
**Media Borough
Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Plan
PAC Meeting May 28, 2020 7:00 – 8:45 P.M.
Agenda**

Please register for Media Borough Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Plan PAC Meeting on May 28, 2020 7:00 PM EDT at the link below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7450633145012331277>

Agenda details:

- 1. Welcome: Checking in with the Plan Advisory Committee.**
- 2. How the meeting will work**
- 3. Progress report and Moving the Plan Forward**
- 4. Public Engagement: Interviews, Work Sessions, Focus Groups, Public Opinion Questionnaire, Outreach and Promotion, School District DEI Initiative Opportunity, and Public Meeting.**
- 5. Committee input from Homework: Trends and Interview Candidates**
- 6. Reflections on the Park Tour**
- 7. Meeting Schedule**
- 8. Next Steps: Interviews, Financing Work Session, Program Interviews and consideration of a Recreation Providers Focus Group**
- 9. Comments – Committee Members followed by Committee Meeting Guests**

Meeting Preparation: If you haven't submitted your homework assignment on people to be interviewed, trends , and considerations for what you'd like to know from the public on open space, parks, recreation, trails and open space, please do. Send them to Karen. Your ideas matter.

New Assignment: Since we are living in a time of uncertainty and have seen park use increase dramatically, we'd like to challenge you. What is one idea you have to do something new or different or provide in a different way related to open space, parks, recreation and safe places to walk and bicycle? Feel free to think out of the box and color outside the lines here. Your idea can be big, little, or something in between. Then, we ask you to do some research on that idea for 20 - 30 minutes. And lastly to write just two sentences on your idea and send them to Karen who will send them to Ann and Tavis. Spend no more than 45 minutes on this.

Attachments: Committee Teleconference Report, Park Tour Report, Homework Interview List, Homework Public Considerations Report, Homework Trends Report

**Borough of Media
Open Space, Parks, and Recreation, & Plan
Plan Advisory Committee
Teleconference Report**

Location: GoToMeeting

Date: Wednesday March 18, 2020

Time: 11:00 – 11:45 P.M.

Participants: Jack Kohlmansberger, Stephanie Sher, James Leach, James Tangorra, Stephanie Gaboriault, Terry Rumsey, Daniel White, Chris Walchensky, Amy Johnson, Peter Williamson, Karen Taussig-Lux.

Consultants: Tavis Dockwiller, RLA and Ann Toole, CPRP, CPP

Teleconference Report

- 1. Welcome** – All participants introduced themselves as participants on the call.
- 2. Teleconference Purpose** – The purpose of the call was to provide information in response to questions about the topical areas for the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Plan, the decision-making process and agendas before meetings.
- 3. Plan Topics** – Ann sent the committee an e-mail shortly before the meeting with the draft meeting schedule and purposes to illustrate how we address the topics. All of the meetings are intended to be collaborative providing an opportunity for all members to speak presenting their viewpoints. Our team indicated that we are grateful for informed committee members willing to share different perspectives and information. The last thing we want to have is “group think” where everyone just goes along. We get the best ideas with thoughtful exchanges of information with different ideas and outlooks.

The plan topics are Open Space; Parks and Recreation Facilities; Trails; Programs and Services; Maintenance; Organization and Management; and Financing. We do our “due diligence” in collecting the facts and figures about each of these topics. Then we bring them together in the most important piece: the critical thought piece which weaves together all of these discrete

elements into a SWOT for Media as a whole for open space, parks, recreation and trails. This leads the development of a vision and mission for Media. Based upon the SWOT and the vision and mission that we develop collaboratively, we develop a “Blueprint”. The Blueprint is a strategic approach to achieving the vision. It will have about 10 actions on it with a focus on perhaps three to five major, major initiatives. The action steps will then go onto a schedule for immediate, short, medium and long-range time frames. This Action Plan will include the goal, objective, specific actions, price estimate, potential resources, responsible party (partners too) and the impact of the action or benefit of it.

