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Anderson Twp. residents question part of park plan

By Lisa Wakeland
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Anderson Township residents who live near Johnson Hills Park are concerned about a few of the development proposals.

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The Anderson Township Park District is working on a long-term plan for Johnson Hills Park, off Little Dry Run and Bridle roads, that includes disc golf, a fishing lake, trails, a tent camping area and other amenities.

Park commissioners have also discussed transforming the Moorman House into a historic homestead or minifarm with vegetable gardens and livestock.

So far, the majority of resident feedback has been positive - except on potential plans for the Moorman House, an 18th-century home on the northern end of the park.

Residents who live near the Moorman House have rated that as the least appealing feature of the Johnson Hills Park development plans due to its proximity to the homes.

"The proposed farm with livestock is a great concern due to the possible odor that comes with livestock," resident Karen D'Agostino, who lives on Crooked Stick Court, wrote on a feedback form.

D'Agostino said a significant buffer between the Moorman House and the residences is needed.

Another concern is an entrance and small parking lot off Crooked Stick Court, as well as a connector road from the main entrance on Bridle Road to the northern entrance of the park.

Gregory Fermann, who also lives on Crooked Stick Court, commented that the proposed connector road "will necessarily increase traffic through the Crooked Stick entrance and pose an imminent threat to the safety of children and pedestrians in the neighborhood."

Ken Kushner, executive director for the park district, said there needs to be access to the Moorman House for safety, as requested by the township fire department, and the park proposal is still in its preliminary stages.

"We'll look at the plans and come up with the best possible scenario for a win-win situation," he said.

"We have to leave options and opportunities for future park staff and (township) residents to make the park what they want to make it."

The park commissioners will review and discuss feedback from residents at the next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13.

Additional Facts

Meeting

The Anderson Township Park District Board of Park Commissioners will discuss resident feedback on the Johnson Hills Park development plans at the next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, at park district headquarters in Juilfs Park, 8249 Clough Pike.
