



Errol Heights Park

Community Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 6:30pm – 9:30pm
SMILE Station, 8210 S.E. 13th Avenue, Portland 97202

Meeting Outcomes/Goals:

This was the second meeting of the Errol Heights Park Community Advisory Committee. The focus of the meeting was to introduce the consultant team (Mayer | Reed), identify existing conditions in the lower and upper areas and preferred park activities/amenities and brainstorm how those preferred activities are laid out.

MEETING SUMMARY

Committee members in attendance:

Brett Bolstad, Paul Ciri, Joshua Freeman, Anne Hettick, Pamela Hodge, Adrienne Moat, Gillian Murr, Michael Riley, Fon Zhang, Caryn Indigo Corwin, Erich Pacheco. **Absent:** Jennon Rugg and Karl Lee,

Staff present: Christine Egan, George Lozovoy, Sabrina Neal, Maximo Behrens, Christian Haaning, Laura Niemi and Ali Young (BES)

Christine Egan (PP&R) welcomed everyone and invited CAC members to grab dinner as provided in the room. George Lozovoy, PP&R Project Manager, introduced Carol Mayer-Reed and her firm as the landscape consultant for the project. Carol introduced her Mayer|Reed team Ryan Carlson and Emily Kuo. George then introduced Christine Egan and explained that she would be temporarily working at PP&R while Barbara Hart was on leave until August 20.

Christine lead a round of brief introductions from everyone present in the meeting – including other city staff and members of the public. The CAC was asked to share responses to ‘What is your favorite park in Portland?’

- Adrienne Moat: Sellwood Park
- Gillian Murr: Mt. Scott (accessibility)
- Pamela Hodge: Reed Canyon
- Indigo Corwin: Laurelhurst Park (running trail)
- Mike Riley: Mt. Tabor Park
- Paul Ciri: Laurelhurst Park (paths)
- Brett Bolstad: Alberta Park (family friendly)
- Erich Pacheco: Mt. Tabor
- Josh Freeman: Mt Tabor (trails and large space)

Administration

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- Anne Hettick: Sellwood Park
- Fon Zhang: Cathedral Park

Review Agenda

Christine reviewed the meeting agenda and reminded everyone that the committee had a full agenda with two important group exercises. She let everyone know that she would need to be firm in following the agenda timeline, so the meeting didn't last longer than the three hours allocated.

Public Comment

Members of the Errol Heights Community Garden and Friends of Portland Community Gardens were in attendance. Paul Tourville expressed his concerns about the planned relocation of the garden within the park and asked to be informed and involved throughout this project. They spoke to their investment in and commitment to the garden and urged the Community Advisory Committee to keep this in mind as they design the park improvements.

Another member of the community garden submitted public comments via email following the CAC meeting. Christine emailed those comments to committee members.

Christine shared with the audience and the committee that members of the public could also provide comment at City Council in August or September this year when the Portland Bureau of Transportation presents the proposed new local improvement district project for road construction.

Overview of Errol Heights Master Plan

Christian Haaning, PP&R Ecologist, reviewed the Errol Heights Master Plan and land use and ecological changes that have taken place since it was drafted in 2005. He did not discuss the present information regarding the Upper Plateau area except with regards to increased park area. He explained that in the park site had expanded from 14.28 acres to 16.76 acres due to the City acquiring Chris Johnson's property, which is mostly flood wetlands now. He noted the Schnabel structures and garage foundation that still stands on the eastern side of the natural areas – near 52nd Avenue. He discussed beaver activity in the park and large number of beaver dams and a sizeable lodge in the lake/pond area

Christian answered several questions from the CAC:

- Brett: Are there only beavers in the area?
 - Christian: Beavers and nutria. Both are highly nocturnal creatures.

