

## 19<sup>th</sup> and Lamont Community Meeting – Chat Recap

May 21, 2020

*\*Answers in blue italics*

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1. There is a long running discussion in the neighborhood about the dimensions of the park. The ROW maps do not show parking distributed to the adjoining properties. Can you clarify where that question stands?
  - *The project team had the entire area surveyed from the perimeter of 1900 Lamont all the way to the residential area to the north. They have submitted that information to DDOT (DDOT remains the property owner) for feedback on where exactly the property boundaries are located. We should have clarification by our next community meeting in July 2020.*
2. I would like to state my support for going beyond the minimum to create a space for children, including slides built in to the hillside and a swing set on the flat part (or similar equipment for kids).
  - *Thank you for the feedback.*
3. There are trash barrels in the park by my house at 17th and Lamont. They are often overflowing. In the smaller space we are discussing I think they would not work well.
  - *Thank you for the feedback.*
4. I just want to echo that one of our primary concerns is safety. Parks with a lot of tables and structures tend to become areas where people convene to hang out at night and also leave trash. Even during the day we've increasingly seen criminal activity in the neighboring alley. I'm concerned that this will make it more unsafe for residents who live in the immediate vicinity. How do you plan to address these concerns?
  - *Typical strategies to address safety in park systems can include (final decisions TBD based on community input): installation of security cameras, adequate lighting, clear lines of sight so that MPD and others have clear views into the space, and a perimeter fence around the space that is closed and locked consistently.*
5. Has there been any discussion of creating a rain garden using the natural slope?
  - *Yes.*
6. Where are we with the timeline? Is this project still slated to be completed by fall 2020?
  - *Community Meeting to Review (3) Concept Designs (Early July 2020)*
  - *Community Meeting to Review (1) Schematic Design (Late Sept 2020)*
  - *Community Meeting to Review Final Design (Fall 2020)*
  - *Construction Kickoff (March 2021)*
  - *Construction Completion (September 2021)*
7. Additionally, what happened with the mediation process that was discussed last march?
  - *Last March, we discussed the strategy of hosting a community design meeting in the space so that people could work together and collaboratively to come up with design solutions. This has proven effective to help people of opposing views be able to*

*empathize with those of differing viewpoints. Due to the current health emergency, we don't believe this type of meeting can occur, so our new process will be about finding a happy medium between what preferences the community has expressed and the reality of working with an unusual space.*

8. Regardless of any of the proposed changes, will you keep the walk through (steps) through the park?
  - *Yes, the steps will remain.*
9. Will the lighting remain the same?
  - *The project team will work with the community to determine the preferred lighting strategy.*
10. Has there been any consideration of the plot as a community garden with raised beds? We were on the waiting list for a community garden plot on Euclid Street for 4-6 years; it seems to be an unmet need in the District. As in, there's not enough capacity in the currently existing community gardens.
  - *There was some interest in community garden plots at 19<sup>th</sup> and Lamont, but it wasn't a top priority from those who took the survey. Please email Brent Sisco at [brent.sisco@dc.gov](mailto:brent.sisco@dc.gov) for assistance with community garden plots.*
11. Generally, people tend to park in front of the fence on the westerly side of the parcel--will those spots become formalized or likely disappear?
  - *The street isn't a part of the scope of the current project.*
12. Can you help us understand the goals and limitations that might come with ADA requirements? I very much appreciate those desires. But I've wondered whether the slope would require switchbacks that could really hamper the natural feel and require more cement than desired. Are there thoughts of we balance two important goals?
  - *The project team would like to provide ADA access to as much of the space as possible, but given the site constraints and topography, it's extremely unlikely that the entire space can be ADA accessible. We will continue to work with the community to find a good balance of accessible locations while not destroying the natural feel of the space.*
13. How can we ensure that trash cans are checked / emptied regularly? Whose responsibility is this?
  - *If there are trash receptacles in the space, trash collection will be provided by the Department of Public Works (DPW).*
14. There used to be fencing. It was ugly and always damaged. It is much nicer open. Let's not ruin the visage with fencing.
  - *Thank you for the feedback.*
15. FYI, there is a great exercise group that meets at the park currently. Hope some open space remains for this and other informal uses of the space.
  - *Thank you for the feedback.*
16. Residents of 1900 Lamont would not want bright lighting at night. The lighting should keep with character of surrounding streets.
  - *Thank you for the feedback.*

