

NORTH TRANSFER STATION

Green Group Workshop 1 Summary

September 8, 2011

Lake Washington Rowing Club 6:00 – 8:00 PM

ATTENDEES

Green Group

Lori Tang
Kristin Kildall
Guy Peckham
Kathy Stetz
Norm Davis
Erika Bigelow
Teresa Donovan
Erik Pihl
Allison Hogue

Seattle Public Utilities

Tim Croll
Bill Benzer
Hui Yang
Jeff Neuner

EnviroIssues

Penny Mabie (facilitator)
Alissa VandenBerghe

Hough, Beck and Baird (HBB)

Dean W. Koonts
Arielle R. Farina Clark

Observers

Julie Watling

MEETING PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting was to orient the Green Group members to the group purpose and process and to identify and discuss potential programming elements for the green space around the proposed new North Transfer Station (NTS).

AGENDA ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

Welcome and Introductions, Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues

Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues, convened the meeting by introducing herself and asking the participants to introduce themselves.

Overview of community process to date, Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues

Penny explained the stakeholder group process over the past year and discussed the Stakeholder Group Recommendation Report. She clarified that the Green Group will be building on the work of the previous stakeholder group.

Green Group purpose and process, Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues

Penny continued to introduce the Green Group to the project by explaining their purpose and the process they would be using to create the framework for programming the green space parts of the project. Tim Croll, SPU, added that the specific locations the group will be programming include the green space on top of the underground parking lot on the northeastern corner of the NTS site, because it is publicly accessible, but not the green roof above the Reuse and Recycling building because it will not be accessible to the public.

Penny requested that the members talk to their neighbors and friends to help come up with possible uses that would create the best amenity for the immediate neighborhood and the community. Penny then asked the group members to read through the meeting guidelines and discuss if any needed to be added or changed. None of the members had any changes and all agreed to follow the meeting guidelines.

Penny asked the members to turn to the amenities section of the Stakeholder Group Recommendation Report (page 13-14) to review prioritized community amenity elements. A member asked if the purpose of the viewing/education room was to educate people about the importance of recycling and reuse. Penny confirmed that that was the intent of the viewing/education room. The member also asked what was meant by the amenity “green space around the perimeter for community use.” Penny explained that it is the purpose of the group to decide what that means.

After reviewing the rest of the amenities, Penny asked the group to close their eyes and imagine that the transfer station has been built and the green space is finished. She asked each member to describe what they hear, smell, see, and how they felt. Here are their responses:

- Children laughing
- Tall trees
- Fragrant plants
- Edible herbs
- Walking through the forest
- Pickle ball “kerplunking”
- Green grass
- Sandbox
- Guitars playing
- Water
- Birds or wildlife
- Garbage trucks
- Bees buzzing
- Smell of dust being kicked up from the swing set
- Canopy of trees
- Inviting me to enter
- Kids playground with benches
- Welcoming, gathering place

Programming Workshop, Dean W. Koonts, HBB and Penny Mabie, *EnviroIssues*

Following the break, Penny introduced Dean W. Koonts and Arielle R. Farina Clark with HBB. Dean explained that this is the more detailed portion of the workshop and that they would begin to discuss the potential amenities to include in the green space. Dean went on to explain that HBB is on the project to program and describe how the green space will be defined for the design build contract team. He also clarified that the focus of these workshops would be to provide guidance at a conceptual level of detail and that the specific placement and construction of amenities would be up to the contractor.

Arielle showed the group a map of the project area and the surrounding neighborhood. She identified the map the existing amenities within walking distance to the transfer station and asked members to add any additional amenities they were aware of. The surrounding amenities included:

- Burke-Gilman Trail
- Gasworks Park
- Inner Space Indoor Skateboard
- Fremont Troll
- Fremont Public Library
- Lenin Plaza
- Fremont Farmers Market
- BF Day Elementary School
- Sound Mind and Body Gym
- Waterway Number 15

Green Group members added the Wallingford Park, John Stanford International School, the amphitheatre near the Adobe office buildings, and a waterway access point along the Burke Gilman.

