



EVENT: Community Representative Committee Orientation Meeting 1

DATE: June 21, 2016

TIME: 6-8 PM

LOCATION: Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 11560 SE Market St, Portland, OR 97216

Attendees:

Portland Parks & Recreation:

Maya Agarwal, City Planner II, Project Manager

Hun Taing, Community Engagement Coordinator

Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Community Involvement Program Manager

Daniel Kim, Intern

Penny Kuhn, Intern

GreenWorks:

Ben Johnson

Jennifer D'Avanzo

Communitas:

Deb Meihoff

Community Representative Committee:

Fran Weick, Human Solutions

Jodi Ballard Beach, Mill Park Neighborhood Association

Deng Thepharat, Northwest Asian Sports (NWAS) Volleyball

Patrick Provant, Midland Library

Lynn Handlin, Midway Business Association

Meron Semere, neighborhood youth

Lucy Hoang, neighborhood youth

1. Community Representative Committee Meeting 1 Overview

On June 21, 2016, Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) held Community Representative Committee Meeting 1 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, near Mill Park and Midland Park.

The primary goal of Meeting 1 was to provide Committee members an increased understanding of the planning process and begin discussion on park activities, needs, and interests.

2. Agenda Items

After introductions and a quick exercise in which Committee members performed their favorite park activities, PP&R distributed project packets to Committee members. Packets contained a Committee roster with contact information, maps of each park with an overview of existing





conditions and area demographics, and a meeting schedule. Maya introduced Committee members to the materials in their packets.

Maya explained the phases of a park project using a “Life of a Project” diagram. Each phase can take at least one year to complete:

- **Planning:** Planning phase coming up with a concept (vision) for the parks
- **Design:** Prepare design drawings for permitting and bidding
- **Construction:** get it built

Maya presented the upcoming project schedule:

- September 10 Public Meeting 2
- September 13 Committee Meeting 2
- January 10, 2017 Committee Meeting 3
- January 11, 2017 Public Meeting 3
- April 25, 2017 Committee Meeting 4
- April 26 2017 Committee Meeting 4

Hun asked the Committee to identify its group values (those that will guide how the Committee conducts its meetings). A round table discussion established the following group values:

- Everyone has a chance to speak
- Trust
- Building consensus
- Accomplishing goals
- Responsibility/cooperation
- Consensus

Hun asked the group, “What is the meaning of the word *consensus*?” Comments from the Committee indicated that it means:

- Discussing points of disagreement
- Voicing and airing opinions
- Voicing support or opposition
- Asking oneself, “Can I live with it or do we need to revisit it”?

Hun suggested that one method for getting an overview of the group’s feelings regarding a decision is the Red, Yellow, and Green Card method: at key decision points, each Committee member would display a red, yellow, or green card.

Red= *I do not agree with this decision.*

Yellow= *I do not agree with this decision, but I will not hinder the planning process.*

Green= *I agree with this decision.*

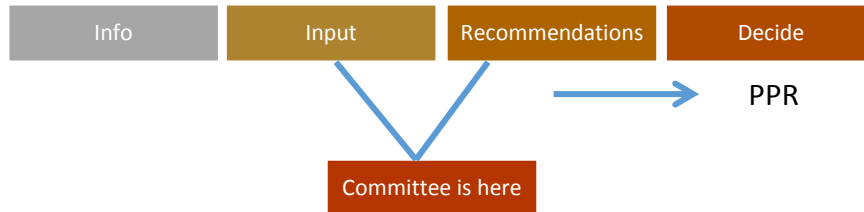




This method would allow the planning process to move forward, even without 100% agreement from all members of the Committee.

Lynn asked how the Committee can proceed when one member displays a red card. The Committee agreed to Democracy as a backup plan to move forward when there is not consensus.

Hun presented a diagram of the decision making process:



Hun provided a summary of the first public meeting: the Party in the Park in Mill Park on June 9, 2016:

- Attendance: 100 people (40 were youth)
- Games and activities were successful for entertaining
- Mexican food was well received
- Dot exercise showed a range of preferences – most being splash pad and soccer

Maya asked the Committee to participate in a park planning activity. This was the same “sticky dot” activity that PP&R presented at the Party in the Park on June 9, 2016. PP&R asked attendees to review boards that presented images of potential park features (e.g., playground, walking path, water feature) at either Mill Park or Midland Park. PP&R gave each participant five stickers (“sticky dots”), and asked them to place their dots on the images that represented a type of feature that they would like to see in their future park. Participants were permitted to place their dots any way that they wished (e.g., on one or both Mill Park and Midland Park boards, more than one sticker per image).

