



EVENT: Community Representative Committee Meeting 2

DATE: September 13, 2016

TIME: 5:30-7:30 PM

LOCATION: Midland Library, 805 SE 122nd Ave, Portland, OR 97233

Attendees:

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R):

Maya Agarwal, City Planner II, Project Manager

GreenWorks:

Ben Johnson

Jennifer D'Avanzo

Communitas:

Deb Meihoff

Community Representative Committee:

Fran Weick, Human Solutions

Patrick Provant, Midland Library

Lynn Handlin, Midway Business Association

Meron Semere, neighborhood youth

Lucy Hoang, neighborhood youth

Bob Stelle, Mill Park Elementary, Principal

Summary:

On September 13 2016, PPR, GreenWorks, Communitas and Mill/Midland Community Representative Committee met at Midland Library for Committee Meeting #2. Flip chart notes documented key contributions during the meeting (Attachment A).

1. Introductions and Icebreaker
 - Your name and favorite outdoor space

2. Maya and Deb: Overview of agenda and comment form
 - Planning process phases
 - Form to document feedback on the meeting exercises

3. GreenWorks: Existing Conditions for each park
 - Present existing conditions for each park
 - Mill Park – New information heard:
 - Bob Stelle: the park is not open to the public during the day while school is in session. There are signs posted with hours (he thinks).





- School staff will ask folks to leave the park and come back after school hours
- It's a security issue for schools adjacent to parks and Mr. Stelle believes there's an agreement in place for parks adjacent to parks
- Mr. Stelle indicates that this enforcement is consistent with other parks that are adjacent to schools.
- Parking – on the weekends school parking used to be chained off (closed) but due to liability issues the chain has been removed. The neighborhood association would like the school to chain off the parking lots again.
- A summer food pantry is conducted once a week at the school.
- The park is a backyard to much of the community.
- Committee Responses:
 - Lynn: The park is wide open for all kinds of possibilities. It would be a nice neighborhood park not a destination park.
 - Bob: Interest in habitat/environmental education, and nature play
 - Meron: There is nothing to do there. No activities.
- Midland Park:
 - There is a “Dead End” sign at 117th. No signage to the park.
 - Committee Responses:
 - Meron/Lucy – Very scary at night; not so bad during the day.
 - Meron: Wooden benches are uncomfortable and need to be upgraded.
 - Lynn: there are so many trees, it is so cool in the summer. This gives the park an incredible feeling.
 - Patrick: rarely sees many people using the park, however does see some people playing in the park.
- 4. Maya and Deb: Public Outreach Feedback from Phase 1
- New Information added in addition to the Feedback board (Attachment B)
 - Mill Park
 - Nature play
 - Midland Park
 - Portland Loo
 - Better connection with the library
 - Nature play





5. Maya and Deb: Vision Exercise

- The committee was asked to draw and/or write their answer to the question: “What would make you feel welcome here?”
 - Mill Park
 - Need a calming element, nature, like Laurelhurst
 - A place for seniors and children to play
 - Art/Art walk, marked trails
 - Need something to do, add more trees
 - Stage for music
 - Flower gardens
 - Gathering spaces for families, community and businesses
 - Playground equipment
 - “Backyard” experience
 - Midland Park
 - Amphitheatre/stage
 - Historic light fixtures/art
 - Lighting
 - Habitat – snags, cascara trees (*Rhamnus purshiana*), hummingbird nectar plants
 - Reading area
 - Free library book box stands
 - Bathroom
 - Storytime
 - Nature play
 - Trees - but keep it safe