17. Related to ADA: the 19th street side of the park is level with the sidewalk, which would allow a large segment of the park to be ADA accessible without causing the problems that were previously described.
- *That's correct – thank you.*
18. Will this graphic be made available after the presentation?
- *Yes, all materials related to this project will be posted to the project website.*
19. So blue [in the site analysis map – slide # 27] just means that it is flat enough to install something?
- *That is correct.*
20. There isn't much blue area. How was it determined that the trees marked "to be saved" are a priority, given the extent that they restrict the other options for the space?
- *The project team visited the site with members of the District's Urban Forestry Division (UFD), the agency responsible for the health of trees in DC. The trees "to be saved" are those deemed by UFD to be in good condition.*
21. Amenity = Development? Other areas not accessible to people?
- *The entire space will be accessible to people. Amenity areas as indicated by the blue colors [in the site analysis map – slide # 27] are locations where the grade is flat enough for a physical element (bench, slide, picnic table, etc.) to be located.*
22. How will the water collection minimize mosquito habitats? Standing water = mosquito heaven.
- *Mosquitoes generally need 10 to 14 days to develop in standing water. The project team will work collaboratively with the District Department of Energy and Environment to create stormwater management systems that allow water to percolate into the soil within 72 hours.*
23. Has terracing been considered to flatten areas and remove the need for storm water collection?
- *Yes.*
24. I understand that no decision has been reached on the property dimensions, and thank you for addressing that earlier. But as these maps do not show areas in dispute, can you specify what boundaries they do use?
- *The survey team used 1900 Lamont as the southern boundary, the residence to the north as the northern boundary, 19<sup>th</sup> Street as the eastern boundary, and the alley at the bottom of the steps as the western boundary.*
25. Must there be a wall on the western side? No entrance except existing sidewalk?
- *This issue will continue to be studied as the project progresses.*
26. These photos are all of larger spaces. Any examples of small spots?
- *The photos displayed in the "Precedent Imagery" [slides 29-38] did include a range of large and small scale amenities.*
27. How can Mt Pleasant residents submit proposals at this juncture, or at least give suggestions for design?
- *The May 21<sup>st</sup> community meeting was meant to be more of an informational session, but future community meeting will be more interactive where the project team will be actively looking for community feedback on design.*

28. Once we see where some elements could fit, such as a slide or natural play area, can we revisit the choice of which style of that type, for example, if there will be a slide, can we select the kind once we see where it will go?
- *Yes, the project team would like community feedback on specific equipment and materials as the design progresses.*
29. What is a heritage tree?
- *Heritage trees are those trees with a circumference of 100 inches or more. Pursuant to D.C. Code § 8-651.04a, it is illegal to “top, cut down, remove, girdle, break, or destroy any Heritage Tree” without a permit issued by the Mayor.*
30. The western edge could be as accessible as the east, right?
- *The eastern edge of the property is aligned with the existing sidewalk and is much easier to make ADA accessible. The western edge is already a few feet above the lower alley grade, making it more difficult to bring into ADA compliance. The project team can further explore ADA accessibility in the park as the process continues.*
31. Will the fence at least go away on the west?
- *That is still to be determined by community input and further discussion.*
32. Can smaller items like boulders for seating be placed in closer proximity to the trees?
- *Yes.*
33. Can we hear what some ideas are for the western wall area? Ex., post-fence removal (assuming removal)?
- *Specific ideas related to the site and designs will be presented at the upcoming community meeting in July.*
34. Also re: stuff close to the trees: Can the embankment slides be put into the non-blue areas?
- *The top (entry) and bottom (exit) of the slide would need to be located in a blue area, but the slide chute could be located in a non-blue area.*
35. Can you clarify once more what \*can\* be put over the utility area that runs down the middle of the parcel?
- *We are still working with DC Water to clarify what exactly can span over the existing utilities. As of now, anything that doesn't require a concrete footing is an option.*
36. What about dogs in the park?
- *Dogs are allowed in DC parks as long as they remain on a leash.*
37. How protected is the construction budget? When in the timeline is the construction firm going to be hired? How do we prevent that process from creating another huge delay?
- *The construction budget is tied to the entire project budget. DGS has already started the process of putting together a solicitation for a General Contractor in order to prevent delays in the construction process.*
38. I joined late, was there any discussion about acoustics in relation to the apartment building? The existing concrete walls act as a bit of echo chamber and amplifier for conversations that can funnel up to building residents.

- *Yes, noise concerns ranked high in priority voting. The project team is very mindful that 1900 Lamont sits directly adjacent to the space and methods to buffer sound will be included within any design of the space.*

39. I don't remember when I received my postcard mailing, but was the survey available in Spanish as well?

- *Yes, the survey is available in Spanish. To receive a copy, please contact Brent Sisco at [brent.sisco@dc.gov](mailto:brent.sisco@dc.gov)*