

Public Meeting 1 SUMMARY | August 2020

Seattle Parks & Recreation

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of the Public Meeting #1 was to introduce the project, outline the goals and outcomes intended with this project, review the history of the park, and gain initial feedback on some of the community investments have happened in the park throughout the recent protests and the CHOP/CHAZ process.

The meetings were held at two separate times:

- Wednesday, August 5th 6:00pm 7:30pm
- Thursday, August 6th 12:00pm 1:30pm

The same meeting content and format were presented for both meetings. Both meetings were also livestreamed on You-Tube and recorded. The recordings and meeting materials are posted on the project website at <u>2020calandersonpark.com</u>.

Overview of Comments

The majority of the comments received during the meeting fell into the following categories, with a description of the comments, questions or concerns raised and some example comments pulled from the meeting recordings. A full list of questions, comments, and responses will be provided on the project website.

 Safety and Security – Comments and concerns raised include questions around homelessness in the park, improving lighting and views through the park, and making the park feel safer for everyone.

Example comments:

"Public safety has been a problem in Cal Anderson Park. Several years ago there was lighting study to improve public safety. What is the timeline for the city to implement the lighting improvements?"

"What conversations have been had around security for the park?"

"I am a longtime resident of Capitol Hill and live across from C.A, former border of CHOP. I have a small daughter, and would like to be able to feel safe, welcome and build the sense of community and help out"

2. Park Programming – There were a number of comments and questions about different types of programming in the park. A number of participants asked if a dog park was being considered as part of the park improvements. Others suggested different types of uses for the Shelter House, and concerns with how to better utilize this structure. Other ideas suggested for future programming included turning the adjacent street into a pedestrian only street, creating a larger plaza, and bringing in food trucks and vendors.

Example comments:

"I'm Ella, I'm 12 years old and I've been going to this park my whole life, and I think that the park needs a designated dog area (also to prevent trampling/ eating garden), has anyone thought about that recently?"

"How will you ensure that the programs and resources provided in the new park are not co-opted by those with privilege? / that a diverse group maintains leadership?"

Can the pump-houses and shed on the east side of the park be considered for community and concession uses as well?

I'd like the "tennis court" to be a more official skate park. It's already an unofficial one, let's make it better/more permanent.

3. BIPOC / LGBTQIA+ - A number of questions were raised asking how SPR will engage members of the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, how the concerns of these groups will be addressed, and how will the park prioritize these concerns. If improvements are made specific to the BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+ community, such as a community garden, will SPR exclude other types of users. There was also a concern that a specific focus on the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ community through this process would exclude the concerns of residents living near the park who may not identify as either of these communities.

Example comments:

"What strategies is the design team using to reach the black community? Are you going to them? How will you ensure black voices aren't being overshadowed by non-black voices"

"How will you intentionally include the Duwamish people in your planning of these lands? For instance, you could speak with them about how they traditionally used that part of the land, and if there is any knowledge around how we could restore it to its traditional uses."

"How will parks ensure that their staff is trained in equity and justice? Not only do there need to be BIPOC folks in leadership and decision making, but we also need to be ensuring that everyone, including white folks, are educated on these issues around land sovereignty and justice."

"Why is the park process be led by the BIPOC populations, especially if they are not residents of the Capitol Hill neighborhood around the park. . They represent a small part of the population on Capitol Hill and while they should be included (definitely), their wants should not overrule what people who live on Capitol Hill want." 4. Health and Human Services – A number of health and human services are current available in the park, or were available during the CHOP/CHAZ process. There was a desire expressed by many to continue these services and expand health and human service programs in the park to meet the growing need of the Capitol Hill community, and particularly to support those experiencing homlessness. Potential use of the Shelter House to support these services was part of this discussion as well.

Example comments:

"Are counselors able to come in to the park from time to time to provide assistance. How about even having police if they wish to volunteer to have something in the park where they can work with folks in the community so we can get to know the police like - meet 1-3 police and community harvesting in the garden today. Just something like that."

"I think all of these are good ideas, but one of the largest problems facing Seattle is homelessness, and I've heard many people say they want services for the homeless community."

"Can we offer services for the homeless and educational services?"

5. CHOP / CHAZ – Three types of uses were developed in the park through the CHOP/CHAZ process. These included the community garden, conversation corner, and a number of community-based public art installations. Community members commented on these uses and offered different opinions on if they should find a permanent home in the park. The live-poll results around this topic are shown in the following section. Some questions raised relevant to this discussion included how the public art could be preserved, what would a permanent community garden look like, and what is a conversation corner.

Example comments:

"Community gardens are wonderful. However, the location of the main part of the garden, other than the raised beds, takes up space that we use for community events such as the garage sale, movies, clean up Cal Anderson events, charity events, etc."