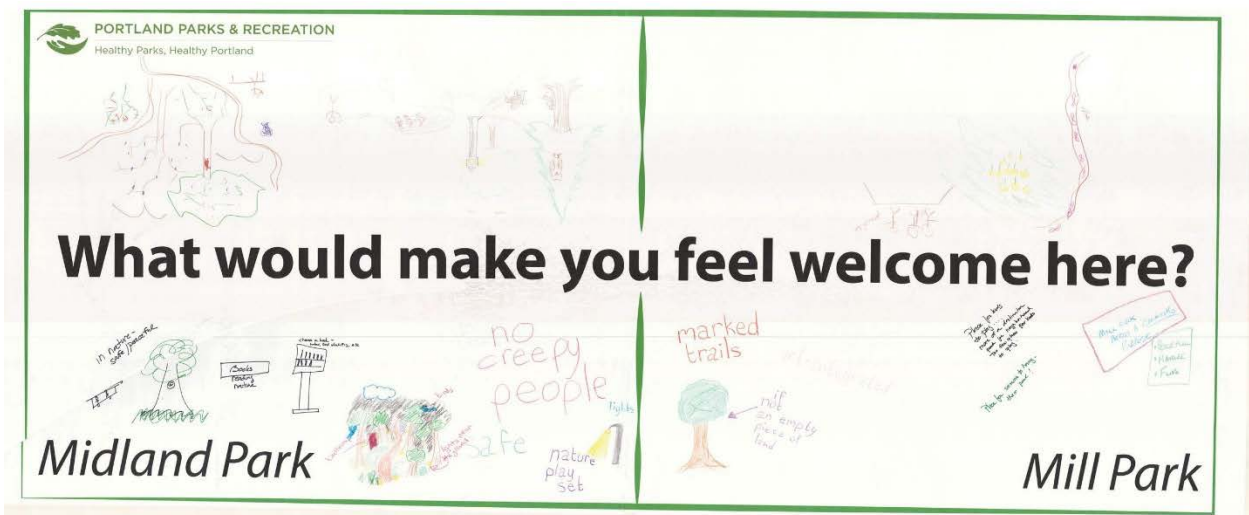


Community Representative Committee members participate in the visioning exercise, drawing and writing answers to the question, “What would make you feel welcome here?” for both Mill Park and Midland Park.





- 6. Vision Exercise Feedback and Responses
 - a. Mill Park
 - i. What will happen at Mill Park?
 - ii. Mill Park is more open
 - iii. Backyard for kids in the neighborhood
 - b. Midland Park
 - i. Lost opportunity for neighbors to face or back up the park to call it their own. The fence impedes this.
 - 1. Could be an oasis for neighbors and those who need shelter.
 - ii. Everyone appears to be on the same page that they would like it to be a nature park but safe.
 - c. Both parks
 - i. The master plan process and construction of the parks is the beginning of building memories for the communities to come back to for enjoyment, like Dawson Park.
 - d. Other ideas heard
 - i. Contact Audubon
 - e. Visioning board results: see image below



The Community Representative Committee's visioning exercise touched on several common themes, including safety, nature, and education.





7. Maya: Next set of meetings

- Process
 - Results from Committee and Public Meeting will be posted to PP&R website
 - PP&R and GreenWorks will design two alternatives for both parks
 - Design alternatives will be presented at Committee Meeting 3
- Schedule (locations to be determined):
 - January 10, 2017.....Committee Meeting 3
 - January 11, 2017.....Public Meeting 3
 - April 25, 2017.....Committee Meeting 4
 - April 26, 2017 Public Meeting 4





ATTACHMENT A: Community Representative Committee Meeting 2 Flip Chart Notes

PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS

- DDSD will ask people in Mill Park to leave if they are on park property during school hours. Park is "closed" during school hours.
- Security concerns on part of DDSD

PARK SITE VISITS

| Midland | Mill |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wooden benches uncomfortable Never visited @ night Opportunities for bird forage, not only habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kids out after hours Opportunities for performance space Perhaps not a destination park b/c of limited access |

FEEDBACK OVERVIEW

Midland Park: also we heard about adding a loo here

Improve connection b/w Park + Library

Nature Play

VISION EXERCISE

Midland - Nature, trees, birds, plants, paths, lighting, books, bathroom, safety, nature play

VISION EXERCISE

Mill Park

- Barrier is "Dead End" sign on road.
- Business community would have interest in gathering space
- Summer lunch site would attract people in addition to mobile playground
- Oregon Food Pantry
- Need to create new memories @ each park.

VISION EXERCISE

MIDLAND

- Safety concerns but strong value on trees, nature.
- Oasis for both park patrons and homeless

MILL

- Neighbors currently don't embrace park as "their space"
- Place for kids, seniors, neighbors
- Needs a purpose. Nothing to do here.
- Fence is barrier. Culture of East PDX could be barrier (my space).
- Trails, trees, flowers
- Art, stage, performance, art along path
- Playground - nature play
- Could be like a backyard; calm to draw people in. Like Laurelhurst... calm landscape but activity going on.





ATTACHMENT B: Summary of Phase 1 Feedback

Phase 1 Feedback

- Dot activity from the Party
- 38 Comment Forms submitted from the Party
- Notes from 72 house visit of adjacent neighbors
- Committee park site visit
- Committee dot exercise

Midland Park

- Safety and security concerns around illegal activity and campsites
- Playground
- Open flexible space: amphitheater/musical performances/children's reading time
- Natural/wooded trails, natural plantings, bird/butterfly sanctuary, wildlife
- Benches, picnic tables
- Art integrated in the park

Mill Park

- Need for wheelchair accessibility
- Soccer, basketball, volleyball
- Splash pads, playground, sand play,
- Walking/running paths
- Benches, picnic tables, picnic shelter, BBQ pit,
- Open flexible space: amphitheater for concerts and movies
- Garden, natural plantings, water feature
- Bathrooms
- Art integrated in the park

