



# PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



## Meeting Summary

Beech Project Advisory Committee Meeting 3

March 2nd, 2015

3:30 - 5:30PM

## Location

Shaver Elementary Parent Room

3701 Northeast 131st Place

## In attendance

### PAC members:

Fred Colley, resident, dog walker, scientist  
Bill Lindekugel, Argay Neighborhood Association  
Nina Palacios, resident, parent of young kids  
Courtney Gearhaut, resident, parent  
Karen Gray, Superintendent Parkrose School District

### Staff:

Elizabeth Kennedy Wong, PP&R Community Engagement Coordinator  
Stefanus Gunawan, PP&R Community Outreach  
Britta Herwig PP&R Project Manager  
Melinda Graham, Jonathan Beaver, Tommy King (2.ink Studio)

## Summary

Goals for PAC 3 were outlined as:

1. Debrief on the Community Gathering
2. Preliminary review of public comments and of emerging themes for design

### I. Community Gathering

Overall agreement was that the event was a success with over 80 community members in attendance.

Suggestions for next event:

- add flyers to local businesses (Burgerville), religious places (Korean Lutheran, Buddhist Temple)
- lawn signs should work for vehicles driving (change layout, make it bigger, simpler)
- add flyers in the park (to the big park signs)
- add chairs in the back of the meeting venue for people who don't want to sit at tables
- verify need for Spanish simultaneous translation

### II. Relationship to Shaver Elementary

- Karen Gray noted the school district is creating a flyer for neighbors adjacent to Shaver's southern border regarding discussion of a possible pathway to the park and considering ways to demarcate the property line between the school and the park.
- Fred noted that Crenshaw does not have a fence and people use the play structures and basketball at the school while children from the school use the park – avoids duplication of resources.
- Karen notes that there would be a fence to keep the school children safe.



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## III. Emerging Themes

PP&R provided a first overview of comments from the break out sessions at the Community Gathering. Safety was a common concern (pot smoking, homelessness, vandalism). The group discussed the question, “what does a safe park mean; what are the hallmarks of a safe park.” Discussion included:

- Bill noted often it is just the visual perception of “tough” people in the park by people just driving by and not interacting. Also the challenges of people sleeping over in the parks – has happened at Argay Park but police were called and it was cleared up.
- 2.ink Studio discussed how the park design creates diverse spaces and activities to support a variety of activities, bringing people together and activating the park.
- Britta noted park hours are typically dawn to midnight and noted the benefit of a lot of eyes on the park from surrounding residents.
- Jonathan noted that a scheme with a pull-through parking lot would aid driving through by police.
- Courtney asked about gating the parking lots. The group discussed the associated challenges including pushing people to park in neighborhood, the staff time required to monitor, and not locking folks in.
- Elizabeth and Britta noted there are design and programming principles to discourage un-intended park use and foster positive community based park use such as lighting and good sightlines. There are also many resources for neighbors and park users to help maintain a positive park experience (ONI, Neighborhood Police, Community Foot Patrols).
- Britta noted we would be working with PP&R’s crime prevention staff as design work continued.

The preliminary review of comments directly related the schemes presented suggests that there is solid community support for the proposed park elements. General comments on the design themes from the PAC:

### Teen area

Should be visible and near other park elements

Fred noted it was important not to isolate them

### Play area

Should not duplicate elements on offer at Shaver Elementary School

Should be located close to the community garden if possible (if that’s not possible, include some playable elements in or near the garden)

Should have shade nearby (trees or canopies)

Should balance traditional elements with imaginative play (more discussion needed as the design progresses)

### Community Gardens

Should be a central element of the park

Heard desire to be able to plant to feed a family

Bill noted it may be desirable to put in northern parcel given apartments between Shaver and Sandy

Should be close to the north end of the park for easy access from Sandy area

### Dog off-leash area

Should be as big as possible

Should be screened from adjacent residences (smell, noise)

The next PAC meeting is on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 to 5:30pm at Shaver ES and folks requested Chocolate Cake!