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- George Lozovoy: Can you go into more details regarding what you mean by “Desired Future Conditions”?
 - Christian: To restore an area to “desired future conditions” we must remove invasive weeds and replace them with native plants. Wildlife will wax and wane based on food sources. There isn’t much storm water input into the area, so the beaver dams are solid and safe from wash outs.
 - Ali Young (BES): BES and Parks have done a ton of work in this area. For example, BES took the rock lining out of the stream. Beavers have dropped a lot of trees and most of the Schnabel structures have been removed.
- Fon: It sounds like beavers are going to play a role in the landscape. What is our plan for working with the beavers?
 - Christian: We can euthanize if it becomes a safety concern. We won’t go that way, but rather watch the behavior of the beavers to see what happens, how do things settle.
- Pam: What about feeding the critters? Is that wise? I know that the employees at Franz Bakery nearby feed the wildlife.
 - Christian: I have personally talked to Franz employees about not feeding the wildlife.
- Erich: Where else are there beavers migrating and working?
 - Ali Young (BES): All along Johnson Creek. They travel and look for any place they can. Young beaver are kicked out of their home when they get old enough to leave and must find a new place.
- Brett: Can nutria be removed?
 - Erich: I know they are an introduced species.
 - Christian: They always come back after we have tried to remove them from other natural areas and parks.
- Carol Mayer-Reed: What about programming in the upper lands of the park? Our team interpreted what was listed in the Master Plan for the upper plateau, including roadway alignment, recreational uses on upper area and how to connect the upper and lower areas.
 - Christian: Admittedly, his presentation primarily addressed the natural areas / low lands per the Master Plan and changes since 2005. Yes, the upper plateau will be the area where most capital improvements will occur.

Existing Conditions and Site Analysis

Christine split the Committee into two groups of six people and sent each group to a map station with a facilitator (Carol and Ryan with Mayer | Reed). Each group had 20 minutes to work

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together to review the existing conditions maps and identify additional elements that we not yet represented on the map. CAC members used colored dots, markers, post it notes to add to the map. For both the groups, the facilitator made notes along the edges of the map capturing CAC comments and observations. Christine provided additional materials from Christian Haaning (existing trails and beaver dams) and Karl Lee (his observations prior to the CAC meeting).

Report Out - Group 1 with Ryan: Adrienne, Fon, Josh, Pam, Brett, Mike and Paul Tourville

- Discussion focused on park edges and streets.
 - For example, the fast traffic by the corner and hard to cross the street.
 - Noisy at SE 45th entrance with cars and traffic.
- Sound of water
- SE 45th entrance looks uninviting, unkempt and unsafe, i.e. graffiti on the park sign
- Sense that there may be pollution from Precision Castparts nearby
- There is a lack of an entrance/access from SE Harney Street
- Noticed fast traffic and feels dangerous
- Observation of rats in the zone along the upper plateau
- Access point into park from Tenino Court and 49th Avenue
- Views in the park are noted on the map
- Nice bridge structure at headwaters – pleasant place to be
- Wildlife sightings: birds, deer, beaver, turkey, vulture and approximately 9 peacocks on site. Peacocks hang out near the community garden and edge of street
- Mature trees
- Schnabel structure. They have character and reflect character of the neighborhood.

Report Out - Group 2 with Carol: Gillian, Indigo, Paul Ciri, Anne and Erich

- Group clarified sidewalk and street improvements on Tenino Court
- Discussed accessibility on the trails and through upper plateau
- PGE Substation pad
- There are test wells to check for water quality for wet area and pond
- Identified views in the upper and lower areas
- Maintain access from Tenino Court and 49th Avenue
- Friends of Trees contributed plantings for the site
- Bat house in upper plateau
- Looks like human made habitat just past the entrance at SE 45th Avenue
- Deer sightings
- No dogs allowed in park

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- Trail narrowed from 3.5 feet to less
- Could be option for stairs to connect upper and lower areas
- No pedestrian crossing on SE 52nd Avenue or SE 45th Avenue currently

Exercise: Spatial Layout for park amenities in Upper Park

The CAC remained in their two groups and stayed at their stations with a new map of the Upper Area of the Errol Heights park. Mayer|Reed facilitators stayed with their same groups. Each group had 30 minutes to work together to manipulate transparencies representing scaled park activities/elements on the large map of the Upper Area. The park activities were identified from the Master Plan and included: Playground area, picnic tables, basketball court, sports fields and a flexible field/open space. We added transparencies for the Community Garden and a Portland (Community Garden advocate) to join the CAC in this layout exercise as Karl Lee was not able to attend the CAC meeting.

Ryan's Group: Josh, Pam, Fon, Adrienne, Brett, Mike and Paul Tourville

- Group focused primarily on how to balance natural areas with recreational needs
- Locate basketball court by old substation on SE 45th Avenue, away from natural areas and near noisy street.
- Put the Portland Loo close to the entrance at Tenino Court and 49th Avenue
- Put in at least two picnic areas: one in the small separated area on Tenino Court and the other overlooking the lower natural area
- Place the playground area near /adjacent to the community garden
- In small disconnected land on Tenino Court: put basketball court or picnic area here
 - Comment: May have impact on neighbors, maybe not
- Move community garden to south edge on Tenino Court
- Put park entrance on Tenino Court and SE 49th avenue
- Locate nature play along the pathway
- Soccer field needs to be in flat area
 - Pam: We questioned the need for a soccer field at Errol Heights Park
 - Paul Tourville: We struggled with the idea of a soccer field
 - Carol Mayer-Reed: The Open House event will be perfect for vetting this idea
- Erich: How do you account for future uses and needs?
 - Carol: New families and people age too – cyclical dynamic.