4. Decision-Making Process - The whole process is designed to be interactive and collaborative. It rests upon civic engagement with the Committee being the most important part of public involvement. Our planning team does not write canned plans. We are facilitators to being to light a community vision blended with reality of resources both existing and potential. The process is fluid. We examine each topic, build a SWOT, get committee feedback, and identify the options available to the community. With the Committee, we decide about the options for Media. Our goal is to develop a practical implementable plan that will actually be carried out.

We are working to build upon the collaborative process that we have already set in motion with our first meeting and our tour. Through our exercises, input and discussion, we work toward consensus building. Our philosophy is to avoid voting as it polarizes people. We work toward facilitating discussions in which facts, figures, community needs, and various perspectives come together in a considered process to identify what the best outcomes are for the community of Media, what people can live with, and how to make all that possible. Will everyone get everything? Probably not. But our process should result in consensus that the community as a whole will get what it wants in a way that can be implemented practically. We actually do work to get most things that people want in place as much as possible. There is no formula for decision-making as it is rooted in the process in which this committee participates collaboratively with trust in the process and facilitators to be fair and informed.

5. Decision-Making Feedback – Peter asked the group for their perspective on decision-making. In summary, the group recognizes:

- The significance of Terry’s point that decision-making and how to address it is of the utmost importance;
- The group wishes to work through the process and address decision-making when it is needed, especially for potentially contentious issues.

Specific feedback included:

- Terry wishes for more clarity now on how we will decide in matters that are difficult.
- Karen indicated that she likes the process and is willing to work through with the process as described.
- Stephanie Sher said the process sounds collaborative and we should go with it.
- Joe said that he understands Terry's point and liked Karen's description of us moving through the process and understanding the sensitivities of the group process is essential and in the end we might be surprised at what we learn.
- Amy pointed out that this can be a unifying process in which we do have different perspectives but together will earn new things, even surprising things, that may influence what we want to do. We'll deal with decision-making when we get there.
- Stephanie Gaboriault appreciates Terry's concerns on decision-making. She wants to see how all this plays out with what comes out of the process.
- Dan urged the group to be aware that what we do or recommend could impact other groups that already have a stake in the topic or issue. We need to be aware of how a priority or recommendation of "A" might affect "B". Our priorities could result in emergent conflicts that will color other things. We need to be aware of stepping on other people's toes.
- Terry indicated that he heard what everyone was saying: we need to listen to each other, say what we are thinking, and trust the facilitators to facilitate effectively. He'd prefer to have the decision-making process be clearer right now. He said that building consensus takes a lot of time, that he hopes we will do that in this plan even if the plan takes longer and is willing to take the time to do so.
- Peter summarized the group's reactions as recognizing the importance of Terry's concern about decision making and how to address it along with the group's desire to trust and go through the process Collaboratively to see where we get and then deal with decision-making in a productive way when we need to.
- Katie emailed her message as she had to hop off the call: "I gave a thumbs up to the discussion that was had around making decisions as they come along and giving Dan the green light to loop in the diversity groups."

Hot Topics – Tavis requested that the group tell us what topics might be hot so that we don't wait until the end to find out what they are and to let us work on them now.

