



Seattle Design Commission

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

16 September 2004

Gregory J. Nickels,
Mayor

David Spiker
Chair

Charles Anderson

Pam Beyette

Frances Nelson

Iain M. Robertson

Nic Rossouw

Donald Royse

Sharon E. Sutton

Tory Laughlin Taylor

Guillermo Romano,
Executive Director

Layne Cubell,
Commission Coordinator

Projects Reviewed

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park

Planning Division Update

City Monorail Team

Woodland Park Zoo—Long Range Physical Development Plan

Woodland Park Zoo—Greater One-Horned Rhino Exhibit

Convened: 9:30am

Adjourned: 4:00pm

Commissioners Present

Don Royse, Vice Chair

Pam Beyette

Nic Rossouw

Sharon E. Sutton

Tory Laughlin Taylor

Staff Present

Guillermo Romano

Layne Cubell

Tom Iurino

Carrie Duncan



Department of Planning and
Development

P. O. Box 34019
700 5th Avenue, 19th Floor
Seattle, WA 98124-4019
phone 206/233-7911
fax 206/288-7883

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16 Sept 2004 Project: **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park**

Phase: Concept Design

Previous Reviews: None

Presenters: Michael Shiosaki, Parks and Recreation
Karen Galt, Parks and Recreation
Kim Baldwin, Parks and Recreation

Time: 1 hour (SDC Ref. # 169| DC00338)

Action: The Commission supports the approach proponents are taking with regards to the project and would like to make the following comments and recommendations.

- Supports the idea of strengthening MLK Park as a large event venue, and suggests that the focus on daily use be limited;
- Supports working with the formality of the existing structures and pursuing an informal layout for the rest of the park as shown in Concept Two;
- Asks proponents to consider whether the area and the landscape can withstand heavy use and large numbers of people;
- Asks proponents to consider whether design elements are detracting or adding to the overall design concept, and to pare down where possible;
- Encourages that the educational components focus on current affairs, and reflect neighborhood history as well as historical events in MLK's life;
- Suggests clarifying the design in relation to the educational aspects of the project;
- Encourages a more integrative approach to designing the stairs;
- Approves concept design.

MLK Park is a Pro Parks Levy funded project, with \$475,000 for planning, design, and construction of parks improvements. The Levy asks to “improve MLK Park including sanctuary seating, pathways, parking, picnic areas, and landscaping.” The site was dedicated to MLK in 1983, and improvements have been continuous since, including a memorial sculpture and reflecting pool.

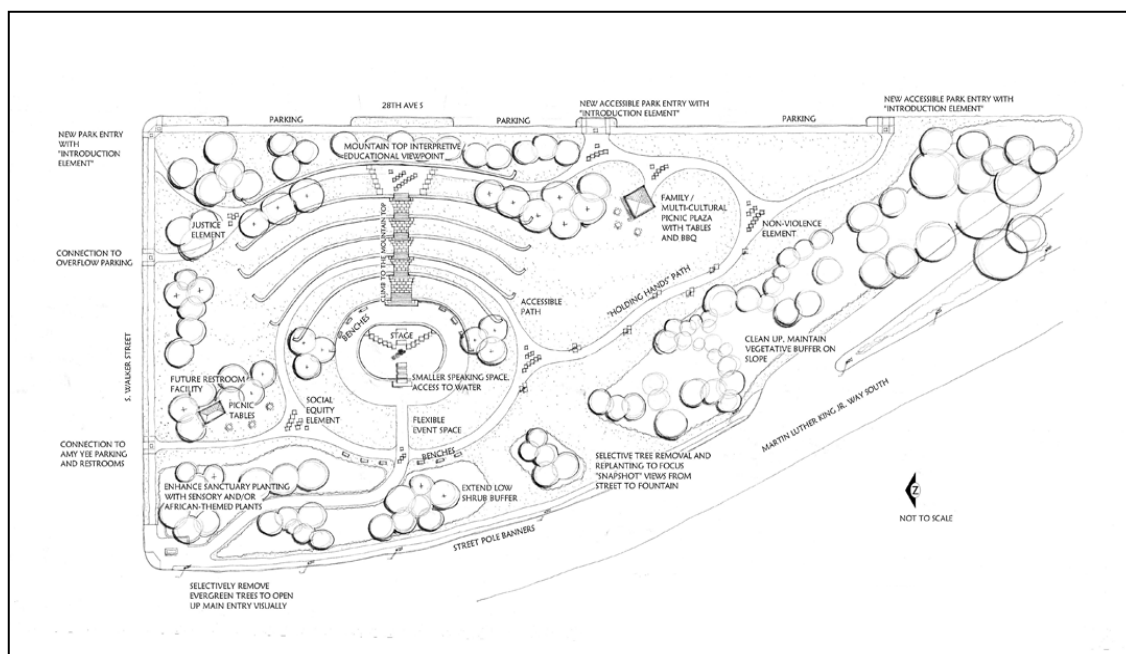
Two community meetings have taken place, with a third in the planning stages. The goal of the third meeting is to present community members with a third alternative and schematic plan. The design team has received community support for better gathering areas, improved pathways, landscaping and parking, and the desire for park facilities that more concretely reflect the life and legacy of Dr. King.

