



Meeting Notes

Ballard Playground- Athletic Field Improvements – Meeting #2

August 23, 2018

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ballard Community Center, 6020 28th Avenue NW, Seattle WA

Attendees: 2 participants

Project Overview

Katie Bang, project manager, provided an overview of project, which will include:

- Installing two baseball synthetic turf infields, replacing the sand infields
- Replacing field lighting with a new high efficiency LED field lighting system
- Improving access to in and around the field to the exterior restrooms, north door of the community center, and parking lot to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Improving outfield drainage and irrigation

The project budget is \$2.15 million for planning, design and construction.

Schedule: The project schedule includes: Design through Summer 2019; Construction through late Fall 2019

Project Team: Katie Bang, Seattle Parks Project Manager

Libby Hudson, Project Planner

Consultants: Lisa Corry and Renee Finney from Cascade Design Collaborative, and
Don McLean from DMD & Associates

Other consultants not in attendance at the meeting include:

- Sitewise Design, Civil Engineer: Steve Hatzenbeler
- DMD & Associates, Lighting Engineer: Dan Wong

Presentation & Discussion

Katie Bang discussed the comments from the previous meeting and what changes were made to the project since the June 11 meeting:

- Pathway lighting along the service road was requested previously but cannot be provided under the tight budget.
- New seating and a plaza were requested, but there is a large plaza between the building and the field and the budget will not allow for additional seating. New bleachers will be provided through another program, however.
- Access to the far field (Field #1) is proposed to be crushed rock and then cross the infield to reach the far dugout; This is an additive at this point since it exceeds the budget estimates at this time.
- Drainage issue on 28th Street was brought up, City records indicate that the inlet may be clogged, but investigation into the drain do not show evidence of clogging and the pipes are sized to be more than adequate for the drainage basin. The seeping in the SE corner that was discussed may be alleviated with the new field drainage that will be installed as part of the project.

- Infiltration testing was completed to determine the infiltration capacity of the field and results indicate that we will not be doing pervious concrete for pathways. The project proposes a wet vault for water quality and two bioretention cells to meet the City's Green Stormwater Infrastructure requirements.
- J-style backstops and temporary batting cages were requested at the last meeting by Little League reps. The cages are not possible at this site due potential impacts - the small size of the field and the existing Heritage trees; We are considering the backstops, but this is unlikely as it would be an addition to the project that is not currently budgeted.
- We also discovered that there is an underground fuel tank that was previously used for heating oil related to the community center. The tank is located in the area leading to the exterior restrooms that will need grading and pavement improvements. We will be removing this and it is an additional cost to the project that is already exceeding the budget.

Lisa Corry and Renee Finney described the project design.

- Synthetic turf samples were available to examine. The natural grass turf will be retained (new seeding) with new underdrainage and irrigation (existing system from the early 1970's).
- New concrete travel path to Field #2 will provide access from the restrooms and community center north entrance through the plaza area. Two landscape planters will be used to define the pathway. One planter will also serve as bioretention cell to meet the stormwater management needs.
- The proposed gravel pathway leading to Field #1 will also require the fence to be moved in toward the field – this is an additive.
- An ADA parking space will be provided on the west side of the community center and the pathway to the field from the stall will be located along the north side of the community center.

Don McLean of DMD & Associate detailed the field lighting plan

- The existing lighting has reached the end of its service life. There are currently 8 poles, 60' in height with incandescent lighting.
- The new lighting will include 8 poles 60'-80' in height with energy efficient LED lighting.
- Spill from the field lighting will be greatly reduced from the existing lighting system. Parks intends to meet the International Dark Skies (IDA) standards.
- The lighting analysis indicates that the new lighting will reduce the offsite spill to the extent that the light level will be the same that exists with only the existing street lights on and will save 60% in energy costs.
- The lighting design accounts for the Heritage trees and the other trees located at the west end of the field – by eliminating poles near these. Two trees will be removed along the south side of the field due to poor health. One tree will be replaced, and a light pole will be placed where the other tree was located.

Renee Finney discussed the synthetic turf infill

- Infill material will not be crumb rubber but will likely be cork or cork-o-nut (a mix of coconut fiber and cork).
- The infill is placed in the "grass fibers" which are typically 1-1/2- 2" high.
- Cork is somewhat absorbent, and cooler than crumb-rubber.

Renee Finney discussed drainage and irrigation.

- New irrigation will connect to the existing pipe and will stay away from the Heritage trees.
- Underdrainage will be completely replaced and drain in the same fashion as the existing system (to the southwest corner of the field) and will stay away from the Heritage Trees.

Lisa Corry discussed the stormwater approach.

The stormwater collected will be treated through two biofiltrations as discussed previously. This is the alternative to pervious concrete, which is a maintenance issue for Parks; then the stormwater will be piped to the west and drained into the public storm drainage system in 28th Ave NW, rather than the sanitary system in NW 60th Street as is currently the case.

Discussion

- Concerned about fireworks being set off in the field; calls to the police have not been effective. These fireworks are illegal in Seattle and a threat to people's homes and other property, in addition to being a noisy nuisance to people and animals. What is Parks doing about this issue? The police will not respond.
Parks Response: Parks Department has taken actions to help prevent people from lighting illegal fireworks on fields across the city, including Ballard Playfield. These measures included keeping the field lights on and patrolling the parks. This is a problem every summer in the city and Parks takes measures to encourage people to go see firework displays by promoting view parks as locations to watch the sanctioned firework displays.
- New signs went up at the park regarding dogs not being allowed on the field. Why can't I have my dog on the field?
Parks Response: Dogs are not allowed on athletic field, in playgrounds or on beaches. This is a city ordinance. Dog defecation is one reason, but dogs also tear up athletic fields with their claws, particularly when the fields are wet.
- The new lights are great – much improvement as illustrated in the photos
- Very happy about the Heritage trees and other trees being saved and in keeping the grass outfields. Seems like a good compromise; I didn't want to see what happened at Ballard High School with synthetic turf installed in the outfield. Grass keeps our city cooler – we need to keep as much natural as possible; children need to be able to run in real grass
- Natural grass is important to children, birds, animals, butterflies, etc. In the city, creatures depend on open spaces and fields like Ballard Playfield
- Appreciate the meeting; it's important to have face-to-face meetings discussion these proposals

Next Steps

The project requires permitting approval for the light poles – master use permit – which will take some time; construction is anticipated next summer, but dependent on permit approvals and bidding success.

If you have further questions, comments or concerns, please contact Katie Bang, Project Manager at Katie.Bang@seattle.gov. Check the project website to follow the project – <https://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/ballard-playground-athletic-field-improvements>