



Location

Sellwood Community Center
1436 SE Spokane

**Westmoreland Park Nature Based Play Area
Project Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 10, 2012
4:00 – 6:00 PM**

Meeting Outcomes

- Review comments from Open House
- Recommend Final Design Concept
- Next Steps for process

Attendees

Marc Boucher-Colbert, James Bowles, Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Jenny Dempsey Stein, Art Graves, Brianna Hallquist, Sydney Hallquist-Paisant, Karen McClish, Rod Wojtanik

I. Public Feedback, Open House

The committee reviewed the comments from the public. The public was substantially in support of the design as presented with a single concern emerging.

Swings

The committee spent considerable time discussing how and whether to include swings in the final design. They were very aware of vocal support in the community to include swings (less than 10% of respondents), but were balancing that desire with the reality that swings are expensive, difficult to incorporate thematically with nature-based play, and very expensive for the amount of swings we could provide in this space (1 or 2 seats).

Ultimately, the committee decided that they were committed to recommending what they thought would be a pilot for Nature Play for the City of Portland. They recommend the design as presented.

Statement from committee

- It was very important for the committee to acknowledge that this was an extremely difficult decision to recommend a design without swings. They wanted to make sure that the community knew they were heard and that the committee was aware of the decision they were making.

Fencing

- It was clear that the fencing was a well supported element of the design from the community perspective. The committee requested that the front elements of the fencing be incorporated into the design of the area, while the sides and rear fences could be more utilitarian.

Committee Comments – their feedback and reflections on the process

Brianna – Liked the open house. It helped her understand the public role in the process.

Sydney – Open house was nice really; liked park design in the end.

Karen – The process was exciting and it went fast. Liked walking through the space where the play area would be, good perspective. The process was very smooth.

Jenny – Appreciated that the meetings and events were family friendly! Really understood how hard it is to engage public.

Kathleen – The park is so exciting, it will be a model for the region.

Art – It was nice to do something new, be on the other side of the process (he is a landscape architect).

Rod – It was exciting to see the community embrace this, really liked the nature play toolkit, we need to create a “friends of” group to help take care of it after it is built.

Marc – Appreciated that the process was stimulating; collaborative.

James – Appreciated community involvement, the opportunity was there for people to participate if they chose to.

Thank you!