

## Fort Lincoln Community Meeting

Chat Questions & Answers

March 23, 2022

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1. I think there's a groundhog family that lives in the fort play area. Can they be relocated safely?
  - *Yes, we will do our best.*
2. Disappointed to learn there is no utilization of the roof top for people to enjoy the view or to make it a green roof. This would be an easy accommodation. Why isn't this a part of the design?
  - *The roof is being used as a green roof and also to support future solar panels to offset energy costs for the facility.*
3. Why isn't the pool being renovated with a 40-million-dollar budget? It's in major need of expansion and renovation.
  - *Renovation of the existing outdoor pool is beyond the budget of this project.*
4. Too bad you didn't leave some money to renovate the pool. It's in sad shape.
  - *An assessment of the outdoor pool is being completed and evaluated as part of DPR's yearly "pool improvement" budget.*
5. There is a pyramid that is crumbling and dangerous. How will that spot be addressed?
  - *The pyramid will be renovated so that it is no longer crumbling and dangerous.*
6. Agreed about the pool, all of the young children will grow up and outgrow the splash pad quickly
7. Will any funds be allotted to spruce up the courts (tennis and basketball)? Paint and nets?
  - *We are getting pricing for renovations to both the tennis and basketball courts. We will make improvements to the courts if the budget allows.*
8. Looks good. Thank you. Any option to reduce the number of walkways? So many have been added over time and can be reduced as the new wider ones can easily absorb the foot traffic.
  - *The design team is looking into this possibility.*
9. Sorry I'm late. Is this slide deck available to the community?
  - *Yes, all meeting materials are placed on the project website: <https://dgs.dc.gov/page/fort-lincoln-campus-improvement-project>*
10. When events happen at the park and holidays, there is not enough parking. Can a parking garage be added to the bottom of the new daycare/Rec center?
  - *The project budget does not support the inclusion of a parking garage. We are adding new parking spaces adjacent to the new recreation center.*
11. Apologies if I missed it - what is the estimated date of completion?
  - *The estimated date of completion is currently Spring / Summer 2024.*
12. Is there a dog park?
  - *A dog park is not currently part of the design.*
13. As someone else raised, I'm very interested in why the rooftop can't be a green roof or used to enjoy the views that were blocked by the townhouse developments.

- *Please see answer to Question # 2.*
14. How does DPR plan to address the lack of management on the current park with the construction and design of this new park? Trash pickup and rodents are a current issue. What is the plan?
- *DPR is working with two agencies, the Department of General Services and the Department of Public Works to put together a plan that reduces the overall amount of trash in the park, which we believe will reduce the amount of rodents. The Department of General Services has dedicated staff that help DPR plan for waste management.*
15. Since the THCC is not being touched, can we expect it to be retired in the near future as the building is at its end of life? If so, is there a timeline?
- *The Theodore Hagans Cultural Center will remain open to the public. There is no current timeline for closing that facility.*
16. What is the estimated date of completion for the early education center?
- *Spring / Summer 2024.*
17. Yes, for the basketball court updates too and the dog park
18. What about safety and security? A lot of drugs, drinking etc. happen in the park.
- *This project includes the addition of security cameras.*
19. Will you be able to renovate the bathrooms, particularly near the tennis courts?
- *We continue to evaluate what's doable given the project budget. We are also exploring options related to sponsorships and partnerships.*
20. Two courts for racquetball? How about making one for pickleball?
- *The courts will be multipurpose, including racquetball and squash. Those indoor courts do not include pickleball at this time.*
21. (Yay for green roof - thanks for mentioning!)
22. I'm late to the game but would have loved to see indoor swimming.
23. Happy to hear about things for older kids, tweens and teens need activities in the area.
24. Will the mural have the history of Fort Lincoln going back to the war?
- *DGS works with local artists on the particulars of the artwork. We would be happy to pass along this suggestion.*
25. Will there be a fee to use the facility, just like using the THCC?
- *The process will be the same for permitted use of the facility. The fitness room requires no permit and is free to District residents. For more information on DPR's permitting process, please visit: <https://dpr.dc.gov/permits>*
26. The teaching kitchen at Kenilworth is really nice.
- *Thanks! We're very excited about the teaching kitchen programs at DPR and we look forward to opening this new asset at Fort Lincoln soon!*
27. I am curious about how many people will be staffing this facility. Will this staff also be responsible for THCC?
- *Staffing recommendations will be forthcoming as the facility construction advances.*
28. (Senior lounge) Should have a fireplace.
- *DPR facilities do not include fireplaces for liability and safety reasons.*