"Specify conversation corner for bipoc folks, and centering their voice."

"Community garden: Who would maintain....perhaps local school children to learn more about gardening? Who would reap the harvests? I would say low-income households on Capitol Hill. Someone has to maintain the garden, so an investment needs to be made. Otherwise, it will become a bunch of weeds. One thing I do not want in Cal Anderson Park is it becomes a tent encampment where children and adults feel unsafe."

"Retain nothing except possibly the Black Lives Matter street sign -- nothing else."

6. Operations and Maintenance – With the current COVID pandemic restricting access and use of the park, maintenance and operations activities have also been limited. The use of the park through ongoing protests and activities held through the CHOP/CHAZ process have also affected the overall maintenance of the park. There were also a number of questions reopening some of the current park elements, such as the water fountain and the restrooms, that have remained closed throughout the COVID pandemic. Funding for continued maintenance and being able to maintain the current improvements to an adequate level were also concerns raised during the meeting.

Example comments:

"The city does a very poor job of maintaining the park. What is the plan to improve maintenance and maintain the proposed new design elements?"

"When is the reflecting pool and fountain going to be fixed? before taking on additional projects, could the existing features be taken care of first."

"Does this activation include the un-homed? what strategies are being considered to provide public showers?"

"How much of the budget for the park has been consumed by vandalism cleanup & addressing damage (intentional or unintentional) from unhoused folks?"

Live-polling results

There were three live-polling questions conducted during each meeting. The questions asked were the same at each meeting, and the results were displayed after participants were given an opportunity to respond via their mobile devise or polling website. The questions and results of the live-polling from each meeting are shown below.

QUESTION 1: What is one word or phrase that embodies inclusion to you?





QUESTION 2: What is one word or phrase that embodies your vision for the park?

QUESTION 3: How much would you support the idea of a garden program to foster a better sense of belonging for underserved communities in Cal Anderson Park?



QUESTION 4: How much would you support the idea of retaining some of the artwork from the protests to foster a better sense of belonging for underserved communities in Cal Anderson Park?



QUESTION 5: How much would you support the idea of a conversation corner to foster a better sense of belonging for underserved communities in Cal Anderson Park?



QUESTION 6: What other ideas or questions do you have?

Comments are listed in the table below with responses from SPR included. Responses were added after the public meeting.

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I believe that Cal Anderson would greatly benefit from full-time parks employee being in the park helping to facilitate activities, events, and maintenance. Point well taken. Activation Could the garden be done with the P Patch program but also have a community garden space where produce is grown to be donated to local food banks? Garden education here as well. I'd also like to mention that there are other community gardens in parks that are not done via p patch and it's confusing who "owns" them and who is able to participate. Point well taken. We need to adopt the best management model possible for the site. Garden How will you make Cal Anderson safer? As a woman, I don't feel safe being in a park with a lot of fung use too. Together, we need to find ways to positively activate the park. Safety, Homelessness How will access to the park maintained throughout the day? How will nights be treated in terms of noise issues with the potential addition of the gardens and conversation We will add this to the list of ideas! That being said, the sloped lawn area to the immediate North of the Comfort Station and Shelterhouse was intended for large gatherings. Movies have been shown in this location in the past. Add to "Ideas"			
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land, like Volunteer Park? should stay in the same place if it were to remain.		There has not been a determination as to whether the garden remains or if it	

