

Myrtle Reservoir Park Development

Public Meeting #2

January 22, 2008

Present: Virginia Hassinger – Seattle Parks Project Manager
Karen O’Conner & Tamara Barnet – Parks Staff
Ida Ottesen, Jim Yamaguchi, Kenichi Nakano – Nakano and Associates

Purpose: Public Meeting #2

Discussion / Overview

- 2 handouts passed out. 1st handout showed brief description of project past and present, explanation of how decisions are made, and factors that may have an impact on the outcome of the project. 2nd handout showed the agenda and rules of the meeting.
- Virginia gave a brief description of the project, project history, project budget, the agenda and rules of the meeting.
- Citizen asked the question about being able to take a vote tonight.
- Virginia stated that this meeting is not about taking a majority vote. That decision will be up to the Parks Dept., however, we are here to listen to you, about what park elements you would like to see in the park.
- Virginia stated that all comments will be received after the descriptions of the park plans have been presented by Nakano.
- Nakano presented each of project designs, and stressed that the designs came from public input received at the first public meeting.
- Citizens requested that Nakano speak up. They could not hear park descriptions.
- Nakano stated that features in the park design include considerations for safety and security measures that help eliminate crime activity.
- Once Nakano presented all the design plans Virginia went around the room and asked for comments from each of the citizens regarding the designs.

- Citizens continued to give comments and asked questions. They include the following:
 1. Can there be a water feature on the sight such as Cal Anderson Park?
Virginia answered that Cal Anderson had a larger budget to work with and that we are working with a much smaller budget. If the community wants to raise funds for a better park, they can do so. For those interested in learning how to donate funds to the park, they can contact Virginia via email and she can let them know what the process is.
 2. Citizen asked about including picnic tables and benches on the sight.
Nakano said there will be play area that will include open space, picnic tables and benches.
 3. Several people voiced that they would like to see a skate park on the site..
 4. Citizen said she would like to see the park loop stay.

5. Another citizen asked about soft costs and could they be shown on the budget overview. Virginia said we can add as a line item for soft costs.
6. Citizens requested that a restroom or port-a-potty be put on the site. Virginia commented that the costs of a restroom facility are in the \$300k range. They are also known to promote criminal activity (depending on the park and location).
7. A citizen asked about parking in the park and would like to see additional parking spots. Virginia answered that parking will be street parking only.
8. Citizen asked about a chain link fence and lighting in the park. They also asked about art in the park. Virginia stated that the chain link fence can be removed this summer provided SPU grass seeding is established. . Construction will happen in late 2008 or early 2009. Lighting may be added in the park, included in cost estimate but not yet determined. . There is no funding provision for art on the park.
9. Citizen asked if the access road will stay, and will it be available to drive on. Nakano stated that the road is staying but bollards will installed; access only for SPU/ Parks crews.
10. Citizen asked about putting in a buffer zone or a low berm along 35th in the design, to keep kids safer and away from traffic. They also asked if the designs will go on the web. Virginia stated yes the designs will go on the web. Nakano will look into putting in some kind of buffer zone in the design.
11. Citizen asked if there would be a place for sledding.
12. Citizen asked to add crosswalks on 35th to improve access to the park.
13. Citizen asked if there will be landscaping around the cell phone tower.
14. Citizen asked if the park will have a closing time. Virginia answered yes, and that all of our parks have a closing time. Probably around 11:30pm.
15. What will the paving materials be? Nakano stated that there are not known at this time, however asphalt may be used.
16. Citizen said that is was a great idea to have the viewpoint as a theme for the park.
17. Citizen asked if the swales will be planted like they did at High Point.
18. Citizen requested if there could be entrances at the top of the park on the corners. Such as Cal Anderson Park.
19. Citizen commented that there needs to be a good balance between activities for different ages.
20. Citizen commented that we need more green space. Emphasize the design on environment, conservation and the view point.
21. Citizen said he likes the concept of an intergenerational area and the concept of interpreting and celebrating the High Point of Seattle.
22. Citizen asked if there will be trash cans. Virginia commented that all of Seattle Parks has trash cans.

23. Citizen said the water in her tap comes from the reservoir. She would like to see highlighted the amazing story of water from the Cedar Watershed. Water is precious, build in respect for what is underground, the reservoir.

- There were approximately 20 citizens who spoke out in support of a skate park. Reasons for a skate park included:
 1. Citizen commented, when are we going to develop a safe place where kids can come and play. Citizen in favor of a skate park.
 2. Citizen said young people (13-17) need a place to hang out, not in front of the TV. They need exercise.
 3. Citizen commented that he liked the scale of the skate park in one of the designs.
 4. Citizen said there is an ongoing struggle for skaters to skateboard. There is nothing close to here for them to do that. There are several public facilities for all other sports such as soccer, basketball and baseball but not for skateboarding. They're too few and far in between.
 5. Citizen said there is a Friends of Ballard Skate Park, and that he encouraged the community to create a Friends of Myrtle Reservoir Skate Park Group.
 6. Kid said he wishes there was a skate park. He used to skate on streets and sidewalks but he had to stop.
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 8. Citizen said this is an opportunity to site a skate park, the larger community needs to speak up for the skaters.
 9. Kid (skater) said we get kicked out of other places (such as tennis courts) when we skate there. We need a place to skate within our own community.
 10. Citizen said, he is not a skater but there are so many other recreational facilities available and there is nothing for skaters.

- There were approximately eight citizens who spoke out comments against a skatepark. Citizens that were against gave some of the reasons as to why not to have a skate park, they include:
 1. This is a neighborhood park, parking will be an issue. Concerned about safety along 35th. Lack of facilities is also concerning, people have needs even if they are spending quality time in the park.
 2. Citizen commented that skateboarders destroyed the Police Memorial in Olympia. (A project he had worked hard on.) The act was caught on tape. He has also had to jump out of the way for skateboarders many times.
 3. Citizen said he is opposed to a skate park. People might as well be asking for a swimming pool.
 4. Citizen commented that a skate park would be a disproportionate use of money compared to the other uses of the park.

In addition to verbal comments Park received about three dozen written comments at the meeting. Citizens were also encouraged to send comments by e-mail if desired.