- 6. Homework** – Peter asked the question about the importance of homework. Ann relayed that she and Tavis rely on the input of the Committee and that the homework is a vital part of the committee's roles and responsibilities. We depend upon information provided by each committee member. Information and different perspectives emerge that is invaluable to the process and the decisions we all will make. The current homework is about community trends, what we want to learn from the citizens, and people/organizations to interview. Tavis had an idea on an open space homework assignment that we will be providing the Committee.
- 7. Future** – Given the uncertainty in the world now, we are not sure of our schedule as sent in the email and inserted below. What holds is the order and topics. We need to figure out where trails is going to land in meetings. Tavis and Ann explained that our preference is to hold our meetings in person but if the Coronavirus guidelines are protracted, we will figure out a Plan B that could include online meetings for which we will work diligently to make the technology work for our group. Joe cautioned about the use of online meetings for a group as large as ours. He has a great deal of experience pioneering online meetings that he is happy to share with us and help us with. We are grateful for his support and will be in touch with him on this in order to maximize the use of technology in a way that will help Media achieve its vision for open space, parks, and recreation.
- 8. DEI** – (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Dan described the School District's efforts at DEI with the four elementary schools and his desire to tap into that to get their input to our plan. He wanted to know if and how he can inform them about our project and to make them aware that we would be reaching out to them. Ann said that what we do in opportunities such as this is meet with the key stakeholders in the School District and decide the best ways to get input from this initiative. Dan agreed to be the DEI topical coordinator for our group and that he'd coordinate with our planning team.
- 9. Conclusion** – Joe made the important point on scheduling future calls. We need to schedule for 60 minutes, no less. For a large group, 30 minutes is not enough time. We will do that!

We thanked everyone for their generosity on sharing their time, opinions, and support.

Thanks, Advisory Committee, stay well and safe.

**Borough of Media
Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Plan
Plan Advisory Committee
Meeting #2 Report**

Location: Media Borough Tour

Date: Saturday February 29, 2020

Time: 9:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Participants: Katie Dooley, Jack Kohlmansberger, Brendan O’Riordan, Stephanie Sher, Stephanie Gaboriault, Michael Jordan, Sandie Liacouras, Jennifer Malkoun, Terry Rumsey, Daniel White, Chris Walchensky, Kevin Boyer, Amy Johnson, Peter Williamson, Karen Taussig-Lux.

Consultants: Tavis Dockwiller, RLA and Ann Toole, CPRP, CPP

Meeting Preparation

- 1. Tour Preparation and Logistics** – Karen Taussig-Lux and Tavis Dockwiller developed the tour route. They included all stops requested by committee members. Karen searched for tour buses and lunch, polling committee members for food requirements. Karen’s husband, Brian, kindly picked up the group’s lunch. The consulting team covered all tour expenses.
- 2. Tour** – Peter Williamson served as the tour guide. Stephanie Gaboriault and Terry Rumsey provided information about the Dam, Glen Providence Park, Broomall Country Club, and the 45-acre tract that could become a greenbelt. They continued their presentation over lunch due to time restrictions with the bus contract. Participants braved the cold to discuss their observations and get to know one another.
- 3. Committee De-Briefing and Work Session** – Following the tour, the committee members worked over lunch to discuss their observations. They framed their discussion in accordance with the consulting team’s request to look for things they liked; things that they didn’t like or could

work better; and to provide guidance for high priority considerations in the planning process. The results are as follows:

A. What Committee Members Liked About Media's Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails

- Scope of the tour was comprehensive, logical and used a nice bus
- Open space possibilities: numerous parcels of open space; collectively there is a wide range of opportunities and lots of ideas that we could actualize. Each parcel presented different possibilities; range of opportunities available (different locations to design and work on). Diversity and variety of spaces. Parcels are well-distributed.
- Amount of Open Space. Parks spread out throughout the Borough. Thoughtful coordination of all open spaces.
- Valuing every acre of open space and every acre of parks.
- Historical Significance of sites (2)
- Hiking on property behind the Lumber Yard (2)
- Showing folks the 45-acre greenbelt
- Discovering the Quaker Burial Ground
- Saw places I never knew existed (Water Tank Area by Youth Center)
- Trees, wooded sites
- Getting to know folks on the committee
- Receptiveness to creative ideas.
- Possibilities for trails and walking paths
- Interesting to hear stories of the open spaces
- Plantings
- Benches
- Cleanliness
- Environmental issues – rain gardens
- Tot lot renovation
- Strine property is the centerpiece and near Barrell/MES
- 11th & 12th near Jaisohn – Asian aesthetic: can we partner and co-sponsor? Partnership with South Korea
- Borough's spaces
- Plan for 5th & Broomall (3)
- Community is interested in acquiring and maintaining open spaces

