



MEETING: LENTS PARK PLAY AREA – FOCUS GROUP MEETING 1

MEETING DATE: Wednesday October 14, 2015

LOCATION: Lents Adventist Church Activity Center - 8835 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland

ATTENDEES: Gary Datka – PPR Jack Kostylo - PPR
 Maija Spencer – PPR
 Robin Wilcox – PLACE Sterling Rung - PLACE

AGENDA:

Time	Topic	Who
6:00-6:15	1. Sign-in and Presentation Board Reception	ALL
6:15-6:20	2. Welcome and Overview	MS
6:20-6:25	3. Parks Replacement Bond Overview 4. PI Process for the Focus Group Meeting a. Project Focus Group Role and Goals i. Non-voting – not picking one thing, using ideas from all concepts shared. ii. Looking for opinions on topics, input on play types and features, and concerns	MS
6:25-6:35	5. Lents Park Master Plan Overview a. 2011 b. Focused on the entire park, play area received the least amount of reprogramming in master plan. 6. Project Introduction a. ADA b. Play Area i. Within same footprint c. Maximum not to exceed bond fund allocation is \$1.48m i. This all-inclusive including bureau costs, consultant fees, permitting fees, and construction costs. 7. Project Schedule a. Fall 2015 – Design and Public Input (next meeting tentatively scheduled for 11/17) b. Winter/Spring 2015-2016 – Design and Documentation c. Summer 2016 – Final Documents and Permits d. Fall/Winter 2016-2017 – Construction	GD
6:35-6:55	8. Project Understanding and Concept Presentation	PLACE
6:55-7:15	9. Open House a. Questions/Comments	PLACE

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PortlandParks.org
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Director Mike Abbaté





<p>7:15-7:25 7:25-7:30</p>	<p>10. Debrief and Wrap up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Open house observations b. Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Design team will be using your comments provided today to refine the concepts in preparation for next focus group meeting. ii. November 17 Focus Group Meeting 2 (TBD) 	<p>PLACE GD/MS</p>
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MEETING NOTES: LENTS PARK PLAY AREA – FOCUS GROUP 1

Purpose

Focus Group Meeting 1 is being conducted to present the Bond project scope, existing conditions and uses, and to present initial concepts to receive community input on types of play equipment, playground theme, and preliminary play area layout.

Meeting Overview

The meeting received low community turnout, however, the design team and PPR project manager presented the scope, play equipment precedence images, and preliminary concepts for the play area to the neighbors that did come with questions and comments.

Discussion/ Questions and Commentary/ Additional Information and Attachments

- Design Team meeting notes w/ descriptions of concepts presented
- Website information for survey/comment card and presentation boards
<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/68975>



MEETING NOTES

DATE: 10.15.2015
6:30pm – 7pm
PROJECT: Lents Park Bond Project
SUBJECT: Playground Focus Group Meeting #1
FROM: Robin Wilcox, Project Manager, PLACE
TO: Gary Datka, Project Manager, Portland Parks and Recreation

1. Existing Conditions and Site Analysis Feedback

Existing Equipment

- “Lents Park has the best swinging monkey bars in the city”
- The play structure for younger children is too small to be fun and too steep to be safe for younger children

2. Desired Outcomes for the Lents Park Play Area

Types of Play

- Several people mentioned that they are interested in nature play elements and like Westmoreland park
- Play structures that “challenge and inspire children” were preferred
- Play should facilitate collaboration

Play Equipment

- Connecting elements or larger structures preferred over individual play structures
- Excitement about mounding
- Poles are fun
- Swings are fun
- Musical instruments would be fun
- Sand would be fun
- A merry go round would be fun
- Performance stage or small amphitheater would be fun

Play Area Layout

- Stronger connection across the stairs
- Keep the existing trees

Additional Items

- Structures that provide shelter from wind or rain would be nice
- Water fountains and trash cans near the play area
- Concern about general safety in Lents Park
- Birthday parties at the picnic tables tend to take over the entire play area and make others who just want to play on the playground feel awkward; keep separation

3. Descriptions of Concepts

The opportunity for playground users to have the most influence on the design is by providing feedback about how they would prefer to play in the park on a scale of more prescribed activities to more imaginative activities. Other items that typically influence the design of a play area of static as Lents Park is:

- a public playground,
- in a more urban area,
- where some of the children are directly supervised by adults and many of the children are unsupervised when playing in the park,
- the walls and existing paving are remaining around the play area,
- no additional planting areas are planned near the play area and the lawn will remain unchanged, and
- the park is highly maintained as a public facility

Elements of each of the play area concepts include:

Welcome Area

- Provides space for parents to watch children play and to socialize; utilizes the existing wall as a seat wall

- Ground rules for the park; information about intended use of play equipment and appropriate age ranges
- Allows children to acclimatize to the play area before engaging in activity
- Similar to the entry way in your home

Circulation/Layout/Orientation Path

- Either surrounds the play elements or creates a centralized spine between elements
- No activities take place directly off of the pathway, but it doesn't necessarily need to be a paved pathway; can be play surface that is a different color

Play Pods (zones or rooms)

- Active Play
 - Climbing, swinging, sliding, spinning, crawling, etc.
 - Any element that provide an opportunity for vigorous activity and social engagement
- Passive Play
 - Daydreaming, building, imagining, balancing, performing, etc.
 - Elements that provide an opportunity for quiet activity and discovery
 - May or may not include a social component

Age Group Separation

- Ages 2-5
- Ages 5-12

PLACE studio developed three (3) initial concepts for review at the first Playground Focus Group meeting:

Concept A – Active Core

- Welcome Area to the east side of the play area where most people who walk to Lents Park enter from
- An Active Play core with Passive Play pods toward the perimeter
- Circulation around the majority of the play pods to allow children to “survey the scene” before jumping in
- The existing wall between the two play areas and to the east of the play area is removed to allow for better flow throughout the play area and to improve connectivity to the lawn
- A smaller area for people to socialize is added in the northeast corner of the play area
- Ramp connection between the play areas

Concept B – Social Center

- Welcome Area to the west side of the play area near the restroom and existing picnic tables
- Active Play areas in both the upper and lower playgrounds
- Passive Play areas near the large existing fir trees and near the opening to the lawn area
- The existing wall between the upper and lower play area remains in place
- A small area near the center of the play area for people to socialize
- Ramp connection between the play areas

Concept C – Central Spine

- Welcome Area near the center of the play area; utilizes the existing low wall as a seating area
- Active Play focused in the upper play area
- Passive Play focused in the lower play area under existing fir trees and near the low wall on the south and east side of the play area
- The existing wall between the upper and lower play area is removed to allow for better visibility
- Ramp connection between the play areas

4. Preferred Concept

- Most in attendance preferred Concept A
 - Liked the Welcome Area in the southeast corner
 - Liked the active core that bridges the upper and lower play areas
 - Liked the passive play in the lower play area

ACTIONS

- PLACE to continue work on 3 concepts and develop order of magnitude cost information