranked as being "certainly on the least contaminated end of the spectrum."

Ideas discussed during the workshop will be compiled into a master site plan for the waterfront park. A second workshop will be held in late summer to refine the plans with final plan documents scheduled for completion in December.

Sonja Reis, freelance writer: suburbanliving@post-gazette.com.

First Published 2012-05-24 05:04:25