- Improvements to existing spaces e.g. Rotary park, Veteran's Place

B. What We Didn't Like or Could Work Better

- It was cold!
- Plantings and Shade: Lack of shade at Dimond Park (2) and Manchester park
- Always troubling to find litter.
- Define uses of the parks.
- Need more public art.
- Signage: residents don't know what is there. Lack of signage at Dimond Park and Manchester Park. What can happen here?)
- Barrell Field (Seating, concessions, shade, trees), no splash pad (nothing for low income to cool off)
- Maintenance. Steep slopes make maintenance difficult. Lack of maintenance in some parks. Invasives (3).
- Dedicated access points are limited
- Appearance of 3rd Street Dam
- Some parcels are near busy roads (Oakmont)
- Grades present challenges
- Conditions at greenway around Barrell
- #13 needs inviting details
- Not enough time at the dam site
- Philip Green park sign looks in bad shape. Philip Green Park needs fencing and benches.
- Not clear how to use Jaisohn park.
- Too much focus on building on useable spaces; sometimes it is better to just leave the space alone.
- Lack of knowing where to find all the great locations. Was not aware of property near Tague and the Jaisohn property.

3. Five things that committee members think we need to address in the plan:

- Maintenance of all parks and open spaces
- Wayfaring signs and open space maps
- Aesthetics: make open spaces and parks beautiful and inviting
- How to use Philip green, Jaisohn, the Cemetery property
- Potential other pocket parks
- How to get people aware of the parks and into them
- Put parks on website
- Develop creative recreation opportunities for each park
- How to get stories on the parks and open spaces out in Media
- Publicity
- Funding for maintenance
- Purposes for parks: more focus
- Add more artwork: murals, sculpture
- Create the Media gardeners to help maintain the parks
- Extension of lawn next to tot lot and splash pad on another space.

- Improve Barrell Field signage and publication
- Houtman Park Playground and Manchester Park: improve what is there
- Maintenance of Parks, Playgrounds, and Green Spaces (3)
- Improve furniture and structures in existing places and parks. Make them more contemporary and inviting using inspiration from Philly. Murals in areas like Dimond Park and Plum Street Mall. Make them Instagram worthy attractions.
- How to acquire some of the existing parcels that are potentially available.
- How to generate interest of the public in new open spaces
- Generate greater support for more organized activities using outdoor spaces
- Potential grants to make our wish lists happen
- Budget so that we can prioritize
- Community ideas and opinions about what they would like to see
- Educating the public about our plans/ideas/spaces
- Adequate signage for places like Veteran's Square Pocket Park
- Leave the lot behind Tague Lumber as-is
- GIS layer maps showing parks paye
- On State between Radnor and Manchester so something that won't raise taxes
- Beautify gateways and intersections with native perennials
- Build a rentable space to generate revenue
- Permanent protection of Broomall's tract
- Stop reconstruction of Broomall's Dam
- Save the Strine tract at 300 East State Street (2)
- Create town signage for Green Spaces
- Establish dedicated funding for parks and open space
- Games (2): How to create games to get people into the parks such as Scavenger hunt, "passports", geocaching
- ME2
- WAWA curve
- Community involvement
- Invasive plant control with education of the public about it



CONCEPT IMAGE
100 E. STATE ST.
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

JUNE 2018
LINN ARCHITECTS
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Overview of Open, **Green** Space at 300 East State Street

Location/Description of Tract

The open, **green** space located at 300 East State Street is bounded by State Street (North), Manchester Avenue (East), Radnor Street (West), and Baker Street (South). The tract of land occupies an entire city block. The tract is .095 acres (4,125 square feet). Up to a dozen mature trees are located on a grassy area that is a perfect setting for a “town park.” The tract is located directly opposite from a block of row homes on East State Street.

Owner of the Tract

The tract is owned by Commonwealth Real Estate Investors (CREI), which is a subsidiary of Media Real Estate, owned by William Strine.