Question	Response	Category
The Capitol Hill Eco District and Seattle Audubon request that Seattle Parks and		category
Recreation practice transparency and openness in both the creation of this process and		
manner in which it is conducted, clarifying how you will demonstrate accountability with community – especially with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color whom you		
say you will center in this conversation.		
For several years, the Capitol Hill Eco District and Seattle Audubon have collaborated	Lead this project through participatory engagement as well as shared decision	
with Seattle's Urban Bird Treaty City coalition to advocate for Pesticide Free Park	making.	
designation at Cal Anderson. Our specific concern has been the extensive use of toxic rodenticides. We have heard multiple claims from Seattle Parks and Recreation,		
including that Cal Anderson is already pesticide-free and that the park cannot be	Elevate and center BIPOC voices, concerns, experiences and our decision making	
managed as pesticide-free.	will be led from this guiding principle.	
While toxic rodenticides pose risks to birds, wildlife, and humans, we are pressing	Utilize our equity analysis tools and continued relationships with BIPOC	
pause on this aspect of our work. The experience of Christian Cooper as he was birdwatching in New York hit home with us and we acknowledge that the same	community to continue evaluation of our efforts and they are servicing BIPOC	
dynamics of white supremacy are in play in Capitol Hill, too. The lack of safety	needs, desires, mitigate historical injustices etc.	
experienced by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color who either use Cal Anderson, or	These are how we hold ourselves accountable	
who feel unwelcome and therefore avoid it must take priority. Our experience with Seattle Parks and Recreation has been less than transparent. To		
be equitable, any public process for Cal Anderson Park must be transparent and		
demonstrate accountability to those most impacted, namely BIPOC communities.		
Decision making for park improvements should be led by BIPOC community voices. We		
urge Parks to begin an open process that co-creates space and stewardship with		
community members.	Lead this project through participatory engagement as well as shared decision	
	making.	
	Elevate and center BIPOC voices, concerns, experiences and our decision making will be led from this guiding principle.	
This is a comment rather than a question but could be reframed as "how will Parks and		
Rec co-create with and demonstrate accountability to BIPOC people?"	Utilize our equity analysis tools and continued relationships with BIPOC	
	community to continue evaluation of our efforts and they are servicing BIPOC	
	needs, desires, mitigate historical injustices etc.	
	These are how we hold ourselves accountable	
What will happen to all the queer and community programming that used to happen	There has not been a determination as to whether the garden remains or if it	Garden
on the lawn where the garden is now?	should stay in the same place if it were to remain. Community circles allow a way for people to congregate and share their ideas.	
What was meant by the "conservation corner" in this context?	This was an integral part of the CHOP/CHAZ community experience.	Conversation Corner
I am curious how long Marcus has lived on Capitol Hill? Duwamish land memorial	Point well taken	
We need a dog park. I know that would take up some space but there are no good		
spots for Capitol Hill dog owners to bring their pups to run, and there is tension	Thank you for sharing!	Capitol Hill OLA Planning
between people/park staff when unleashed dogs are released on the field. There are	mank you for sharing.	Study
so many dogs in this neighborhood. Would space for recreation be reduced by pursuing any of the initiatives around the		
art, garden, or conversation corner? I would not want to see that, especially given ever	Thank you for sharing! Let's see what the site analysis unveils.	Site Analysis
greater needs for recreation space in the community.		
Another vital aspect of CHAZ was space for black entrepreneurship. Some form of	Thank you for sharing	Garden, Conversation
"market" space for vendors could add vitality to a garden and community conversation corner.	Thank you for sharing:	Corner
We feel that the main purpose of the park is to provide open space for the community,	Thank you for sharing!	Garden
and that should be the goal. I don't see any need to have an additional p-patch.		Garden
Consider locating the garden in a community where there are food deserts. Cal Anderson Park is located near expensive condos and the larger part of the p	Point well taken	Garden
1) A large covered gathering space for community members to convene		1
Open to the public the currently closed building opposite from the bathrooms	Thank you for sharing!	Community
 Repurpose the pumphouse to better serve the community 		
How will you prioritize those in need over the dogs of gentrifiers?	There is a separate planning study for OLAs in Capital Hill	Capitol Hill OLA Planning
		Study
The long-term sustainability of uses and programming being planned. We want an activated park, but there's got to be consideration for funding, practicality of plans,	Point well taken!	
Why not make the vegetable garden in Cal Anderson idea into something really		
effective and have Black Star partner with SPR on a larger parcel, at least an acre, for a		
small managed 'farm' - think Edgefield in Oregon on a small scale. Something with water and a serious shed or building eventually. A Cal Anderson garden is too small of	Thank you for sharing!	Garden
a gesture in a space already programmed for other important uses.		
Are there current programs around community volunteering in Cal Anderson? If not, is	Hopefully this process will reinvigorate a Cal Anderson Park Stewardship group	Safety
this something that feasibly could be integrated to the park's management?		*
I mainly want the park restored to the pre-chop state. Cal Anderson cannot meet every possible need . Please, no dog runs in the park. Put it someplace else.	Thank you for sharing!	Capitol Hill OLA Planning Study
What about working with SDOT to close down the adjacent portion of Pine street as a	We have reached out to SDOT to consider alterations to the ROW surrounding	Conversation Corner
way to add space for a conversation corner?	Cal Anderson Park	Conversation Corner
Public Safety! Particularly at night. The park needs better lighting (or other ways) to make all who use it feel comfortable.	Point well taken. Safety and sustainability of operations is key.	Safety
	The current process is a planning study. Once we get a better idea of the	
Rico, can you briefly go through how the design and contracting process is put	community initiated ideas for changes in response to the protests we will	
together? Who is design team? Who is designing? Anticipated budget allocations for	develop a road map forward including design of certain elements. There is	
design and installation?	currently no budget allocations for design and installation because we don't know exactly what the projects are.	

