

# Rawlings Community Park Meeting

June 18, 2019 at 6:00 pm  
Rose Hill Drive, Rawlings, MD

- 33 community members attended the meeting
- 9 community members responded to an online survey
- Lenny Gares, Potomac Valley Lions Club Vice District Governor, began the meeting at 6:08 pm.
- The local sponsors to operate and maintain the Rawlings Community Park are the Potomac Valley Lions Club and NorthStar Church.
- The purpose of the meeting is to provide the County staff & local sponsor with a list of improvements to the Park.
- Siera looks to meet at nearly all County parks with local sponsors and residents to better plan and fund parks in Allegany County.

## Survey Results

- Siera Wigfield discussed the results from the online survey. The online survey asked people “What would you like to see at your community park?” 78% of community members want a picnic area and a walking track. 67% of community members want a seating area and a play structure. Other popular items included a pavilion and shaded areas. An interactive board, where people attending the meeting were encouraged to “vote” for new amenities on the Board in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Survey Board from June 18, 2019 Meeting

## Parking

- There was a discussion about parking at the Rawlings Community Park.
- The local sponsor explained that there is a combo lock on all of the gates, and the main gate for parking along Rose Hill Lane is locked because folks were parking at night and dirt bikes were tearing up the parking lot. Currently the parking lot is open for use during sporting events.
- Hopefully the park will see improvements an increase in use, which would allow for the gates to be open.
- Community members were advised that they may park along Rose Hill Lane, or NorthStar’s parking lot when using the park during non-sporting events.
- Walk through gates are on four points of entry, providing the public reasonable access to the park.
- Community members proposed that signs should be installed at the church and park to notify where and when parking areas can be used.
- Community members also suggested that handicap parking should be available near the mower-gate when events occur on the field.

## Restrooms

- The restrooms in the Lion's concession building were vandalized and one more water line needs replaced to be functional again.
- Currently teams who use the Rawlings Community Park's sports field have use the pool house's restrooms during events.
- Community members suggested that handicap bathrooms should be available.

## Playing Field

- The field located at the Rawlings Community Park is used for softball, t-ball, and soccer games.
- According to John Wall, athletic director for Calvary Christian Academy, about 10 varsity soccer games are played on this field per year and 20 junior-varsity soccer games are played by four teams on this field per year.
- Siera Wigfield will reach out to First Peoples Credit Union to see if they will donate a new scoreboard.
- A scoreboard could be connected to the concession stand's electricity.

## Playground

- Siera Wigfield noted the County took out the 20+ year old playground at the park earlier this year, it was wooden and no longer in good repair.
- Siera Wigfield informed the community members of KaBOOM! and other grants that could help the Rawlings community fund a playground.
- A recycled tire park was also suggested by community members. Some community members were concerned about children being exposed to the chemicals leached from tires.
- A natural playground was also suggested by community members by using existing slopes.
- Concerns were raised about liability for the playground.
- Community members would also like to see signage about supervising children at all times, if a playground is installed.

## Walking Area

- There was a discussion about constructing a walking area at the park, in the field area and or the upper lot.
- Lenny Gares mentioned the perimeter of the field area is a ¼ mile. The field could be walked on during soccer games but its not advisable to walk during baseball/softball games.
- The subject about dog walking at the park came up.
- There were suggestions to install signs stating that dog owners pick up after their dogs. Community members requested that a dog waste station be accessible in this area of the park.

## Pavilion

- In the past, the Lions Club requested funds for a new concrete floor be installed in the existing pavilion.
- Concerns that accessing the pavilion from the parking lot could be difficult for those with limited mobility. Rodney Welsh informed the group that there is more accessible pavilion parking from the parking lot. A map, or more signs could help share this information.

## Other

- Park lighting was requested by the members of the community. Margaret Lohr suggested that the lights be angled away from the homes located on the other side of the street.

- Many community members requested that the steps located above the playing field be fixed.
- Margaret Lohr requested that recycling bins be placed at the park permanently. Margaret would like to see plastic, paper, glass, and cardboard recycling bins available at the park. There are trash bins that are placed at the park during events. They are not out at all times, because the wind blows them over and litters the park.
- Lenny Gares noted that these improvements can only be possible with more volunteer support to maintain the park. Currently its is only a handful of people involved.

## County Boat Launch

- Siera Wigfield notified the community members that the County is looking to locate a boat launch between Black Oaks and the Fairgrounds, please contact Siera Wigfield if you have any leads on landowners willing to provide access.

## Tree Planting Grant

- In the spring of 2019, dogwood, serviceberry, and redbud trees were planted in the Rawlings Community Park, through a DNR grant for tree planting on public lands. Siera Wigfield informed the Rawlings community members that the DNR has funding for this program. Volunteers provide the people power to plant the trees. The trees are provided and delivered by DNR staff.

## Rawlings Community Park Inventory

- Soccer fields
  - 1 varsity soccer
  - 2 junior-varsity soccer
- Softball field
- T-ball field
- Portable bleachers
- Bathrooms/Concessions
- Pavilion
- Parking

## Rawlings Community Park Improvements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park Signage</li> <li>• Parking           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Signage</li> <li>○ Accessible ADA parking</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Restroom repairs (ADA?)</li> <li>• Playground           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concerns about liability</li> <li>○ Signage</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Walking Track(s)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dog waste station or signage</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavilion           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concrete floors</li> <li>○ Picnic Tables</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Park lighting</li> <li>• Repair/replace steps</li> <li>• Replace scoreboard</li> <li>• Scheduling system</li> <li>• Stormwater issues on field near Rose Hill Lane</li> </ul> |
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