Plan for Development/Legal Stipulation

In 2016, Media Borough Council approved a “reverse subdivision/land development plan” for CREI to build a 23-unit apartment complex on the tract at 300 East State Street. A “reverse subdivision” approval was required because the tract was originally divided into five separate parcels and the developer needed to unify it into a single parcel to build an apartment complex.

This project has a complicated history that makes stopping development even more daunting. CREI first submitted its request for a “reverse subdivision/land development plan” to the Borough in 2003 and that request was denied. When the Borough also denied second request for a reverse subdivision in 2004, CREI filed a lawsuit in the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County. That lawsuit was resolved by a negotiated legal Stipulation between the Borough and CREI in 2006. The Borough agreed to approve the land development application in exchange for requiring CREI to fulfill certain conditions related to design, parking, tenant use, etc.

Keep Media Green’s Vision for 300 East State Street

Keep Media Green is seeking ways to stop the development of a 23-unit apartment complex at 300 East State Street and to establish a “town park” that would be an asset for the neighborhood and the entire community.

Challenges, Opportunities, and Determination

Due to the existing legal Stipulation and the approved land use application, the options for stopping the project through political and/or legal strategies would seem to be limited. However, **Keep Media Green** is in the process of exploring those options. We’re also aware that, sometimes, carrots work better than sticks. As a first step, **Keep Media Green** has reached to reach out to the owner to explore if they may be interested in selling or donating the property to the Borough for the purpose of establishing a park. Bottom line, **Keep Media Green** is determined to do everything possible to save the open, **green** space at 300 East State Street.

KEEP MEDIA GREEN

DEFENDING OPEN SPACE & THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Broomall's Dam Reconstruction 101

The issue of the reconstruction of Broomall's Dam at the northern edge of Glen Providence Park in Media is extremely complicated. Understanding the issue requires taking some time to read about the history of the Broomall's dam, Broomall's Lake Country Club, and Glen Providence Park. It also requires understanding of the decades-long legal dispute over dam ownership between Broomall's Lake Country Club, Delaware County, and Media Borough. Lastly, it is important to understand the environmental and public safety consequences of high hazard dams such as the one being proposed for reconstruction in Media.

You can read an excellent and comprehensive history and explanation of the issue on the website of the Friends of Glen Providence Park: <http://glenprovidencepark.org/3rd-street-bridge-dam>

Here is some basic information that will introduce you to the Broomall's dam issue.

- ➔ A dam was built in 1883 on the Media property of Judge John Broomall and a road was created on the top of Broomall's dam.
- ➔ Broomall's property was eventually sold and divided. Today, Delaware County's 33-acre Glen Providence Park is located south of the original dam and the private 12-acre Broomall's Lake Country Club (BLCC) is located north of the original dam. The road on top of the dam evolved into Third Street, which connected Media and Upper Providence. Media Borough took ownership of and responsibility for Third Street. **None of the three entities ever claimed or accepted ownership of the dam.**
- ➔ In 1980, the Army Corp of Engineers found the dam to be in an "unsafe condition" and recommended immediate action to repair the structure. Because no entity accepted ownership of the dam, no action was ever taken.
- ➔ In 1996, Media Borough closed Third Street to automobile traffic out of safety concerns. The road has remained closed for over 20 years.
- ➔ A legal dispute over dam ownership resulted in paralysis, and the dam continued to deteriorate over the next 15 years and Third Street remained closed. BLCC and Delaware County were strong allies in this legal dispute, claiming that Media Borough owned the dam. Media Borough claimed that Broomall's Lake Country Club and Delaware County owned the dam. The legal battle dragged on for more than a decade.
- ➔ In the summer of 2010, a coalition of two Republicans and two Democrats took control of Media Borough Council by electing **Pete Alyanakian (R) as Borough Council President and forming a voting majority.**
- ➔ In May of 2011, the legal dispute was seemingly resolved when the Media Borough Council signed a three-party stipulation with Delaware County and BLCC, indicating that the Borough would assume responsibility for funding and managing the reconstruction of the dam while BLCC and the County would share the long-term responsibility and the costs of future dam maintenance. The Borough also assumed long-term responsibility for the roadway. **Ownership of the dam was NOT determined by this legal stipulation. This was considered an artful legal maneuver but it was an extremely bad deal for current and future Media taxpayers.**
- ➔ It's a complicated story, but the bottom line is that funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT's) Local Bridge Program were assigned to cover 80% of the cost of repairing the dam and reestablishing the roadway. Local matching funds were required to cover the other 20% of the project's cost. In 2011, State Senator Dominic Pileggi secured a state grant for Media that covered a significant portion of the local matching funds.