Question	Response	Category
I would love to see a classroom built, that could regularly be a place for community		
gatherings, that could host discussions around diversity & inclusion, and lectures about		
the history of Seattle and its community. It could be a place for farmers to teach about		
	Point well taken!	Safety
the protests, it could be a forum where government and police leaders regularly meet		
with their constituencies, to directly hear the needs of the community and work to		
make progress together.		
it's very encouraging to see a number of people here and wonderful ideas. I think it's important to put some emphasis on safety and ongoing stewardship. There was a		
lighting study and plan conducted several years ago. maybe brush the dust off and		
provide some funding so the park is more accessible during the winter. Also operable	Point well taken. Safety and sustainability of operations is key.	Safety
and safe restrooms for everyone's use. Finally an ongoing maintenance plan so this		
park can properly support the activism that organically gathers here. Let's not be		
reactionary. Let's find a way to continuously maintain.		
Hello, Jordan here, one of the founders of the Conversation Cafe of CHOP. CHOP		
created a unique culture that encouraged vulnerable sharing and openness across		
difference that is hard to replicate. Have the discussions around the conversations	Absolutely! These programs need to be community initiated and co-lead w/city	
circles been approached in a way that works to foster co-created programming and	if they are going to be successful.	Conversation Corner
empowered agency for the community to guide different moments for this public space (potentially with a guiding mission for the types of experiences that are co-		
created)?		
I think any of the options proposed need to be flexible and activated by the		
community. If there is public art from the CHOP/protest, who is deciding what goes in?		
What is the plan for changing out art to keep this relevant to ongoing efforts for racial		
equity and inclusion? Who is activating conversation corner? As the timeline	Absolutely! These programs need to be community initiated and co-lead w/city if they are going to be successful.	Community, Art
acknowledged, it is important for the park to reflect the current needs of the	if they are going to be successful.	
community and continuously go back to these questions. That seems more important		
than the specific design of what is put in place.		
How will these discussion be accessible to BIPoC communities that were displaced by	We are reaching out to the broader BIPOC community for this reason	
the current community in Capitol Hill? A big push for creative mental health programs & an initiative for inclusive mutual		
support	Great idea!!	Human Services
I think providing an area of the park for artist of Seattle to collaborate to provide a		
story telling of the events would be great.	Great idea!!	Art
CAL2020		
Also I think Cal Anderson park should be a community resource area and allow for	Point well taken!	Community
neighbors to come together and meet varying cultures and people		community
As I suspected, no one has answered either of my questions because they are		
unpopular opinions. I use the park every day.		
We had a real sense of community here during CHOP/CHAZ that was amazing to see. I		
think we need to continue to lean into that - community trash pick-up days, movie screenings, farmers-market style events that showcase our small businesses, etc.	Point well taken!	Community
(obviously when it is safe to gather!) Cal Anderson is an amazing space that could be so		community
much more of a community hub.		
2020CAP		
What are ways folks in the community (like us in this meeting!) can participate in		
keeping the parks systems accountable to the initiatives being taken and the intentions	Hopefully this process will reinvigorate a Cal Anderson Park Stewardship group	Community
behind them as we move forward?		
How will you address safety???? It	We need to talk thru what this looks like and partner with community	Safety
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	stakeholders to sustain a higher level of safety.	
It's not a safe place for women and children	We are hearing that enhanced health and safety for all park patrons is an initiative in and of itself.	Safety
Why not allow the current program in Cal Anderson that was arrived at through long	miliauve manu oritsen.	
and involved community input to stand and use the park for ad hoc round tables etc.		
which are not prevented in anyway now. It becomes a question of equally allowing		
use for everyone in the community and to avoid conditions where the lack of		Conversation Comme
stewardship will tarnish and degrade what started out with high ideals. My concern is	Thank you for sharing!	Conversation Corner, Community
that a permanent round table built-in area will be become a mini CHOP which was not		community
all positive despite the wonderful things that happened and not a place where any		
progressive group was able to maintain respect for the park or the perception that it		
was a safe space for everybody.		
I hear mostly buzz words, not real plans. We were asked whether we wanted a conversation corner but no one was able to say what that meant. It is clear that the		
main way to make the park feel safer is to deal with camping in the park. I felt the		
digging up of my neighborhood park for private garden plots was not a form of		Conversation Corner,
"community"., but vandalism and private appropriation of public place. I firmly	Points received. Conversation Corner will be further explained in next mtg.	Community
oppose giving the building opposite the bathrooms to specific groups. There used to		
be a preschool program there. I support using the building more. But not giving it to a		
private group to run, but needs to be shared by the entire community.		
How about improving the walkways and lighting (especially during fall, winter, spring		
when it's dark and the pathways flood) and making this a preferred thoroughfare		
to/from the light rail station, south. Right now most of the foot traffic (prior to COVID)		
uses Broadway due to the issues mentioned above. This would be a natural activation of the space which may help address some of the maintenance issues mentioned	Points well taken!	Safety
earlier (Andy said activation helps against some maintenance issues) and further		
support some of the initiatives mentioned earlier (garden, art, community corner,		
whatever goes in the shelter house)		
	•	