



Audubon Regional Library
Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 5:00 PM
Audubon Regional Library
11023 Bank Street
Clinton, LA 70722

A. Call to Order

The Informational Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Vice President, Faye H. Talbot. Audubon Regional Library Board Members present were Faye H. Talbot and Martin Macdiarmid. There were fourteen members of the public in attendance.

B. RECIEVE PUBLIC INPUT AND COMMENTS ON PARK AND PARKING LOT CONSTRUCTION AT 11023 BANK STREET, CLINTON, LA 70722

Trevor Collings welcomed the public to the meeting and introduced Roy Dufreche from Roy T. Dufreche & Associates, Landscape Architects & Planners.

Roy Dufreche discussed the proposed layout of the parking lot and showed an aerial view for reference. He covered the possible size of the lot including materials and costs, the number of spaces included, noted the two trees in the proposed parking area that would need to be cut down and pointed out on the map those trees would be left for shade. He asked for comments from the audience. Several audience members responded that they agreed with this.

Roy Dufreche said this Phase I of a Greenspace Masterplan would include the parking lot and playground. He then explained that he would take the ideas from library administration and public comments to form a plan to present to them in 30 to 45 days at the next meeting. Roy summarized the written public comments gathered from a comment box at the circulation desk.

They included:

- Outdoor reading spot for kids! Age groups toddlers, elementary age kids
- Love the idea of having a playground outside! It would be great to incorporate an area for toddlers.
- Please include senior citizens
- 40-60 age group to help improve mental sharpness.

-Who would keep it up and would it be fenced so kids could run free w/o having to worry about running into parking lot

-I think that a fenced area for children aged 3-10 would be nice

-Fantastic! Great for Clinton & kids

He then asked for comments from the audience. They were as follows:

-Will the playground be ADA compliant? It would be nice to include a story tunnel, covered shade or a pavilion.

-A sensory area for toddlers and a baby changing station was requested

-An outside restroom

-Different play areas. One designed for toddlers and older children.

-Benches and picnic tables

-a stories walk and a nature area for children and adults

-little free library

-a learning garden and artwork and a place for outdoor programs

After reading the comments, Roy Dufreche suggested an interactive story walk and an activity berm are cost effective options to include. He said that he would like to plan a nature walk and arboretum in future phases. He then explained the amount of money donated to the library for the project and explained the costs. Several members of the public made suggestions that included seeking grants, donations, and fundraisers.

Roy Dufreche asked the public for a preference of playground surface material. Most agreed that gravel was not what they would choose. They preferred organic materials. Preferred colors for equipment were green and brown to blend into the surrounding area. Fencing with wrought iron like materials was a suggestion. Wood and chain link was not a popular choice. One comment mentioned that aesthetics was important. She suggested a brick short wall that would match the library with wrought iron above to raise the height of the fence. The public agreed that the fence should be of good height to deter entry when locked. Roy Dufreche explained the cost of using different fencing materials. When asked about safety and insurance, Trevor Collings shared the information he obtained concerning insurance and posting signs for safety. He said that the playground would be open during library hours. He said there is lighting on the parking lot. Trevor concluded that in 30 to 45 days, Roy Dufreche will have a topographical survey map and design schematics for Phase I to present at the next public meeting. A couple members of the public said that they would like to get copies of the plan when to use to seek additional funding. Trevor Collings thanked the public for their input and support.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.