

January 14, 2016

Community Meeting: Parker Elderly Housing & Tolland Intermediate School

I. Welcome

A. Once grant approved viewed project' moving forward. Town Board and BOE working together.

Purpose: understand what plans are; input as well. Break out into groups.

II. Overview:

A. Heidi Samokar-Director of Planning and Development.

What is proposed? Parker School 37 units of housing for elderly .

Bus Way; Parent drop off area

Why: Increasing senior population. In 2014 2100 seniors over 65. There is a vacant building.

Who is involved: Heidi explained.

2008 Parker School closed. 2010 Town begins working with ACCESS agency.

2012 Access Agency lease.

2014 -2016 Continuing Design; ACCESS Agency received loan in 2015.

Overview: Heidi showed a map with a pointer. Showing bus route.

III. Discussions: First Group

Mark Peterson, Gardner & Peterson Associates

David Wagner, Schadler Selnau Associates

Mark Peterson EXPLAINED pickup and drop off. Witnessed rush in the morning.

41 parking places. 28 spaces in the morning. In afternoon more parking . Appropriate signage.

Lighting in the design. Most important is drop-off, pickup and safety. Eliminated crossing parents and children across the lots.

Question: Handicapped parents and students.

Mark doesn't recommend in this area, but closer to school. Currently is used for teachers. Mark says relatively flat walk way.

Question: Any area where kids walking and roads.

A: Mark says fence proposed. Fences proposed on low side of sr. center.

David Wagner: Explains more about the layout. Explains about fences. Ability to separate functions.

Question: Playscape enclosed?

A: Dave: yes, provide fence along boundary of playscape and roadway. Discourage kids running into road.

Question: Fence areas?

Question/Comment: Seen bus duty. Recess duty-road through play area, takes away play area.

Could design be flipped? Emergency vehicles: how will they get there? Concern about emergency property. Seniors-must go around to get to senior center. Wants recess addressed. Concern about seniors' response to noise of kids.

Comment: Noises –grade differences.

Question: Distance between fence line and playground.

A: Ten feet or less. Between playground and road is ten feet.

Q: where are all the fences being placed?

Q: what kind of fence? Can it prevent a moving vehicle?

A: Chain link fence. Cannot prevent a moving vehicle.

Comment: Safety check on seniors because we do this in our schools.

Comment: Question: Were you told where the parking should go?

Dave-working w town. Told by town.

Comment by people: Emergency moment, if bus breaks down, Emergency vehicle cannot get through.

A: 24 feet wide roads(Mark) Walk from front door to drop off area is 200 feet. Says Mark. Takes less five mins.

Q: Construction-How will this affect the parking?

A: Mark: Hopefully we have the summer to complete.

Q: Will playground be moved?

A: We don't know yet that's why we are here

A Fencing is chain linked fence, suggests black. Mark

Q: How tall are fences?

A: Six foot high , four foot high betw. Bus and walkway. 5 foot fences.

Q: Landscaping?

A: At this time not incorporated

Q: Snow clearing,

A: where to put snow: Discussion both sides sidewalks.

Q : Who will maintain the salt, freezing,?

A. Senior housing , rest is what ever decisions are made.

Q: Road maintained by town or school?

Q: Public Safety-did we get feedback from state police? Cameras? Who operates?

A: Have not thought of everything yet (David) Public safety has been involved.

Q: How do we ensure state police looks at this?

Comment: Hardship when last playscape was bulldozed and parking made.

Q: How affects parents and kids after school during springtime-playing after school crossing over the streets from the way it is set up.

Q: Concern about aesthetics of fences. Will this affect our property values?

Comment: Basketball hoop, cannot play . Hill for field day will be gone. Swings cost \$50,000- this is wasteful removing them.

Comment: Tree: only tree for shade for recess. Parents with small kids have to go further to pickup kids.

Comment: Taking away land from TIS that we will never get back. Lose 1/3 of our land. Will have small playground. Affects our field day. I feel for the Seniors. But why are we doing this?

Comment: Safety of our kids. We do background checks for people entering schools, what about the seniors who live here?

Comment: Schemata-Concerned about aesthetics of how the fence looks.

#### IV. Discussions: Second Group

Mark Peterson explains the layout.

Dropoff area Parking count in new layout is 41 vs. 28 now. Appropriate signage, lighting design, feels it is a safe layout don't have to cross travel lane for buses.

Q: How long is the walk?

A: 200 feet, relatively flat. Will change grade

Q: Two separate walk ways?

A. Dave Wagner, explains the layout.

Q: Sidewalk from parent pickup ,

A: open for discussion.

Comment: Parent pick up area removal would be a problem for us.

Comment: Parent pickup area moved because of public safety. To back area of bldg.: back of TIS.

Comment- Want to keep it this way-is it the safest place.

Q: Moving students safely; access to upper rec fields? w/o infringing on elderly population?

A. Walk thru drop off parking lot to get to stretch of walk in upper parking lot.

Comment: Needs met for both.

Q: Sidewalk 200 feet is longer now. Supervision. More people needed out there from school.

Can we bring it closer than 200 feet?

A: Without sacrifices and substantial changes, says Mark. Doesn't want to take away recess area.

Trying to balance important issues.

Q: Sacrifice some parking ?

A: 37 units and 63 spaces says Mark.

A: Dave: Issue of security and topography

Q: Proximity of bus-lane to playground, fence between the two.

A: Playscape is here. New busway comes close, chain link fence proposed between playscape and busway, says David.

Comment: Play area now smaller.

A. Left hand side

Comment: Safety concerns. After school programs. Path not acceptable from TIS to afterschool program.

Q: How wide is lane?

A: 24 feet wide.

Q: If bus break downs....

Q: Parking lot for parents?

A: Mark shows on map.

Q: Parking for volunteers?

Q: Playground will be lost?

Comment: Sledding will be gone.

Comment: Use upper parking lot as senior parking lot? Move rec center prkg lot to upper field?

Q: Walk and building; pickup sick kid; consideration for 15 min. parking?

Q: Consideration for staff parking; putting it below?

Comment: Sick child, parking fifteen min parking.

Q: Bus lane is longer now; How long drop off? Take away from school day. Drop off and pick up time.

A: This driveway would load all buses at once.

Q: Kate floated idea using upper parking lot, this would minimize impact dropoff and pickup...  
Green area, etc.  
Question/Comment: Concerts? Where to park? We would lose parking. Not much parking.  
Comment-Events would not have as much parking.  
Comment-Seniors coming and going. Concerns for seniors 3 to 4 times a night. Lots of cars.  
Comment: Parking lot questions-???? Upper parking.  
Q: Options using fields as parking; Reasons why not? Ramps, handicapped, sitework?  
A: Dave: Cannot talk about thought processes.  
Q How many rec parking places now? Share upper lot?  
A: Doesn't know says David.  
Q: Enough square footage to accommodate ?  
A: We are here to listen to concerns , Mark.  
Comment: Hates to see this become constant source tension  
Q: Walkways for seniors? Connections to library? Public sidewalks?  
A: Dave-discussions w town, town property, connect sidewalks to sr. center.  
Q: Adding bus-lane, start late spring, what does it mean for kids in school, rec center, camps,  
construction vehicles?  
A: Depends on tonight, says Mark. Depends on approvals.  
Q: Access road to Old Post, shared? For everyone? Thinks this is a problem.  
Q: Configurations of not sharing the driveway?