- The local dynamics of the dam issue shifted dramatically in 2011 when the Friends of Glen Providence Park was formed and learned that reconstructing the high hazard dam would damage 1.1 acres of the public park and posed a serious **long-term threat to the park and public safety** in the event of a dam failure. The conflict between public **versus private interests emerged as people realized that \$4 million of taxpayer funds would be spent to build a dam that would damage a public park so that a private County Country Club could keep its lake.** Also, more than 500 media residents signed a petition calling for the establishment of a pedestrian-bicycle only “greenway” instead of an automobile road. Public sentiment turned against the dam/automobile road project.



Engineers' rendering of reconstructed dam
Note the grassy berm in lieu of existing woods/wetlands



Media and Upper Providence could be reconnected by a bicycle and pedestrian-only bridge

- A public survey of Media residents was conducted in 2012. A solid majority of respondents opposed reconstruction of the dam and a slim majority favored a pedestrian-bicycle only “greenway.” **The Friends of Glen Providence Park took a public position calling for dam removal rather than reconstruction.**
- Although there have been many twists and turns in this saga since 2012, the current situation is that the Pennsylvania Department of Environment Protection has completed a partial breach of the old, deteriorated dam that eliminated the immediate threat to public safety and the park’s environment. As a result of the partial breach, Broomall’s lake has disappeared, the stream has been restored, and a grassy meadow has been established on the property of BLCC.
- However, the 2011 legal agreement between the three parties is still in place, and that agreement mandates that a high-hazard dam **MUST** be reconstructed and a two-lane automobile roadway be reestablished atop the dam.
- It defies common sense, **but the plan goes forward to build a \$4 million dam that no party is willing to own!** However, the ownership issue is not completely settled. In order to secure a **DEP dam construction permit**, Pennsylvania law requires that one or more of the parties **MUST sign the ownership line of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP)**. The EAP is a document that establishes the OWNER’S responsibility for public safety in the event of a dam failure. At this point, none of the parties has agreed to sign as owner on the EAP form, but DEP has stated that it considers Delaware County and Broomall’s Lake Country Club to be the owners. The draft EAP, developed by Schnabel Engineering Company, has identified Delaware County and Broomall’s Lake Country Club as the owners on the document’s ownership signature line.
- Here are some questions we hope you clear thinking residents of Media Borough and Delaware County will consider:
 1. Why is Delaware County party to an agreement to **build a high-hazard dam that will damage a segment of the largest and most-used park in town** and create a long-term threat to the park’s environment and safety of park users?
 2. Why should Delaware County **placing the interest of a private Country Club over the public interest of preserving the environmental integrity of our park?**
 3. Are you aware that **the majority of residents in Media oppose the reconstruction of a high-hazard dam?**
 4. **Is it really in the interest of Delaware County’s taxpayers for the County to assume ownership and financial liability for a high-hazard dam** that could result in loss of life and environmental catastrophe in the event of dam failure?
 5. Has the County ever conducted a **cost estimate related to a catastrophic dam failure?**
 6. Has the **Country Club shared its financial statements** with the County, providing **assurance that it is a reliable partner** for co-owning a high hazard dam?
 7. Are the County’s attorneys aware that **signing the ownership line of the Emergency Action Plan will establish Delaware County as an owner** of the Broomall’s dam?
 8. Are the Borough’s and County’s attorneys aware that **recent legal rulings** have established that the **PA Environmental Rights Amendment (ERA)** requires municipalities to **prioritize environmental stewardship of public lands** over other considerations?
 9. Does it make sense to establish a joint County-Borough-Club-Community **stakeholder’s committee** to **reexamine the stipulation** and to study **alternatives to dam reconstruction** that could preserve the park while still resulting in a positive outcome for Broomall’s Lake Country Club, Media Borough, and Delaware County?

