

# Meeting Notes

## Wallingford Playfield - Play Area Renovation - Meeting #1

July 10, 2018

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Wallingford Boys and Girls Club, 1310 N 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle

**Attendees:** Approximately 23 participants

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<b>Project Team</b>	Libby Hudson, Planner; Pamela Alspaugh, Sr. Landscape Architect; and Shannon Glass, PLA, Project Manager
<b>Project</b>	Wallingford Play Area Renovation will replace play area equipment due to insect infestation in old wood equipment. The new play equipment will meet current national safety standards and assure accessibility to children of all abilities, ages 2-5 and 5-12. Access improvements will be made to the play area, if needed, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
<b>Budget &amp; Schedule</b>	Budget: \$400,000 for planning, design and construction Schedule: <u>Planning &amp; Design</u> : Spring/Summer 2018 <u>Construction</u> : Fall/Winter 2018

### **INTRODUCTION/PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Planner Hudson presented the project overview explaining that the purpose of the renovation is to improve the play area safety and replace the wooden play equipment that is infested with termites. The new equipment will meet current safety and ADA accessibility standards.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT**

Hudson described the feedback received from the community survey, in which we received more than 260 responses. Hudson summarized the community feedback:

- Play Style: Most desired are Combination of decks & climbing - climbing important; Nature themed; contemporary/modern in style
- Play Elements: Most desired are Slides, Swings & Climbing structures; followed by Balance structures and Bridges
- Other Elements: Top two elements desired are Fixed picnic tables and Benches, and tied for third, are more Landscaping & Dog waste stations

Comments were viewed and considered by the designer in selecting play equipment options that are being presented. In addition, there were a number of comments and concerns regarding off-leash dogs at the park, noting that there have also been serious injuries.

### **Off-leash Dog Issues**

Marlan Teeters, Security Supervisor from the Parks Security Office advised people about what to do if they encounter off-leash dogs near the play area, noting that off-leash dog issues are an overwhelming problem in

Seattle and that the City works with Animal Control and has two teams that address the off-leash issues in our parks.

#### Comments/ Questions

- Need more and better signage could help
- Are the teams Animal Control or Parks staff?  
Parks Response: Both - 1 police officer + 1 Parks employee
- Signage isn't working; dog owners know, but don't seem to care  
Parks Response: Couple of suggestions – If you see it, report it; the more calls, the more response. Increased patrols occur where there are more issues. Call #386-PETS. You can also report online: [www.seattleanimalshelter.org](http://www.seattleanimalshelter.org) Marlan noted that if you witness an attack, call 911. It's a police issue at that point, as dog attacks are considered assaults
- Could park signs include these contacts? Yes, and locate it where the big project sign is located, between the play area and the field.
- Parks Response: We will forward that request on for consideration.
- I've called and don't get response  
Parks Response: Injuries are at another level. Keep calling; keep reporting. Be the squeaky wheel.

#### **PLAY EQUIPMENT OPTIONS**

Pam Alspaugh discussed the termite issues with the wood structures, explaining that the swings needed to be removed immediately due to structural damage, and the play area renovation was moved ahead in the schedule because of the infestation. Parks wants to be proactive and plan for the renovation before the equipment fails and must be removed for safety purposes. Planning now, means a shorter time for the play area to be out of service.

The scope of the project will include new play equipment and new wood benches and picnic tables – all compromised by the termites. All the new play equipment will need to meet ADA standards and safety standards. The swings that were recently replaced will stay in place. The rubber “serpent” is a nice feature that will be retained; however, the rubber surfacing will need to be replaced since the existing surface is at the end of its life cycle. The 2-5 year-old's structure may be enlarged from what's there now.

We understand from the public comments, that the existing structure is well loved by park users, and that many want to retain the multi-deck function with activities under the deck, including the mounds. Pam asked that the group view the three examples of play structures and styles provided at the meeting and provide feedback, discussing their likes and dislikes. These equipment examples can be mixed and matched between options, so if there are features desired from one, these can be included with other options. (See graphics for equipment examples.)

#### **Discussion**

##### Slides

- Doesn't Parks use metal slides anymore?  
Parks Response: We usually don't because these usually get too hot for kids, but can, if they face north.