The most popular features identified by the Committee for Midland Park were a traditional playground, a loo, and a nature play area. For Mill Park, the most popular features were a splash pad and an amphitheater.

Hun led a discussion with the Committee to ascertain some of the reasoning behind their placement of the sticky dots:





Patrick indicated that he was very excited to see an image for a gathering space at Midland – opportunity to do so much with people who will use the park and for library activities.

- Small events and music – maybe it could be reserve-able;
- Lights will help prevent undesirable activities;
- At Mill Park, a splash pad would be great for a lot of families who can't get out of town when hot, can't swim, play, adults too.

Fran indicated that she appreciated the idea of an amphitheater at either Mill Park or Midland Park, because presently there is no location in east Portland for events such as Shakespeare in the Park, and music in the summertime.

- Parks in New York City have chess tables – they encourage multigenerational interaction;
- It is difficult to envision space at Midland Park considering its heavy tree canopy, and it feels unsafe. But, the park would work well with Midland Library.

Lynn indicated that she appreciated the idea of a space for performance, gatherings, and public speaking at either park.

- Community gardens draw people in around a productive, common theme.

Deng indicated that playgrounds are always good for the community.

- The image with the play structure at Midland Park has lots of potential (crossfit bars/fitness for adults too).
- Mill Park: Volleyball would be a good community activity, and available space is larger.

Meron indicated that she liked image of the grill at Midland Park, because cultures can gather for events to cook and eat – the space should be intimate.

- At Mill Park, a community garden would offer place for people to grow their own food, and there are not presently many gardens in the neighborhood.

Lucy indicated that there is a need for a restroom at Midland Park.

- Hun indicated that the planning process could propose a restroom at both parks; the loo is good for safety and maintenance.

Jodi indicated that she liked the idea of the splash pad at Mill Park. She and her family currently go to downtown parks to play in the water. It would be so nice to have a splash pad in east Portland.

- Mill Elementary School playground doesn't have equipment for smaller kids. Slides would be great.
- Many other parks have exercise programs, and she would like to see an exercise program at Mill Park, such as yoga.





Maya noticed that there were few dots on the photos that presented cultural group activities.

- Lynn suggested that any of the cultural group activities could occur in a flexible open space. PP&R should provide the feature and people will come and use it.
 - There were no pictures showing art – would like to see art incorporated.
- Deng believed that the cultural images seemed exclusive to specific groups, and the park is for everyone.

Patrick suggested that some features such as benches did not get dots because these are things in the parks already.

Fran suggested that Midland Park could provide opportunities to interact with nature.

Jodi asked whether Midland Park is to be a bird sanctuary.

- Maya indicated that Midland Park was a Multnomah County park that came to the City of Portland in the 1980s, with the stipulation that it is a bird sanctuary.

Deb noticed that no one talked about ball fields.

- Meron hypothesized that this demonstrated a preference for certain activities among the Committee members.
- Hun proposed that the preferred activities among the Committee and the public represented the diversity of the neighborhoods.

Ben (GreenWorks) presented its Homework Assignment to the Committee to go and visit one or both parks.

Committee members were given a map for each park and list of questions:

1. How did you access the park? If you drove where did you park?
2. Which directions were there good views and why?
3. Which direction were views not good and why?
4. Where would you imagine gathering spaces for groups and why?
5. What site features are interesting and should be highlighted in the design?
6. What is your favorite spot in the park and why?

- Due on Friday July 8th – Committee members should write their names on their assignments

Elizabeth provided an overview of City of Portland's government structure

- How decisions are made at the City
- Community has ability to motivate action





Hun led an ending round robin discussion that asked each Committee member, “If one thing could get built at either park, what would be the ideal feature you would like to see built?”

- Maya: amphitheater/flexible community space, simple gathering space in the woods
- Fran: Midland Park has potential for nature and escape
- Deng: beach volleyball, sand volleyball – could bring in sponsors to pay for element; seaside beach volleyball
- Jodi: kids can go and interact – nature play like Westmoreland
- Meron: art center or music because these programs are not available in some schools due to funding.
- Lucy: tree house – get up high for views
- Patrick: so many possibilities with amphitheater at Midland Park. At Mill Park – a splash pad or water feature would attract people to the park.
- Lynn: climbable art sculptures

