

Meeting Notes

Puget Ridge Playground - Play Area Renovation - Meeting #1

April 16, 2018

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Sanislo Elementary School, 1812 SW Myrtle Street, Seattle

Attendees: Approximately 14 participants (including 7 children)

Project Team Libby Hudson, Planner; David Bader, Landscape Architect; and C. J. de Leon, Project Manager

Project Puget Ridge Playground Renovation will update play area and play equipment with structures accessible to children of all abilities. Additionally, the project will enhance safety and improve play area accessibility in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Budget & Schedule Budget: \$300,000 for planning, design and construction
Schedule: Planning & Design: Spring & Summer 2018
Construction: Fall/Winter 2018

Introduction & Project Description

Staff presented an overview of the project, and a summary of the survey input from the community. Libby Hudson went over the feedback received from the survey noting that the park is lightly used (2x a month- 4x a year) in the afternoon mostly, focused on toddlers where climbing, sliding and running around the enclosed playground are popular activities.

Respondent's really like the fully enclosed playground and have a high desire to include swings. There is strong support for keeping it toddler-focused, but many want to see structures for older kids. Some of the survey comments included: keeping a toddler table; improving visibility; and addressing drainage concerns just outside the play area. The "nature-inspired" play equipment was the most desired style.

In terms of new equipment desired, respondents would like to see climbing, sliding and balancing structures, before monkey bars and imaginary play. Many comments (11) supported swings, primarily for toddlers, although SPR did not include that in the survey questions. One person wanted to see the talk tubes remain; another the rocking toys; another wanted the park to cater to disabilities, including hearing with sensory play structures.

David Bader described the park features, noting opportunities and constraints. The playground is very small and will likely continue to focus on younger kids given the park size. He explained that the layout of the park would likely remain similar, with improvements to the seating and gathering along with new play equipment, also noting that the lower terraced play area (with the spring toys) may need to be lifted to meet safety standards for the wall that divides the terraces. David said that Parks staff understands that there is a great desire for swings at the park, and also noted that swings are difficult to locate in such a small park. He asked whether people used

the bench that is located in the small “field”. Attendees responded that parents often use that bench as children run around in the grass area or on the small trail that runs along the western fence line.

A number of attendees commented about the drainage issues of the street and wondered if somehow the transportation and Parks Departments of the City could work together on a solution. David and Libby explained that the budget for playground improvement was small, and that funds will be focused on the park equipment primarily. Parks staff works often with Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) staff, and David and Libby agreed that they would communicate with SDOT staff to see if and when drainage issues along 21st Avenue SW might be addressed.

The group then shared their comments and concerns regarding the playground:

Concern:

- Pine debris is an issue sometimes; kids throw the cones
- Adjacent neighbors would be ok if the tree were removed
- BBQ grill used to be at the site and created problems; discourage grills at this park
- Like to see a bridge as part of climber and to mix and match the play structure
- Don’t think movable tables would be good here; create problems
- The Drinking fountain is used by kids in park and by cyclists along the bikeway
- Little kids love the trail along the fence
- Kids like the “field” and parent use the bench there

Swings

- With the understanding that swings are hard to locate in this small park, still would like to see a round platform swing - It could meet ADA and work for toddlers/babies - Examples are at Cottage Grove and West Crest Park
- Love to see a swing of some type – either toddler or parent-child; Would be good to have a swing to put the non-walkers into while their sibling plays on the other equipment
- Maybe a Viking swing would work here – in lawn area

Gates

- We love the gates because kids can’t get out of the park. R- we will likely need to add a bar on it to meet ADA requirements
- The double swing utility gate is a problem if the closing isn’t secure and tight. Kids have gotten their head stuck. R- We may be able to reduce it to one gate since it is excessively wide for necessity.
- Do the existing play area containment walls meet safety standards? R- We are not sure at this point until we get a final survey, but we will modify the play area to assure that the 30” height is met by either raising the grade of the lower play area or reducing the height of the wall.
- We like the kids table; parents can be at one table and the kids enjoying the other
- Kids love the little “house” at the top of the climbing structure
- The Forest theme for play equipment style seems to fit in best for the parks surroundings
- Like the climbing structure of the Butterfly Garden style

- Like the existing spring rockers; these are good for very young children and the older kids like the other equipment

Drainage Issues

- Request the SPR work with SDOT to address the pooling of water on 21st street. Please look into coordinating on addressing the drainage issues while the park is under construction.
- This large pool makes it unsafe to get to the park
- SDOT did do some ditching at one point, but this did not last long since the area is unpaved and parking of cars in this area obliterated the ditching
- R- we will discuss this with SDOT staff, but the SPR budget is limited to the playground equipment renovation and related design/construction and the street utility drainage is the role of SDOT.

Final comments

- Like to see a slide
- Like the wood look
- Would like to see imaginative play with kids art

C.J. described the schedule, planning and design occurring now through the summer. He asked what would be the preference for construction since the park will be closed to use during that time. The attendees would prefer that the construction take place in the late fall

Libby asked about the kiosk, and respondents said that it is not really used; most use the neighborhood email for communication; would be ok to remove.

Libby noted that the survey would be open for another week, closing April 23rd. Comments from the meeting and survey will be used to help guide the playground project. David will be putting together a preferred schematic design and presenting it to the audience at our next meeting, which is June 6, an early school release day, at the park – rain or shine.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 4:00-6:00 PM at Puget Ridge Playground

Adjourn