The site is located on a steep slope. The slope on the south end is an environmentally critical area that proponents hope to address in concept design. The east side of the site is relatively flat. Circulation through the site is facilitated by the memorial, dedication plaques surrounding the fountain, and quotes.

The first community meeting addressed cultural attributes of the site. Community members listed both programmatic elements and site elements. Programmatic elements include walking/audio tours, history walks, entertainment, movie days, celebration of MLK's birthday, music/theater in the park, gospel performances, classes, weddings, etc. Site elements include improving existing elements, adding new maintenance facilities, providing a shelter, adding picnic areas, sidewalks, improving visibility, finding ways to remember MLK's message, landscaping, adding gardens, buffering, etc.

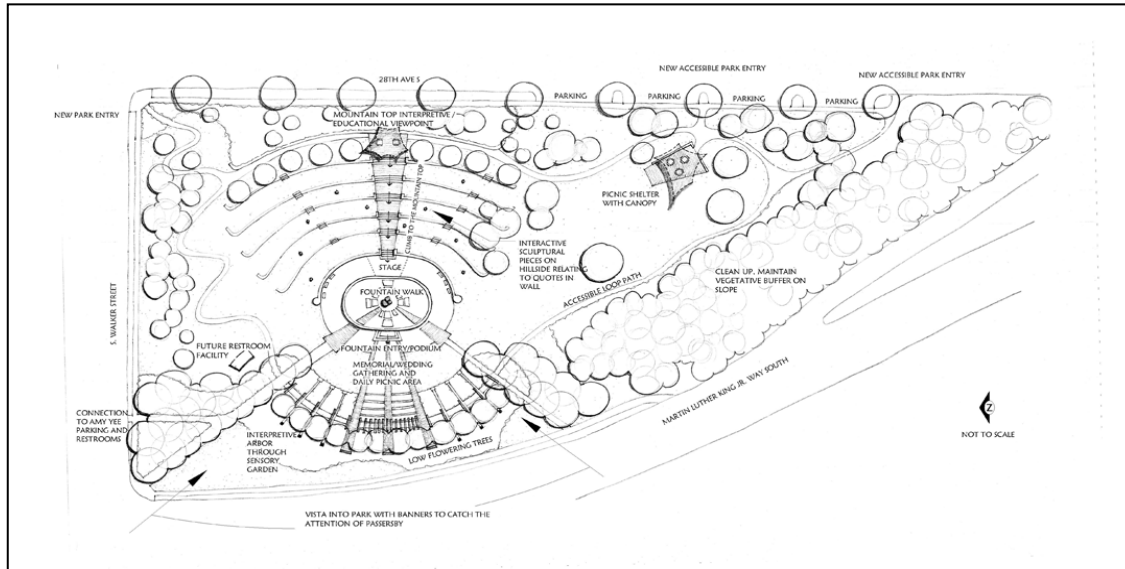
Proponents presented two conceptual site plans and interpretive/educational elements:

- Conceptual Site Plan One:** Memorial elements are dispersed throughout the park in this concept. To increase the visual presence of the park along Martin Luther King Jr. Way South, the plan opens up the existing entry at the corner, creates or preserves specific views to the sculpture through the perimeter trees, and adds banners at the street edge. Better function around the grand amphitheater is provided by opening up sight lines (relocating donor plaques to the entry), adding access to the terraces, and including the fountain ground plane in the “stage.” Benches and platforms into the fountain provide smaller scale spaces for personal experiences. Benches, picnic tables and a “family” picnic shelter encourage day-to-day use of the park. A varied “Dr. King Jr. message” introduction is provided at the sidewalk, and each concept is explored more fully (visually, verbally, tactilely) along an inner loop path.



