Othello Park Play Area Renovation
COMMUNITY MEETING #2 NOTES

Sunday, August 16, 2015 – 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Othello Park Play Area

These notes reflect findings from the third community meeting for the Play Area Renovation project and a review of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Opportunity Fund project. Seattle Parks had an open both at Othello Fest, a popular community festival at Othello Park. Johnson Sutherland and Parks staff presented the goals and overview of both projects with display boards and 1 on 1 explanation. Community attendees were interacting with designers and staff during the meeting with questions and comments. Specific question related to design and informal voting on play area equipment occurred.

Parks will compile all input from the community to inform the design for the renovation of the play area and park.

Attendees:
Kelly Goold, Project Planner of Seattle Parks and Recreation
Sarah Gould, Landscape Architect of Johnson Sutherland

Design Background
Scope:
Play-area Renovation. Bring the play area into compliance with current play area safety standards and guideline of American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), as well as meets ADA requirements. Improve the connection between the play areas, basketball court and comfort station. Elements include a new play-equipment , play areas separated by age groups, ADA complaint paving, and improved connection to surrounding park features.

Opportunity Fund Project. Varying project elements to improve safety and access. Specific elements to include way-finding and mile markers, benches and seating, expanding existing basketball courts, converting second basketball court to multi-sport court, and native species planting to improve visibility and storm water retention of the existing steep slope.

Budget:
The total budget for the improvements is $500,000 for the Play-area. Funding is made available through the King County 2013 Park Levy.. The project budget cover all costs associated with the project including administration, design, permits, bidding and construction.

Budget for the 2008 Parks and Greenspace Levy Opportunity Fund is $547,000. This budget includes basketball court improvements, renovate existing 2nd basketball court to multi-sport court, wayfinding medallions, CPTED improvements, and landscaping improvements. This project had previous public input and elements were reviewed again at this public meeting(s).
Both project budgets will be combined under one construction project to provide for greater efficiencies and reduce construction impacts to the park.

Community Responses to proposed plans:

- Would like more benches in the NW corner of the park
- Would like more 'nature' as a refuge from noise
- Like the bench around the tree in play-area
- Like nature play
- Like the dived play-area option
- Hill challenge is cool
- Chess is really popular – add more chess boards near play area
- Like slides, swings and spinners
- No cucumbers
- Separate areas – provide more independence for smaller/developing kinds
- Separated play area by age group is a positive, adult fitness equipment is a positive
- Like the scale of the large play area equipment. Like multi-generational equipment
- Larger non separated play area offers more play equipment, advantage of sight lines
- Adult kids would use adult fitness equipment
- Appreciate more natural elements of the park
- Appreciate more naturalistic less structured play options
- Big play area equals big play equipment
- Like the big play equipment
- Big play area is better for sight-lines
- Larger (non-separated) play area is more bang for the buck
- Safety improvements for night time running/jogging in the park
- Locate some chess tables by the play area, chess for kids is a strong community element, Det. Cookie of SPD runs a widely popular afterschool chess program and often sets up chess in the park. A dedicated area for chess would be appreciated.
- Re-work basket-ball court on south end of 45th, after hours basketball on this court is a frequent occurrence. Associated noise is a concern of neighbors.
- Be thoughtful in selecting adult fitness equipment. Consider the population of the neighborhood, pay close attention to modesty elements that some adults may have.

For more information contact:

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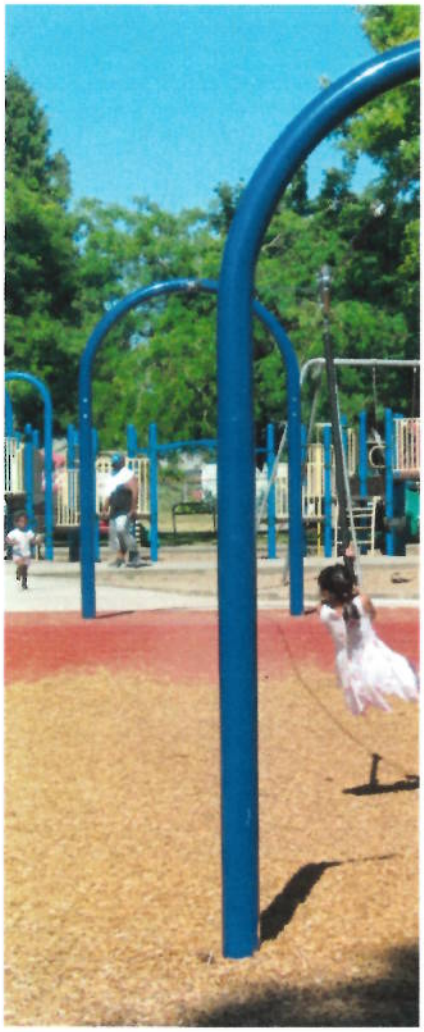

OTHELLO PARK PHASE III

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

JOHNSON SOUTHERLAND

WHAT'S GOING ON?

In the past couple of years, the Parks Department and the Othello Park Alliance have worked with the Othello Community to make a number of changes at Othello Park. First came safety improvements such as removing brushy vegetation, all new lighting, and fixing paving throughout the park. Then came new entries, the stage, and the zip line. We will soon be putting in some furnishings and wayfinding for the walking trails, planting the hillside, adding seating at the north basketball court, and updating the comfort station with new lighting, fixtures, and accessible restrooms.

Now the Parks Department is planning improvements for the play area. We need to make sure that the play area meets new standards for safety and accessibility, and Parks has a budget for making these changes. The new play area is expected to be built next year.

Your input will help us figure out what gets top priority, even if the available budget or space can't stretch to do everything people want. We've spent some time in the park to meet with the public, and now we would like to hear what you think of the new draft plan!

WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR

Most people love the play area as it is! While we need to make changes and will replace some of the equipment, we'll try to keep in mind what people like and keep its spirit intact.

People love...

The existing swings (yes, we can keep them!)

A big play structure in a newer, more free-form style

A naturalistic play area with boulders and logs for young children

Transforming the southern basketball court into a multi-sport court with soccer goals and lower hoops

A wide variety of play equipment for kids of all ages

Adult fitness equipment so adults can play too

The giant hill slide (don't worry, we won't touch it!)

WHAT ABOUT...?

Spray Park: Sorry, we can't provide this one! Spray-parks are very expensive to build – mostly because of the filtration and mechanical equipment required, we wouldn't have any left over to pay for the other things the park needs. There are some options nearby; a small spray park at John C. Little Park, a larger spray-park at Jefferson Park and a wading pool up the hill at Van Asselt Community Center.

P-Patch: People liked the idea of having a P-Patch. The P-Patch program told us that passionate community members can put together a committee and work with them to get one started. However, the program is expanding beyond their current staff capacity and they are overwhelmed, so they will not be supporting new P-Patches right away.

Dog Park: A dog park is outside the scope of this project. It's a big project that needs to be powered by a committee of energized community members. It would require a community approval process and a formal permitted change of use process. This kind of time-line would delay renovation to the play-area. A city wide off leash planning effort is underway - for more information visit http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/offleash/.

OTHELLO PARK PHASE III

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

TIME FOR THE NEW PLAYGROUND!

We're considering two alternate plans for the play area renovation. Tell us what you like or dislike about each one – after we get your input, we'll put together a final blueprint.

SCHEME 1

A large play area is connected with a flow of boulders to a nature play area for tots, creating one continuous play space.

Your comments:

SCHEME 2

A central plaza anchors the three distinct play zones, with paths providing easy access to everything.

Your comments: