



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Meeting Summary

Beech Project Advisory Committee Meeting 4

March 19th, 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
Maryl Redisch, PP&R Board representative
Laura Goodman, Shaver School

Staff:

Hun Taing, PP&R Community Engagement Coordinator
Stefanus Gunawan, PP&R Community Outreach
David Barrios, PP&R Ranger
Britta Herwig PP&R Project Manager
Melinda Graham, Jonathan Beaver, Tommy King (2.ink Studio)

Public Attendees:

Sharon____?, resident
Tom and Gloria Highland, residents

Summary

Goals for PAC 4 were outlined as:

1. Presentation and discussion on Public Safety
2. Review of Comment forms and other outreach
3. Presentation of preliminary preferred design option
4. Planning for upcoming Community Gathering

I. Public Safety

Ranger Barrios gave a presentation on his experience working in parks. He offered a perspective on the role of parks in a community as a place to relieve energy, diffuse tension, and to build community through engagement and teaching. He stressed the need for the community to be actively involved in their park and offered suggestions on how to take advantage of support available.

General PAC discussion on safety again clarified that there are different types of concern for safety some of which can be addressed through design, others have to be addressed through on-going maintenance and management. PP&R suggested hosting a Public Safety meeting to provide the community with information about available resources and tools.



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PAC supports this idea as a way to help the community and to keep the upcoming Community Gathering focused on the presentation of the preferred park design. PP&R will organize the meeting and announce a date and location at the Community Gathering.

II. Preferred Design

PP&R provided a refined overview of the comment forms collected from the Community Gathering: 72 people filled out the comment forms, about 20 came via email/fax or mail

- There is strong preference for using parks to read, relax and walk. Other activities were less but equally preferred.
- A higher percentage of respondents preferred concept B agreeing with the overall park character, size of soccer field, open lawn, size of fenced off-leash dog park, community garden size and location and basketball size. There was a significant preference for concept C's location for the dog park.
- There was significant preference for a playground with both traditional and imaginative play elements. There was also high preference for adding other uses in the community garden. There was almost equal preference for a small or larger teen area.
- Respondents who preferred A liked it for wildlife watching, dog walking, open views, privacy and peace and quiet
- Respondents who preferred B liked it for the balance and beautiful design and providing activities for a wider range of people
- Respondents who preferred C liked it because of the teen space, more activities = more eyes on the park, parking and dog park away from playground

2.ink provided a summary of additional outreach meetings with Latino Parents as well as with teens from Parkrose High School.

- The Latino Parent group expressed a strong interest in soccer but was concerned about the availability of a field for family use when most fields in the system are programmed and usually reserved for league play most of the time. Volleyball was suggested as an alternative or addition to soccer. Strong support was also expressed for community gardens. There was also great interest in water spray for kids.
- The high school students showed a preference for a dedicated teen area somewhat away from other park uses to avoid being in conflict but close enough to provide potential oversight of younger siblings on the playground. Personal space and spaces for quiet reflection were mentioned as desirable as well as group areas with activities such as ping pong, basketball, volleyball, climbing. Discussion revealed a preference for a skate area somewhat separate from the general teen area.

III. Preferred Design

2.ink presented the draft of a preferred final design based on the results of the public outreach to the PAC. The PAC showed strong support for the direction of the design process.

- The PAC asked for clarification on lighting. Sports field will not be lit, but the main pathways and parking will.
- Fred asked if there would be an attempt to incorporate native plants in the park. Britta noted that Beech has been selected as a pilot project for exploring the integration of more naturalized landscape areas.



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During the public comment period neighbors made the following comments:

- One resident, involved in the original Master Plan process, expressed excitement for how the design was developing. She inquired about a possible park entry off of Beech Street. Britta noted that PP&R has been unable to secure an easement to provide park access from that street.
- Residents from nearby Fremont Street expressed concerns about increased traffic on Fremont, potential conflict of habitat plantings with airport security, and already existing nighttime illicit activity at Shaver Elementary and in the park near the Fremont entrances. These comments will be addressed as part of the design review process through other City agencies.

The next Community Gathering is on March 31st from 5:30 to 7:30pm at Shaver ES and the next PAC meeting is on April 9th from 3:30 to 5:30pm at Shaver ES.