Site Plan One

- Conceptual Site Plan Two:** Memorial elements are concentrated in the center of the park in this concept. The elements radiate out towards the perimeter and in turn, draw visitors into the heart of the memorial. The entire entry is redesigned in order to accomplish various goals such as making the park noticeable from the street, creating intimate spaces within the grandeur and allowing for additional uses. Educational and inspirational opportunities are integrated into the site through visual and interactive elements. A loop path allows users to walk the entire site from the memorial to the mountain top; from the arbor garden to the shelter; and to all entries along the perimeter.



Site Plan Two

- **Interpretive/Educational Elements:** Introduction elements at the sidewalk could be as simple as a single word. Interactive and educational elements along the inner loop path could engage people in a variety of ways. For example, the “holding hands” path could include a series of sculptures demonstrating Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech by having a progression of children of diverse races walking hand-in-hand up the hill, leaving one hand open to reach to park visitors. The climb to the mountain top experience could reflect the cadence and timeline expressed in that same speech. Another theme exploration of “justice,” for example, could include a dampened teeter-totter in which you and your sibling can see how the scales of justice balance out.

Physical changes that address the programmed uses include access to terraces, loop paths, developing the central stage and relocating the donor plaques, incorporating various plantings, parking for events, restrooms, enhancing use for day-to-day activities by adding stairs, picnic areas/shelters, and benches, and accessibility to the water.

Key Commissioner Comments and Concerns

- Asks proponents how they define what is and is not currently working on the site.
 - Proponents stated accessibility issues to the sculpture and amphitheater due to the placement of the donor plaques, and accessibility to the park experience/meaning. They have received mixed reviews from the community as to how elements of the park become common ground.
- Sees elements that will distract from, rather than focus on the experience. Suggests that proponents look for ways to make the entire site accessible without over-formalizing it.
- Questions the terraces and ADA accessibility.
 - Proponents stated that the stairs will aid in the experience of the “climb to the mountain.” The loop paths around the site will allow those with disabilities to reach the top.
- Questions the purpose of the plantings.
- Asks what makes the water inaccessible now and how that can be changed to enhance the experience.

- Asks how many people can gather in the amphitheater.
 - Proponents stated that the amphitheater can hold up to 530 people seat-to-seat on each platform, and three times that number if figured by square footage.
- Asks if there is a relationship to light rail.
 - Proponents stated that the nearest station is on McClelland, which is approximately three blocks from the park.
- States that one of the most enriching experiences every year is the MLK March. Asks if proponents have thought about making the park part of this experience.
 - Proponents stated that the park would be a great area to hold such an event if it could sustain such large numbers of people.
- Asks that proponents keep in mind that the park should be a place that addresses current affairs as well as historical events. Suggests technological ways to view such events such as interactive videos or websites.
- States that the Commission is always pushing for interagency cooperation, and would like to point out that King County is officially named after Dr. King. Suggests that proponents examine potential for collaboration and as a way to gain resources.
- Suggests that there be efforts to integrate ramps into the stair scheme for the “climb to the mountain” experience.
- States a preference for Conceptual Site Plan Two.
- Points out that a lot of open space in the neighborhood was created by default when housing was demolished for the construction of an interstate highway. States that the site is currently underutilized, and that the idea of having a special events park is on the right track. Suggests proponents focus on special uses and large crowds.
- States that the formality of Conceptual Site Plan Two foils the existing memorial, which is also formal, and creates a type of ceremony for the experience.
- States that the landscape elements should act as refuge elements from the daily use of the park.
- Points out that the surrounding area is gentrifying rapidly. States that there should be some sort of reminder that an entire community of African-Americans have lived in the area since the 1950s. Suggests that, while the park is named after MLK, it also incorporate a current agenda.
- Sees the scale of the park as an element that is not working well. Sees the experience as a drive-by experience, and should continue to address/adjust the scale of the park into one that can accommodate large events.
- Enjoys the idea of “a climb to the mountain,” but states that the stairs become too literal and do not function. Encourages proponents to explore other options for the “climb” and sites Portland as an example.
- States that programming is essential, and asks if there is a formal group who can address budgetary issues to King County.
 - Proponents stated that Friends of MLK Park is a formal group and may be able to participate.
- States that this is a great project.
- Cannot SEE the concept, and feels that it could be stronger. Suggests that there be some wayfinding elements based on the concept of MLK’s speech.
- Asks if proponents have considered cutting the stairs and amphitheater into two pieces to break up the axiality of the site.
- Supports the idea of increased accessibility to the sculpture. Feels that all art needs and should be touched. Encourages proponents to redefine the fountain and surrounding space.
- Encourages proponents to define spaces around the park in a formal manner, it would pull people into the space.