Carol's Group: Gillian, Anne, Indigo, Paul Ciri and Erich

- We placed the community garden on the north edge on Tenino Court

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- Put basketball and play area next to each other – play area could gradually and gently extend into the natural area
- We did manage to get 2 U8 soccer fields into a layout but could explore a flexible field with one U8 soccer field.
- Small disconnected land on Tenino Court: could be a parking lot or a passive park area.
- NOTE: The group developed several creative layout ideas on paper, which Carol Mayer|Reed kept for reference.

Meeting Dates for CAC:

Sabrina lead the group through an exercise (red, green, yellow) to identify future CAC meeting dates. Based on the feedback from this exercise, the following meeting dates have been confirmed.

- Meeting #3: Wednesday, July 18, 2018, 6:30 pm – 9pm
- Open House,
 - PPS schools start August 27
 - Avoid first week of September due to PPS schedule
 - Consider Saturday, August 25 (10 am-2 pm); Wednesday, Sept 12 (4-7 pm)
 - Host on site, weather and daylight savings time permitting
- Meeting #4: Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 6:30 pm
- Meeting #5: Wednesday, November 14, 6:30 pm
- Meeting #6: January 2019, to be scheduled

Next Steps

Input from today's exercises will inform Mayer|Reed's work to develop two to three design concepts for the CAC to review at the next meeting in July. In addition, MR will use the comments from CAC tonight to supplement the preliminary list of park uses outlined in the Master Plan. This preliminary list will be presented to and reviewed by the CAC at the next meeting as well. PP&R and Mayer|Reed will also present this list and design concepts, after CAC review, at the Open House in August/September to solicit input from the broader community.

As requested at the first CAC meeting, George Lozovoy will present a project budget overview to the CAC. There will be time for Q&A from the CAC.

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We would appreciate advice from members of the CAC regarding the best timing for the Open House this summer, when we will be soliciting input from the broader community on the design concepts and preliminary list of park uses. For example:

- Should we host the open house on a weekend (10 am -2 pm) or week day (4-7 pm)?
- We are hoping to host the event on site. Do you think the entrance on SE 45th Avenue and Tenino Court would be appropriate and convenient for members of the public?
- As part of the open house, we are considering the idea of hosting nature walks through the natural area and upper plateau. We would ask Ali Young (BES) and Christian Haaning (PP&R) if they could help lead the walks. Do you think people would be interested in this at the open house event?

Follow Up on Questions and Requests:

- Christine provided the demographic data requested by Josh Freeman. He asked if it could be emailed to the rest of the committee as well. Christine emailed the information to the committee and saved it to the CAC Digital Folder as well.
- Christine has traded email messages with Greg Archuleta, member of the Native American Community Advisory Committee, on June 27, 2018, regarding his interest in the Errol Heights Master Planning process. She has invited Greg to a meeting with her as soon as he is available. When that meeting is scheduled, she will invite CAC members, Adrienne Moat and Gillian Murr as well.
- As requested by the CAC at the first meeting, George Lozovoy, Project Manager for the Errol Heights Project, will be present a project budget overview at the next CAC meeting on July 18, 2018.
- As request, Christine created a digital project folder for the CAC and sent an email and folder link to the CAC on July 2, 2018. All meeting summaries, agendas, the Master Plan document, photos, maps and other related information has been saved in this new digital folder.

Wrap Up and Meeting Evaluation:

A group participated in a meeting evaluation to provide PP&R staff with feedback on what worked well and what changes are needed for the next meeting.

The following + Δ were discussed.

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- Manipulating pieces during the layout exercise

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- Mixing of the groups and having space to work
- Coming back together to share what we did in small groups
- The follow through on items from the last meeting
- Christian Haaning's presentation
- Working in two small groups for the exercises

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- Need time to review last meeting for people who were not there
- Don't use the phrase "All of you know this" – it is not necessarily true
- More time for group exercises
- Packed agenda – less items
- Would like to have a digital or online project notebook

The meeting was closed at 9:30 pm.