##### Climbing

- Like to be able to climb around outside of the structure



### Merry-go-Round

- Like the merry-go-round with the nets
- Like merry-go-round is where my child makes friends every visit – the structure provides that they play together
- Like a social place - different ages gather & push together

### Bridges

- Does Parks allow trampolines in the parks? Bellevue has a small trampoline at their park.  
Parks Response: No; these would need special supervision
- What about a bouncy, swaying bridge  
Parks Response: Those are fun; Mont Lake has one – flubber bridge.
- Like the bridge @ Green Lake
- My kids would love a little swinging bridge
- Like to see more space to move around the structure

### Sand Play

- Existing location is not good; super slippery
- Keep the sand play & try to keep the digger  
Parks Response: We will need to modify and make it accessible to meet ADA – needs a transfer platform into the sand play

### Under Structure Play & Play Panels

- Are there lots of things in the panels? My kids love the steering wheels  
Parks Response: Yes, what other things might the kids want here?
- Music, abaca built into wall
- Stand alone, not as useful
- Kids like the underneath mound area – storefront/ clubhouse for imaginary play
- Like the hidden zones – shade comfort  
Parks Response: Some daycares have issues with hidden areas; need visibility
- I asked my daycare what would they like to see here and they said make sure there is good visibility, but also said that the existing structure had good visibility

### Style

- Don't like plasticky looks
- Like the natural, neutral colors
- Like structures that kids can grip and climb outside the structure; My kids would love that
- Like the ideas of a lot of elements like the existing structure has – with a connected deck course

### Swings

- The replacement tire-swing is not as good as the previous one; I'm concerned that will happen for everything with the update  
Parks Response: We can look at the swing, maybe there is something we can do to improve it, or maybe a different swing there
- What about a saucer swing?  
Parks Response: The space there does not allow for a saucer swing unfortunately
- The existing structure feels "old school" and we like that
- Like material that looks and feels like what it is



### Slides

- My sons favorite – double metal slides
- Like metal slides instead of plastic
- Need shade at the sand pit
- Like twisting slide & double, side-by-side slide
- Like tube slide

### Monkey Bars

- Monkey bar options would be good
- Arching monkey bars allow younger kids to move up, see their progress
- The arching bars allow both younger and older kids play together
- Could some of this budget be transferred to another park that needs it?  
Parks Response: The funding is in place for this park due to the termite infestation.

### Climbing Structures

- How long do net climbers last?  
Parks Response: A good twenty years; we can now replace pieces as they wear
- Important to incorporate access for parents to retrieve younger kids in distress
- Like the Green Lake play structure
- Like the decking – would like to see that continue all the way like the existing – connected deck system
- Kids like doing laps on the bridges  
Parks Response: What height would you want to see?
- Seattle Center is crazy high
- Go high & safe
- Make it challenging
- Like 8' to 10' height
- Kids play tag and run all the way through the structure now
- They also play hide and seek; need places to hide
- Connecting bridges to tower
- Ugly green color  
Parks Response: Can change out color, just an illustration
- Ladder going up, what if you fall inside the tube?  
Parks Response: This goes to the next level; fall is not likely
- Should have openness regardless of height, whatever the max height limit is without enclosure
- Like to be able to climb outside and inside, is that possible?  
Parks Response: Yes; Gas Works will have similar with 12' and 18' decks
- Good point, think about what other parks have and provide something unique here
- Like the height of net & rock climbing – 7' or so; where a parent can reach to assist the child, but allows the child a sense of accomplishment

## **SUMMARY DISCUSSION**

### What We Heard:

- **Play Structures**  
Ten- foot tower with linear bridge-runs for older kids; areas to get up & out for younger kids – down slides or other easy way out; include underneath play (mounded area) for younger kids



Keep mounded areas and sand play  
Make challenging with a little risk to provide a feeling of thrill

- **Equipment Style**  
More natural colors, similar to what's there; no neon green

#### Summary Comments

- Like roller slide and bouncy bridge at the 2-5 year old structure
- Like coil slide
- Like tube slide
- Slides – make it so the parent can reach child if need be, walk up steps adjacent to slide
- Like spinning net and tower
- Want a bouncy slide or bridge for 2-5
- Like color scheme of Option #1 – neutral or natural color that blends in
- Is there a ladder going up to tower?  
Parks Response: The ladder is inside the tower – multi level
- Would like opportunities to climb on outside of structure
- Like the tower with 2 slides off
- Like existing structure because it is a circuit linear or looped deck route
- Existing structure also has easy way up and down: New one should also have easy run up and down, and with challenges along the way
- Learning panels not important – rather have kinetic things, learning elsewhere, this should be for moving & imagining
- Drinking fountain should be reachable for little kids  
Parks Response: This fountain is out-of-date and will need to replace with high/low fountain that will work for accessibility and young ones.
- Want picnic tables
- Some of the benches have donated plaques – Can we keep those plaques?  
Parks Response: We don't do that now, but we can see if it is possible
- Can we get BBQ's in the picnic areas?  
Parks Response: We will see if there is enough paving to meet ADA standards and if we have enough money in the project to allow.

#### **What Next?**

Develop a proposal with play equipment company

Put this up on the project web page (in a couple months) for information and ask for responses

Next Spring - Order equipment (6-8 weeks) and install

#### **Comment Cards from the Meeting**

- Recover the bench plaques and please install them because people donated lots of money
- Love the mounds
- Love the run through & tower