Media Open Space, Parks and Recreation Plan
Homework Assignment Report
INTERVIEWS
May 21, 2020

1. Please list the names of five people or organizations that you think should be interviewed for this plan. If you have a contact number, or email, that would help us out a lot. No worries if you don't.

Name/Organization	Comment
1. Anne Marie Doordan	
2. Vince Walsh	
3. Jerilyn Fischer Young	
4. Marc Manfre, Delco P&R	
5. Don Jackson, Media Tree Warden	
6. Ralph DeRosa, Head of Public Works	
7. Linda Hill, Delco PC Head	
8. Note—most of those I want you to talk to are already on the Committee	
9. Scott Wittman	
10. Megan and Debbie Armor	
11. Any minority groups within the borough	
12. Dawn Ridgley	
13. Second Baptist Church of Media, Pastor Warren Mays,	
14. Eco Groovy Gardens, Donna Cusano,	
15. Friends of Glen Providence Park, Marcia Tate	
16. Transition Town Media, Sari Steuber	
17. Keep Media Green, Robin Lasersohn	

Media Open Space, Parks and Recreation Plan
Homework Assignment Report
PUBLIC OPINION CONSIDERATIONS
May 21, 2020

What are five things you'd like to know from the public about open space, parks, and recreation? You can seek new information or try to confirm something you've been thinking. Don't wordsmith questions – just think about what you'd like to know. Consider open space, natural resources, parks, recreation facilities, programs, services, communication, information, level of support, maintenance, budgeting, anything at all that makes open space, parks and recreation work.

Parks and Land	
1.	What amenities do / don't you want in a greenspace / park?
2.	Do you use existing Borough parks?
3.	Would you support acquiring more greenspace / parks inside the Borough?
4.	Any concerns about existing parks we can take into consideration?
5.	How comfortable would you be if a pocket park or similar small open space/recreation area was built adjacent to your property where you reside?
6.	Would you like the Borough to create another civic space on State Street by improving the grounds of the Armory?
7.	If you could only pick one, would you rather see more parkland or a connecting road at the former Third Street dam at the corner of Third and West Streets?
8.	If there was a small seating park near your house, do you think you would visit it regularly, and what would you like to see in it?
9.	Describe a community park that was very memorable to you—what was it that made it so?
Open Space and Environment	
10.	How important is it to you that open space have a function/serve people rather than just be left to go wild/returned to nature?
11.	Do you think environmental protection should be part of any open space plan or parks / recreation plan?

12. Do you think certain open areas should be limited to use by borough residents only?
13. Does the public understand all the legislative and regulatory tools available to Media Borough to preserve open space? Examples include environmental legislation, land acquisition, conservation easement purchases, use of eminent domain, and employing zoning strategies to restrict commercial and housing development.
14. Does the public have access to an inventory of all public and private land in Media Borough that is currently open space and do they have information on the status of each property (e.g. ownership, legal stipulations, development plans, and zoning designation).
15. Does the public understand Borough Council's current position on the reconstruction of Broomall's dam?
16. Does the public understand Borough Council's current position on preserving the Broomall's tract as open space?
Financial Support
17. Are you willing to pay more in income taxes to support the borough buying property for any/all of following, and how do you rank them in terms of willingness to pay more income tax? Parks, open space left to go wild, active recreation areas (playgrounds, basketball courts).
18. Does the public understand what Borough Council's current plan is for funding open space acquisition and maintenance?
19. Is it worth it to you to pay a little more in real estate taxes if that extra money was used to support increasing park improvements and recreational programming? Would you be willing to pay \$30/year, more, less?

