



## MEETING NOTES

DATE: September 15, 2014

PROJECT NAME: Lafayette Playground Renovation

PROJECT #: 2014032

MEETING LOCATION: Lafayette Elementary School

PURPOSE: Pre-Construction Community Meeting

SUBMITTED BY: Susan England, LandDesign

### ATTENDEES:

Kenny Diggs, DGS

Ella Faulkner, DPR

Shahrokh Ghahramani, DGS

Anita Butani, HRGM

Rachna Butani Bhatt, HRGM

Olivia Herrera, HRGM

Susan England, LandDesign

Lisa Biddle, LandDesign

Community Members (See Sign-In Sheet)

### MEETING NOTES:

DGS introduced the meeting purpose, the team, agenda and meeting procedures. DGS, HRGM, and LandDesign then presented the progress designs to date as well as information on the construction timeline and information. DGS then opened the floor to questions and input from the community on the design and construction. Following is the record of that input.

- Park Rules Signs - Will there be a "dogs on leash" and a "no dogs allowed in play spaces" sign? (DGS Response: Yes)
- Play Equipment – Can there be a zip line? Can the play equipment buckets be removed? Can there be a handicap accessible swing? (DGS Response: No room on site of zip line; team will look into alternative for buckets and handicap accessible swing)
- Concern about construction trucks damaging trees, especially cherry trees
- Lighting – community member requested another meeting with FOLP to discuss lighting options
- Can the tot lot be re-oriented closer to the existing Recreation Center?
- Where is the fitness equipment located? Will the benches and games remain? (DGS Response: Fitness equipment is located in the asphalt area between the tennis courts and basketball courts; benches and games will be replaced in place)
- Concern that the four existing trees at the tennis court are a nuisance, dangerous and shed lots of debris; request to check condition of trees with arborist
- Will there be wood chips in the splash pad? (DGS Response: No)
- Request for better instructions and maintenance on how to operate the splash pad water feature
- How long is the water feature timer operational for? (DGS Response: Water feature is active from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 9am-4pm, timer runs for 15 minutes then shuts off – see DGS/DPR websites for information on day operational)
- Request for signs in multiple languages (especially Spanish)
- Request for electronic bollards to be included instead of key and pad lock removable bollards
- Play equipment – kids like rings to play on, develops upper body strength – can rings be incorporated in this design?
- Adult fitness equipment – request to move it closer to the kids play areas so parents can exercise near children
- Construction parking a concern, especially any vehicles parked on oval open space damaging tree roots (DGS Response: Builders will keep trucks parked on paved surfaces, and any lawn that is damaged as part of the construction will be re-seeded and strawed)
- Upper field lawn – will it be restored? (DGS Response: yes, it will be aerated and re-seeded in this project; any damage to the lawn during the school modernization will be restored as part of the school project)
- Traffic along walkway with cherry trees a concern
- Why is the pathway being widened along the service drive to the school? Can this be addressed in the school modernization?
- Will the existing Recreation Center be open during the construction? (DGS Response: DGS is coordinating with the school to temporarily house the Rec Center activities within the school during playground construction)



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- Lighting a concern, especially visibility around the Rec Center, basketball, and tennis courts, and especially during winter months (DGS Response: lighting is an on-going discussion, no lights will be added in this project, continued conversation with ANC lighting task force and FOLP and community)
- What is the surface of the oval path? (DGS Response: team is looking into pervious asphalt as surface)
- Construction schedule – how does it coordinate with plantings during the winter months
- Do the “park closes at dark” signs remain? (DGS Response: yes)
- Gardens – who will be in charge of maintaining the new gardens (like rain gardens), concern about maintenance
- Construction Route – Broad Branch and Northhampton have heavy foot traffic, can there be an alternative route? (DGS Response: the construction truck route may be adjusted during the project as needed)
- Comment that cars driving too fast in alley, blind corner is dangerous. Can there be signs? Can only residents be allowed access to the alley? Can there be a speed bump added (DGS Response: will work to request more signs from DPW for alley; alley is DDOT jurisdiction)
- Play equipment – tea cups are not currently used; spinner bowls look like similar style, don’t think they will be used
- What does “repair” lights mean? Is it a different design? (DGS Response: lights will be fixed as part of this project, on-going discussion with ANC Lighting Task Force will look at alternative designs for the lights)
- General comment: the ANC Task Force on Lighting is open to the public and anyone can attend
- Where are the game tables? (DGS Response: They will be replaced in place, between basketball and tennis courts)
- Service drive widening – part of the school discussion too, has been a controversial issue with the community in the past when it was already widened a few years ago
- Can the bike “u” loop be changed to the squiggly “m” shape to prevent children from swinging on them?
- Construction fencing along 33<sup>rd</sup> St – Can it be shorter length? (DGS: Will review with contractor)
- Is the permeable asphalt surface smooth? (DGS Response: yes)
- Concern about amount of dump trucks coming through space (DGS Response: construction timeline is short, so limited dump trucks will be at the site)
- Request to give the Lafayette gardeners the arborists telephone number
- Can the tot lot remain in place in addition to the new tot lot at the upper field? Multipurpose lawn is redundant
- Construction parking – concern about parking within the park limits
- Tree protection fencing a concern; is it possible to fence around the entire dripline of the tree?
- Consider further traffic analysis of service drive use to school before widening the pathway; attempt to modify behavior first as well
- Upper ball field will be irrigated
- Can tennis court “mini-lines” be added to the painted games asphalt area?
- Why is the trike track located in the asphalt area between the courts; concern that this is not a “tot” friendly area, is more used by bigger kids
- Asphalt seal coating – request for an alternative color to black
- Concern that fence height of 3’ is too short at tot lot
- Splash pad – the current surface is slick and has algae, are there alternative surfacing options? (DGS Response: the current design calls for a colored concrete for the surface of the splash pad)
- Splash pad – Can a removable rubberized surface be used on top of the concrete splash pad during the summer season?
- Can the Washington Episcopal Home be used as a parking lot alternative for construction workers?
- Who is the construction supervisor? (DGS Response: contact Kenny Diggs with DGS with any questions or concerns during construction on site – DO NOT contact construction workers)
- Where are water fountains located? (DGS Response: There will be three water fountains located within this project; 1 – replaced in place near the Rec Center; 2- replace in place with dog bowl attachment near gazebo; 3- a new water fountain will be located near the new tot lot)
- Can the water fountain at the baseball fields be included too? (DGS Response: the water fountain at the ball field is outside this project’s scope, will work to coordinate replacement with school modernization)
- General note: Construction and construction fencing will begin on September 22<sup>nd</sup>
- General note: Request to keep ANC in the loop during design and construction process
- Request to notify Lafayette Elementary School administration and parents about student drop-off and pick-up procedures



LandDesign.



## MEETING NOTES

during the playground construction

- Request to add "No Parking" signs in alley (DGS Response: DDOT coordination needed)

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*These notes reflect the author's interpretation of the events at the referenced meeting. Any changes or additions required should be submitted to the author in writing.*