



EVENT: “Community Gathering” (Mill and Midland Park Public Meeting #2)

DATE: September 15, 2016

TIME: 6-7:30 PM

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

1. Public Meeting Outreach

Outreach for this event primarily consisted of distributing flyers (in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese languages) to homes, apartments, and businesses in the neighborhoods surrounding Mill and Midland Parks to inform neighbors of the upcoming “Community Gathering” on September 15, 2016 (Public Meeting #2). Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) focused on community members who were most geographically impacted by the park plans (i.e., the residences and businesses located adjacent to the parks). From August 27 to August 28, 2016, PP&R volunteers distributed a total of approximately 450 flyers to Midland Park neighborhoods and 600 flyers to Mill Park neighborhoods during these outreach efforts.

Several days before the Gathering, Community Engagement Liaisons (CELs) visited homes with residents who spoke Spanish, Vietnamese, and English to invite neighbors to the event. PP&R asked members of the Community Representative Committee to invite their constituents to the event. PP&R also used bilingual lawn signs, a project website update, and outreach to social media to advertise the Gathering.

2. Public Meeting Overview

On September 15, 2016, PP&R held the “Community Gathering” at Midland Library (adjacent to Midland Park). The Gathering included a survey/comment form, Midland Park tour, a park planning exercise, and food. CELs who spoke English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Cantonese assisted attendees as needed. The Gathering was accessible for those with disabilities. Approximately fifty adults, youth, and seniors attended the “Community Gathering”.

PP&R organized the Gathering as a series of stations:

- **Station 1: Orientation Table.** PP&R welcomed attendees, and provided a survey/comment form to (1) solicit feedback, and (2) lead attendees through the stations. Guests provided demographic and contact information, and staff oriented guests to the event. Surveys were available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- **Station 2: Midland Park Tour (optional).** PP&R invited attendees to take a look around Midland Park and to indicate things that they noticed about the park.
- **Station 3: Mill & Midland Park Information Booth.** PP&R and design consultants provided information about the existing physical conditions of Mill Park and Midland Park.





- Station 4: Vision Board: PP&R staff and CELs asked attendees to write or draw on the vision board (a large sheet of paper) the type of environment that would make them feel welcome at Mill Park and Midland Park. PP&R and CELs provided this activity in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- Station 5: Community Food & Discussion. During a meal, PP&R led a group discussion, inviting attendees to share the things that are most important to the community about the two parks. PP&R asked guests to listen to each other and to reflect on the opinions of others in the meeting. The discussion was provided in English, with simultaneous translation in Spanish and Vietnamese.

The first goal of the Gathering was to continue to develop relationships and trust with the community. PP&R accomplished the first goal by providing an accessible, fun, family-friendly event in the community's neighborhood.

The second goal of the Gathering was to recognize the existing conditions of the parks. PP&R accomplished the second goal by asking attendees to take a tour of Midland Park, and to visit the information booth to learn about the existing conditions at Mill Park and Midland Park. PP&R and design consultants engaged attendees in discussions about the existing conditions of the parks and discussed attendees' interests and concerns about the future of the parks.

The third goal of the Gathering was to identify the community's goals and priorities for the two parks, and for community members to recognize the goals and priorities of each other. PP&R accomplished the third goal by asking attendees to fill out a survey/comment form, and to participate in a park visioning activity and subsequent group discussion. Because many non-English speakers were present at the Gathering, PP&R's survey/comment form and park visioning activity communicated using three languages: English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The activity gave attendees the opportunity to communicate using their native languages, and/or with images. PP&R and CELs posted large sheets of blank paper on the library wall and asked attendees to answer the question, "What would make you feel welcome here?". PP&R and CELs provided markers and crayons, and invited attendees to answer the question with drawings, text, or both (vision boards provided in Appendix A). During the group discussion and meal, PP&R facilitated a community conversation in which participants viewed the vision boards, and provided an opportunity for community members to elaborate on their responses to the question, and to notice some of the things that others had drawn and written on the vision boards. PP&R led the discussion in English, and CELs provided simultaneous translation and engagement in Spanish and Vietnamese. Through this activity, the community had an opportunity to voice their opinions for the future of these parks, and to hear and acknowledge the opinions of others.