Media Open Space, Parks and Recreation Plan
Homework Assignment Report
TRENDS
May 21, 2020

What five trends do you think could affect open space, parks and recreation in Media over the next ten years?

Trends
Pandemic
1. COVID-19 has changed public perception of parks, but we don't yet know how permanent that is or what the actual new perception is. But a likely result is greater use and requests for improvements.
2. The high demand for buildable lots in Media causes high prices and sellers would be less likely to sell to a municipality or lands trust.
3. If work from home arrangements that resulted from COVID-19 stay permanent, more people spending more time at home and looking for recreation opportunities mid-day as well as after work in borough.
4. The plan by Broomall's Lake Country Club to build 16 housing units on the 12-acre Broomall's tract, located immediately adjacent to Glen Providence Park, represents the most pressing threat to open, green space in Media. The Broomall's tract is largest piece of unprotected open space remaining in Media and, together with Glen Providence Park, forms a 45-acre green belt on the Western border of Media. The Broomall's tract is currently zoned R-2/R-3, which allows for housing development.
Development Pressures and Impacts
5. Aggressive real estate development
6. Media is steadily getting more affluent due to its attractive infrastructure. It is also getting younger, with two-income parents of young children making up a large part of what I see. They will want high-quality recreational offerings for young and teenage children as their children age. They also all seem to own dogs.
7. Media is a hot spot for new development, which seeks to develop the remaining underdeveloped properties. It would be even more so if Media Real Estate Co. did not control so much of the underdeveloped ground in town. It is slow to develop these as it enjoys good cash flow from existing buildings. Should it change it's business model, we could see a lot of new dense development proposals. New civic spaces could be created via these developments if our zoning requires same.

<p>8. Influx of residents with a lot of disposable income and less progressively minded than current residents. More interested in defending private property than public access to land.</p>
<p>9. The approved plan to build a 23-unit apartment building on the Strine tract, located at 300 East State Street, would result in the loss of 1-acre green space at the gateway to Media's downtown business district. This tract is the perfect location for a signature town park that would greatly enhance the quality of life for residents of and visitors to Media.</p>
<p>Support</p>
<p>10. The changing political makeup of Delco and Borough Councils</p>
<p>11. Funding for greenspace projects at all levels of government</p>
<p>12. Delaware County Council recently established an Open Space Fund to assist municipalities with acquiring and maintaining land for parks and open space. The new County Council is the most open space-friendly Council in history. Their funding model can be replicated by the Borough and also leveraged for open space preservation.</p>
<p>13. Media does not have a dedicated open space fund for acquisition or maintenance (but we have more than \$5m in the bank and little debt). Nor does it have in-house expertise in horticulture and landscaping. The Shade Tree Commission provides oversight of tree plantings and some horticultural advice through our contracted Tree Warden, but an aggressive increase in park assets would be problematic in finance and maintenance without some rearranging of resources and staff.</p>
<p>14. For the last 30 years, Media Borough Council, the Planning Commission, and the Zoning Hearing Board have had a deep-rooted bias favoring wealthy developers over open space advocates. An open space preservation movement of Media residents is growing stronger and this movement represents the most hopeful trend for saving the quality of life in the Borough.</p>
<p>Parks and Facilities</p>
<p>15. Interpretive/educational signage suffers compared to electronic messages for ease of updating. I see too many badly designed, out of date sign throughout Media. I'd like a better approach.</p>
<p>16. Increased vehicular traffic on PA 352 and other roads leading to Ridley Creek State Park could cause borough residents to want more park space within borough limits.</p>
<p>17. The proposed reconstruction of Broomall's dam would result in damaging a 1.1-acre section of Glen Providence Park, require downing 70 mature trees, and would destroy wetlands. A dam failure poses a long-term environmental threat to the park's entire creek valley and an ongoing threat to public safety.</p>

