

Open Space Advisory Board Meeting

January 25, 2022 @ 9:30 a.m.

Board Attendees	NCC Staff
Sherri Evans-Stanton	Kendall Sommers
Elena Stewart	Michael Clendaniel
Lee Jarmon	
Jennifer Adkins	
Simeon Mann	
Roger Jones	

Michael Clendaniel started the meeting reminding the Board members that comments for the NCC Comprehensive Plan were due to be submitted to Land Use by Monday, 01/31/22.

Chair, Sherri Evans-Stanton went over the Google document that had been put together to capture the members of the board's comments. Below is a general description of the comments that were provided. This list is not all inclusive.

- 1 General comments
- 2 Open space needs to be defined more clearly
- 3 Definitions of Open Space
- 4 Percentage of protected open space
- 5 Funding of open space
- 6 Metrics / objectives for open space protection
- 7 Goal 3- should have an objective of ensuring clean water for recreational uses, especially in EJ (Environmental Justice) areas; Strategy
- 8 Goal 5 should include objectives relative to green jobs; Climate change section
- 9 Land Preservation Master Plan should be renamed as Land Preservation & Maintenance Master Plan and should include weighted project selection criteria
- 10 Include all Terms Used and Definitions
- 11 Under Climate Change, climate change is impacting (not "will affect").
- 12 Specific measurable actions related to open space and Environmental Justice; define areas

Additional comments/discussions that occurred during the meeting are noted below:

- Elements – such as the Open Space, Mobility, etc. mentions the Rte. 9 Corridor Plan – should be referenced in the Appendix.
- Item M – Replacement of Equipment – also discuss underserved areas that need replacement.
- The plan is very long (500 pages) and, while it has a lot of good information in it, would benefit from being made more brief. It is cumbersome to search for something in such a long document
- Plans from other states and their comprehensive plans were around 200 pages or thereabouts. This one is 500 pages.
- A discussion occurred regarding the Comprehensive Plan is what drives open space issues in the future. NCC can add to their budgets from the plan's vision.
- Percentage of open space – the OSAB thinks that the percentage should be 40% as opposed to 30%.
- The Plan shows priorities but needs to break down other areas related to water issues: where our EJ areas are for Port of Wilmington, etc.

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 - identified communities with access issues
 - Plan should highlight EJ areas.
 - The Land Preservation Master Plan does mention EJ areas.
- Maps being utilized should be up to date.
- Plan is important and should outline coordination between State and County and City.
- The Comprehensive Plan is accounting for all types of open space even the areas protected within development. It is noted that the plan should define these areas to clearly outline what is being protected.

The board is going to finalize their comments and they will be submitted on January 31, 2022. Any additional comments were to be provided by Friday January 28, 2022. Comments can be found under New Castle County Department of Land Use Comprehensive Plan page.

The board had a brief discussion on funding and how it could be utilized. It was noted that it would be beneficial to have an advocacy for funding in future budgets.

An update was given on the RFP being prepared for the County to obtain a vendor to perform a broad range of services. Within that proposal is a section to support the open space advisory board and to prepare and maintain the criteria for selecting land to be preserve. Below are areas the County is looking to have services performed.

- Develop an open space master plan for the next 30 years
- Develop review criteria, scoring for open space preservation and provide support as needed to the Open Space Advisory board.
- Environmental preservation
- Economic Analyses for Parks
- Develop recommendations to improve operations within Parks

Next meeting will be held in early March.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.