Throughout the meeting, PP&R and design consultant took notes on large flip charts to record the discussion (Appendix B). PP&R collected comments on a total of 23 English language and 5 Vietnamese language survey/comment forms from participants who wished to provide





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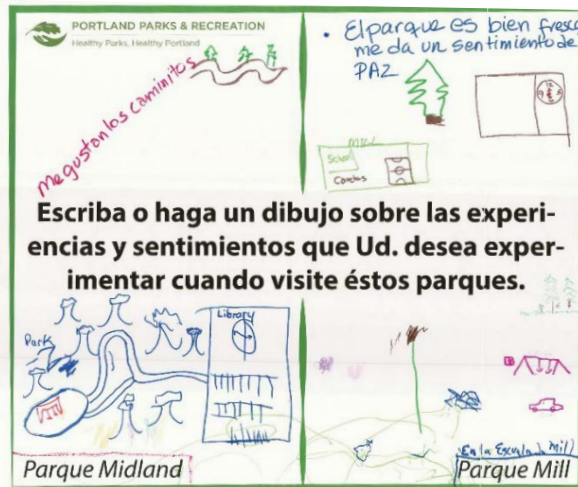
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additional comments. PP&R did collect Spanish language surveys, but unfortunately these surveys were lost.

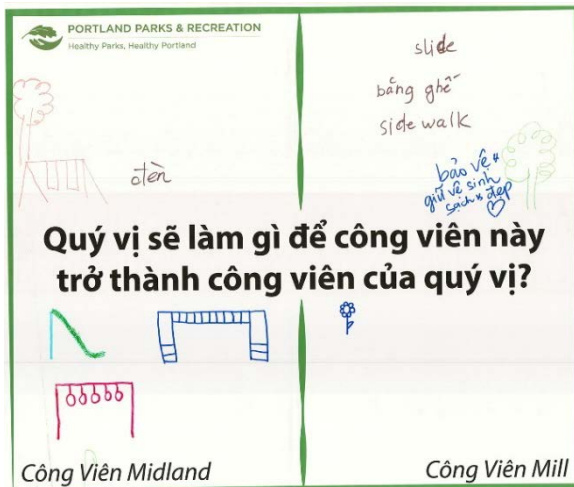




Appendix A: Vision Boards



The Community Gathering visioning exercise touched on several common themes, including safety, natural beauty, and places for children to play.





Appendix B: Flip Chart Notes

- A. The greatest hope for the park
- Safe park for everyone to enjoy
 - Community activate the space
 - Midland- safe oasis = Adjust to library
 - Peaceful place to relax/ walking paths
 - Story time arts
 - Book sculpture
 - Nature play/nature park- not plastic structures
 - Library use to of park- environmental education
 - Mill Park = community park
 - Midland = natural identity
 - Small nature play near library
 - Water fountain
 - Safe all times of day
 - Folks to be able to relax and not bothered by others
 - Improved security
 - Find balance between security and privacy
 - Pool at (Midland)
 - Plan should generate positive activity and energy at the park
- B. More activities for the kids/playground-play structures
- Spray park
 - Water feature
 - Sand structure (Midland)
 - Swing for little kids
 - Trampoline (Mill Park)
 - Slides
 - Trees
 - Bathrooms/cleaning stations for children
 - Inclusive play for all ages
 - Keep trees in Midland Park
- C. What feelings/environment do you want at both parks?
- Midland: nature opportunities
 - Facilities that are for all ages: toddlers, youth, teens, adult
 - Safety be addressed in partnership with library





- PP&R indicates this could be a possibility to work with County
 - To have a sharp container
 - Clean drinking water
 - Improve lake of water near trees
 - Keep the trees and picnic tables that allow folks to write things and make notes
- D. Concerns about safety syringes in park; how can we stop this?
- PP&R is working to address this issue... perhaps having sharps containers though these have related risks because people can remove them.
 - Safety for homeless, visibility and camping at the park
 - Circulate library users and park users
 - Patrol safety
 - Dog signals (“Pick up After Dogs”)