A group member asked about the demographics for the neighborhood so the group could better understand who would be using this park. Bill Benzer, SPU, said that the project has not identified census information to date but that SPU would provide it by the next workshop. Another member added that a lot of families live in the neighborhood and walk to the nearby schools.

Arielle then described the site analysis. She pointed out several factors that may affect the selection of programming elements. These included:

- The residential, industrial and commercial zones around the property
- Traffic noise from Stone Way N and N 34th Street
- Nearby bike trails
- Nearby bus stops
- Slopes and elevations

Dean asked each member of the group to describe what they would like to see throughout the green space. The suggestions included:

- Educational viewing area
- Native forest walk or path
- Active, outdoor play area with equipment
- Water feature using recycled water
- Celebrate the slope of Carr lot
- Amphitheatre or tiered seating on Woodlawn Avenue N
- Gazebo with built in seating
- Playfield

- Strengthen the connection between the neighborhood and Gasworks Park, turning this into something exciting
- Create a space that is used year-round
- Soften the edges and rest stops along N 35th Street
- Dog park (The ensuing discussion regarding dog parks had both positive and negative comments)
- Integrate art in paving and textures
- Perimeter of station used as a walkway or exercise circuit
- Active multi-sport court or climbing area on southwestern portion of site near Essential Baking
- Natural climbing elements for kids
- Design should be consistent throughout the site, good cohesion and flow
- Gathering spaces for small groups
- Game board that doubles as gathering space
- P-Patch (The ensuing discussion regarding P-Patches had both positive and negative comments)
- Retaining some trees in their current locations

Tim noted that during the stakeholder process views (i.e. view corridors) were very important but no one had mentioned them yet during the Green Group. From that comment, several stakeholders added the following suggestions related to views in and around the station.

- Consider views of the site, from the Aurora Bridge; what the site looks like from the outside
- Consider looking out from the site to see the city
- Consider neighbors looking into the site and not having their view corridors interrupted
- Consider maintain visibility through the site so as to not encourage homeless residences or other overnight lingering in the park

Dean thanked the group for coming up with such a comprehensive list. He asked the group members to consider elements such as safety, security, maintenance, access, constructability, and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, Seattle’s Green Factor requirement, and to evaluate the suggestions with those elements in mind.

Dean started a discussion about the suggestions by mentioning that the dog park and P-Patch have already generated some discussion. A group member noted that an open playfield could easily become a de-facto dog park. Another member added that sports teams can over-use a field making it inaccessible or unusable to neighbors. Dean explained that there are methods he can use to make the playfield less conducive to ball throwing for dog owners and small enough to prevent the field from being used by organized sports teams.

A member asked if there are parking requirements for the space. Tim responded that there is a parking requirement for the transfer station and it will be contained within the station but nothing has been dedicated to parking for the green space. Penny added that some members of the stakeholder group had been concerned about the already limited parking in the neighborhood. Tim said he thought the

intention of the green space would be a place for neighbors and would not draw people from all over who would need to drive.

Another member said she would like a playfield nearby; since the other neighborhood ones are not close enough. She would like it to just be for neighborhood kids and not organized sports. She would also like to integrate a multi-purpose court and smaller sports areas near the playfield.

One member asked SPU how binding the group's recommendation would be. Tim replied that SPU will be taking this advice in the same way as from the stakeholder group. They are looking for general uses for non-specific areas, nothing too detailed. Another member asked what will happen to the current trees on the property. Tim said he thought some trees could be kept in place, but it depends on the construction and staging of equipment. The member asked if the group could make a recommendation to the design builder to keep as many trees or replace them with similarly-sized trees.

Review Action Items and Next Steps, Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues

Penny thanked everyone for brainstorming and explained the process moving forward. She told the group that EnviroIssues will send an email with the Stakeholder Group Recommendation Report and the final concept along with a poll to help the team select the next meeting date, which would be either late September or early October. After the next meeting there will be an open house for the public and then one final Green Group meeting. Tim thanked everyone for continuing the long-standing tradition of public involvement for this project.

At the next meeting, project staff will present several concepts for the green space. All Green Group workshops are open to the public.

For more information, please visit: www.seattle.gov/util/transferstations