29. Can the senior area include computers too? A lot of seniors do not own their own.
- *This request has been forwarded to our senior division for consideration.*
30. Can there be a dance/Zumba area? The community really loves to dance. It would be nice to have space where kids to seniors could dance.
- *Yes, dance and similar activities will be possible in the multipurpose room.*
31. Where can we access these slides?
- *Please visit the project website: <https://dgs.dc.gov/page/fort-lincoln-campus-improvement-project>*
32. Arriving a little late... was this meeting recorded
- *Yes! The meeting recording is housed on the project website.*
33. Was a study or estimate done on the cost of (a) an indoor pool or (b) the cost to renovate THCC?
- *Yes, both were considered along with estimates. The cost of an indoor pool is roughly \$12-\$15M over our project budget. Because of the ongoing pandemic and correlated inflated construction costs, DPR has chosen to remove Theodore Hagans Cultural Center from the scope of this project. Our hope is that this decision helps to focus project dollars on creating a new, state of the art facility that can best serve the overall needs of the Fort Lincoln Community, within our project budget.*
34. Just curious, as this is my second meeting and I hear the "no's on the indoor pool and reno - but not numbers behind it.
- *Please see answer to Question # 33.*
35. Please comment on possibility of an indoor pool. That's important to this community.
- *Please see answer to Question # 33. The existing facility has been designed in a way that would allow for an indoor pool annex to be added, should future funds become available.*
36. Can the splash area include a kiddie pool? 6" deep or so?
- *Unfortunately, no. The Department of Health will not allow standing water as part of the splash area.*
37. Understand that on the indoor piece - can you advise on the estimate to renovate the current pool?
- *Outdoor pool renovations are currently costing approximately \$5M.*
38. Nice presentation - still disappointed not seeing the indoor pool or at least the outdoor pool being renovated. I still think it would be more utilized than the weight room, racquet ball court and indoor track
39. very sad.
40. Budget hearings are starting, maybe we should advocate for more money for a pool
41. How did you make your decision about the pool when the entire neighborhood asked for one?
- *We would have liked to include an indoor pool, but the budget simply didn't allow for it.*
42. I appreciate how this building is more see through to allow visibility no matter what location you are at.

43. Aside for the new facilities, can the next community meeting present some more details on the rehab of the Core of the park? For example, do we need to replace all the benches? What does rehab of the fountain entail?
- *Yes, we can cover the core in more detail at future meetings.*
44. What will be the purpose of Theodore Hagans Cultural Center since the new center will have everything the old center could provide?
- *The existing Cultural Center will remain operational and open to the public until further notice. We will continue to examine this question.*
45. @parraize - the pool that is in poor condition with no funding to repair although the community wants it.
46. Does having a green roof mean it will be accessible?
- *The roof will not be accessible to the public.*
47. It's already like 10 tennis courts and tennis / racquetball wall outside but going to put a racquetball court in the facility and no indoor pool. Every time the DPR swim camps / classes come out they fill up within seconds. That mean there is a demand for it.
48. When will we see the interior design for the Early Childhood Development Center and what it includes? How many rooms and bathrooms?
- *This will be covered in future community meetings.*
49. Great news about solar panels!
50. Will the roof be accessible to the public?
- *The roof will not be accessible to the public.*
51. Disappointing news about the pool. what about a dog park?
- *A dog park is a unique feature on District property. We first must receive an application to build a dog park, which then goes through a review process. More information can be found on DPR's dog park website: <https://dpr.dc.gov/page/dog-parks-00>*
52. small dog park would be a fun idea
53. Request to remove the crumbling pyramid and make it a stage area with an outlet. This way we can host events and have a band or performance have a space to perform.
- *Thanks for this idea!*
54. Lots of the pathways are asphalt and are crumbling due to roots. You can tell they were temp pathways. If they aren't going to be completely redone with cement, I suggest getting rid of them. They are tripping hazards and not generally ADA accessible.
- *Thanks for this idea!*
55. Happy to hear you all talking about scope and budget. \$40M is a lot of money but your plans are extensive. Is there an MVP being discussed or a priority list as we reach completion as scope and budget get tight?
- *Please see answer to Question # 89.*
56. We mentioned a dog park in this exact meeting last year.
- *Please see answer to Question # 51.*
57. We keep telling you guys and it is still not being considered.
- *Please see answer to Question # 51.*

