

DPR/DGS response to ANC3C's September 2017 Hearst resolution

This email is in response Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C's Resolution Number 2017-021 regarding DC Department of Parks and DGS Department of General Services (DGS) plan to build a Ward 3 Outdoor Swimming Pool on the grounds of the Hearst Field as part of the Hearst Park and improvement Project

1. Urges that before pool site selection is finalized, DPR consider the placement that preserves existing recreational functions and is large enough to accommodate parking, landscaping, sanitary facilities, and maintenance while minimizing impact on the community;

DPR is committed to working with the community to preserve the existing recreational amenities at Hearst Park. Please note that at this point of the project the only recreational amenity that may be effected is a reduction in the tennis courts from three (3) to two (2) courts. The community has not expressed any major concerns over this reduction, to date.

The renovations to the park, which includes the proposed pool is expected to pull more local community members that more than likely will walk or bike to the site, which is common at DPR modernized sites.

2. Urges that before any budgeted funds are spent on pool construction, DGS and DPR complete thorough geologic and hydrologic studies, a study of heritage trees and report on how to address potential impacts of construction and site selection of park amenities given tree locations, and a traffic and parking study;

The existing Hearst Pool and Park Project budget allows for funding for civil and structural engineering studies, environmental impact studies, tree assessments, traffic studies, etc.

The selected Architects, Cox Graae + Spack (CGS) for the Hearst Park and Pool project have the experience, expertise, and knowledge necessary for the development of preliminary concepts that are not likely to significantly impact Hearst's trees.

To identify specific tree impacts related to each of the proposed pool concepts, detailed civil and structural engineering drawings would be required for each concept; such detail will be completed when a final concept is chosen.

An arborist, working under the auspices of Cox Graae + Spack, CGS, has surveyed and evaluated trees located within Hearst Park.

DDOT's Urban Forestry has also completed a preliminary review of the trees. UFA's review provides an added layer of review and transparency for this project.

All of the tree reports are on DGS' website:

<https://dgs.dc.gov/page/hearst-park-and-pool-improvement-project>

The DGS and DPR project team has and will continue to engage our partners at the District's Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) regarding stormwater management concerns at Hearst Park. This project will meet all of DOEE's requirements.

3. Urges that said studies be promptly completed and presented to the community; and

All appropriate reports related to the Hearst Park and Pool project are posted on the Hearst Page of the DGS website. Report results are also presented at community meetings held by DPR and DGS.

Below is a link to the DGS Hearst webpage:

<https://dgs.dc.gov/page/hearst-park-and-pool-improvement-project>

4. Urges that DPR conduct a community meeting in which the city- and community-hired arborists and Urban Forestry Division discuss the results of their respective studies and resulting assessment of the Hearst Park trees in relation to the site location of the pool and park amenities.
DPR will conduct a community meeting with DGS, DDOT and the arborists who conducted the tree studies. ANC3C will be advised of the date, location and time of the meeting.