

MEETING NOTES

DATE: 6/9/2014

PROJECT NAME: Lafayette Playground

PROJECT #: 2014027

MEETING LOCATION: Lafayette Elementary School

PURPOSE: Initial Concept Design Presentation

SUBMITTED BY: Susan England, LandDesign

ATTENDEES: Ella Faulkner, DPR  
Shahrokh Ghahramani, DGS  
Stephanie Pankiewicz, LDI  
Community Members (see sign-in sheet)

Kenny Diggs, DGS  
James Partlow, DGS  
Susan England, LDI

MEETING NOTES:

Kenny Diggs introduced the meeting purpose, the team, and the agenda and meeting procedures. LandDesign then presented the concept plans, followed by community comment period. Following are the notes of those comments:

- Access to 2-5 issue: need to keep at Rec. Center so close to restrooms and not far to walk
- There will be no lights added – park closes at dusk
- Intrigued by separating 5 year olds from 6 year olds, why should they be divided that way?
- Keep vermin from the park- use covered trash cans
- Existing berm/mound – was installed to separate dogs & kids
- There are existing storm water management tanks underground
- Pathways need to be pervious, attractive, and support SWM/erosion control efforts
- Budget – how is \$1.5m going to be applied in current construction plans?
- Proposed lawn area (adjacent Rec. Center, Rock Creek Concept) – better location for future expansion
- Basketball court is a nuisance (noisy, lights)
- Tennis backboard – noise is beyond permissible levels (ANC rejected this idea before)
- Lights too bright around Rec. Center- want LED
- Co-locating tot lots/older kids is great idea for parents with children of different ages
- No metal slides- are too hot
- Existing trees – how to protect those at risk during construction?
- Put in nice canopy trees (not just small ornamental or small sizes)
- Meadow concept – proposed stairs are more danger than ramp (from Rec Center to field)
- Baseball field – soil condition and impact of school project and trailers on field
- Don't agree with doing the park construction first
- ANC comment – main roadway into park, should it wait until school is complete?
- Any research on kids around wet rocks?
- Plans are lovely, but want to keep gate between Rec. Center and tot-lot in the Native Meadow Concept
- Plantings – DGS only cuts grass- can't maintain gardens
- Regarding the playground next to tennis courts- trees drop leaves, mess up surface – would just prefer pavilion – all weather surfaces
- Compliment plans and team enthusiasm
- Don't want colorful objects spread out all over the park (detracts from natural, serene appeal); don't want park full of furniture (existing benches are rarely used now)

## MEETING NOTES

- Can \$1.5m be used to update Rec. Center?
- New pavilion needs to be centrally located near Rec. Center
- Is alley portion part of the park?
- Maintenance of native plants and rain gardens – concern about long term maintenance but if installed want educational signs
- Expanded Rec. Center near houses not desirable
- Appreciate that feedback from last meeting was included in the concept designs
- Kids love experiential learning – wet rock, etc
- Concern regarding moving the tot lot farther from the street; in other proposed location it eats up too much of the park open space
- No sandbox?! They are the best!
- No sandbox per DPR
- Meeting time should be more available, participatory – want more input from kids
- Don't support moving tot lot away from street
- Any \$\$ for aeration in lawn?
- Proposed Rec. Center lawn would likely attract dogs- not a good combination for classes, other lawn use
- Equipment – Miracle equipment is hokey, undesired
- Need more covered pavilions, gathering spaces
- Need irrigation for upper area
- Proper lighting equals less vandalism, need low impact lighting/LED
- To address alley access concern – add a fence at park edge to prevent people from parking there and walking in
- Park hours – will remain as currently posted
- Designs should: lower impact of things that bother residents (lights, noise, etc)
- New pavilion – too close to homes off alley but ok to include somewhere else
- New restroom next to playground?
- ANC took an informal poll of those who would like to delay the park project and risk forgoing the allotted \$1.5m for the project to wait if/until Rec. Center renovation happens for a combined, holistic project (no guarantee the money would still be available later) (approximately 17 out of 33 community members in attendance raised their hands in favor)
- Begging for better maintenance, but too complex of an issue
- Coordination needed with RiverSmart project
- Alley project
- Adult fitness equipment – no adults ever use
- Concerns regarding runoff from existing splash pad, need to be addressed with new design
- Need timer/buttons to push on splash pad – don't want a continuous run
- Concerns regarding trash can design
- Need maintenance workforce education
- This meeting is not necessarily representative of the whole community's opinions
- Hand vote board #9
- Can we include \$ for Rec. Center mp w/ this project
- Has anyone spoken to the community gardeners, Muriel and Bill?
- Why was neighborhood only notified in April of plans to renovate the park, when DGS/DPR made the decision in October?
- Not named a park, is a Rec. Center (referring to title block on drawings)
- Difficulties with last survey, did not work properly
- Need next meeting time to be family friendly time (ie, 3pm sat), general divide with evening

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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.*