58. Can we start that? Too many pets with nowhere to roam.
- *Please see answer to Question # 51.*
59. do you guys even take our opinions into consideration?
- *We do our very best to balance community requests with the project budget.*
60. about 30 people mentioned the need of a dog park last year.
61. A dog park is the easiest, most cost-effective life and yet it keeps getting ignored for expensive things we didn't advocate for.
- *A dog park is actually quite expensive, currently costing around \$100/SF.*
62. I think it's on us (the residents) to submit a dog park application to make it happen.
- *That's correct. For more information, please visit DPR's dog park web page at: <https://dpr.dc.gov/page/dog-parks-00>*
63. What are the security considerations for indoor/outdoor locations? Will there be a surveillance plan?
- *Yes, DPR works with MPD and the Protective Services Division with DGS on the layout of cameras both within the facility and outdoors.*
64. what about all the drug dealing, weed smoking, alcohol bottle breaking in the park?
- *Please call MPD for any illegal activity. DPR has Park Rangers that help patrol our inventory, but MPD is the best source for unlawful activity enforcement.*
65. any security?
- *Yes, this project includes security upgrades.*
66. They are in terrible shape! (Basketball courts)
67. For your info, the THCC has acoustic problems (echoes with audiences) and heating/air problems. Also, the staff do not accommodate to the people's hours, so it is underutilized.
- *Thank you for this information.*
68. we call the police frequently
69. The community will not be hanging out with vagrants, but they will be there. Is there a security/patrol plan?
- *Yes, there will be additional security as part of this project.*
70. New bathrooms are a must. Without question.
71. Thank you, Brent, for answering about THCC. I advocate closing it so the budget can be used for the tennis courts, ball fields, and upkeep of the Core and add-ons once the new building opens up.
72. What about the pool this is a question everyone.
- *Please see answer to Question # 33.*
73. There are lots of questions about the pool that should be answered.
- *Please see answer to Question # 33.*
74. Please talk about the pool. Not giving up on the idea. What was the cost?
- *Please see answer to Question # 33.*
75. I think it would be extremely helpful to identify or maybe reiterate 1. Our best modes for advocacy today and in the coming months and 2. the weight of our voices at these meetings (or

through whatever channel you identify). I think it's still unclear how much our interest is being heard or weighted. Thank you.

76. i agree with Tequia

77. Can you share the project site please?

- *Project website: <https://dgs.dc.gov/page/fort-lincoln-campus-improvement-project>*

78. No effort has been made to get more funding for this project.

79. But you aren't going through it as the specific questions are not being answered, so people continue to ask them again. EX: if the cost wasn't obtained - state that. If you don't have it available, you can state that it can be provided at a later date. It seems like the community doesn't feel like their voices are being heard on these calls.

- *Thank you for this feedback. We've done our best to answer many questions within this document and will continue to improve our communication about project decisions moving forward.*

80. Thank you, Tommie! I ask because the Core is in ROUGH shape. There is a difference between putting a brick back into place and actually rehabbing it to the point where the community actually wants to use the space.

81. If the meeting is to just - show the status of the project and not incorporate the feedback of the community that the facility is located in, it would be helpful to know that in advance so that people can set their expectations and determine if they should use their time to attend the meetings.

82. No more than 100 people have been attending these meeting and still many of our recommendations are not being taking into account. How are you engaging the rest of the citizens that are not attending these meetings?

- *We have done our very best to balance community requests along with the constraints of staying within our project budget. It has been difficult to get our traditional means of feedback during the ongoing pandemic, as we'd had to rely on virtual meetings and online surveys to get information. As always, we will continue to do our best to improve our community outreach process so that we hear from as many stakeholders as possible.*

83. minimum viable product - MVP (based on my project experience)

84. Please fix up pool before dog park

85. Yes, we are interested in a dog park, better pool or pools. Not sure if you guys are accommodating our requests.

- *Please see answer to Question # 59.*

86. Since a pool is off the table, I vote for a Dog Park

87. A pool upgrade and dog park is comparing apples to oranges in pricing. Not quite fair to 'trade' one for the other. We have the field space; put up some fencing and create a pathway.

88. Not everyone is interested in a dog park.

- *Dog parks can often be very divisive within a community.*

89. MVP is minimum viable product. What I'm asking is, what is the priority order of all the items mentioned or is everything you showed today already within scope and budget? I guess I want

to know, if the new community center goes over budget, will that impact the splash pad or the new play structures, etc.

- *Mayor Bowser added funding to this project in order to construction a new recreation center that includes an Early Childhood Education Center. The new facility priorities include: fitness room, senior lounge, teen/tech lounge, arts / crafts room, gymnasium, and an ECE – essentially, something for everyone. Outdoor priorities include ADA upgrades, security related improvements, new playground for children, and athletic court upgrades. Items beyond those listed are subject to removal from the scope based on project budget.*

90. Great job team! Looking forward to this being complete.

91. How can additional budget be allocated?

- *DPR works with the funding provided by the Mayor. Community stakeholders are welcome to advocate for additional funding through their local elected officials and representatives.*

92. How was it decided that there shouldn't be a pool, if so many people are asking for it?

- *Please see answer to Question # 59.*

93. They already said that they could not afford the pool.

94. I am looking forward to groundbreaking. Thank you team DPR!

95. Why no additional surveys have been sent to engage them in decision making?

- *DPR received almost 400 community responses via surveys in the early stages of the project to help us identify community requests. The community survey results can be found on the project website, listed as "Fort Lincoln Community Survey Response".*

96. Update the pool for the community. Add shade/trees

97. Can we be notified when they plan to do work that would affect our power?

- *Yes!*