- Encourages proponents to break the axis of the center and feels that it could be expressed differently.
- Suggests that consideration be given to eliminating the stairs in the proposed form, and states that stepping can be done in a way that embraces the climb rather than shooting the climb up the slope.
- States a preference for Conceptual Site Plan Two, and that the scheme accepts a formality that is already there.
- Feels that the stair scheme is too insistent.
- Encourages informality around the paths and formality around the fountain.
- Encourages proponents to pare design back a bit. Would like to see the design simple, but formal.

16 Sept 2004 Project: Planning Division Update

Phase: Monthly Update

Previous Reviews: 19 August 2004; 15 July 2004; 3 June 2004; 15 April 2004; 15 January 2004; 18 December 2003; 20 November 2003

Presenter: John Rahaim, Planning Director, DPD
Marty Curry, DPD Consultant

Time: 1 hour (SDC Ref. # 220| DC00322)

Summary: The Commission appreciates the presentation and would like to make the following comments and recommendations.

- Feels that it is gratifying for the Commission to see the work the Planning Division is putting into rethinking its public process and engagement;
- Feels that clarifying the Citywide perspective is critical, though sometimes in conflict with community concerns;
- Would like the strategy to address how to get youth engaged in the public process seeing that they represent future civic leaders;
- Suggests a look at the Commission's own statement on community involvement which has proven to be an effective tool;
- Recognizes Seattle's tradition for civic involvement, and suggests that tradition be embraced;
- Is encouraged to see the pedestrian focus on design efforts at Northgate, and would like to offer the Commission's participation as more comprehensive design efforts in that area move forward;
- Feels that the Center City Strategy is very encouraging as a foundation for future planning and design initiatives;
- Recognizes the critical need to increase the number of high-density buildings in the Center City;
- Applauds the focus on how to get housing downtown;
- Looks forward to engaging, as appropriate, in the sub-area plans for South Lake Union and SODO.

Marty Curry visited the Commission to talk about the work she has been doing on a Process Improvement Project on Public Involvement. She requested feedback on how the Commission might play a role in the process, and on what would improve staff's ability to do better public outreach. Marty summarized the work she has done to date, including interviewing staff/stakeholders and carrying out background research. Next steps are to prepare a draft Guide to Public Involvement and Inventory of Tools, solicit and incorporate feedback, finalize the Guide and Inventory, develop implementation strategies, and to carry out initial orientation and training for the Planning Division.

John Rahaim updated the Commission on larger issues of the Planning Division:

- Voiced both his and the Mayor's support for Marty's research. The Mayor is also interested in making sure the City's public process is meaningful.
- Talked about the Columbia City Pedestrian District Concept Plan, and DPD's efforts to identify opportunities for enhancements that will support a revitalized, pedestrian-friendly historic district.

The community's priorities for improvement projects include strengthening the connection between light rail stations and the business district, adding wayfinding signage, enlivening alleys, adding street trees, and increasing walkability.

- DPD was responsible for the formation of the Northgate stakeholder group, which has been incredibly successful. John presented SPU's Pedestrian Connection and Open Space Map that details a hybrid scheme that will be fronted by development designed by Lorig and Associates. The Commission discussed long-term improvements and the feasibility of such development.
- The Center City Strategy is the incorporation of many different elements. John discussed elements that all fall under Center City such as strategies that will make downtown a collection of highrise buildings, incorporate schools, make housing more attractive, and designate urban centers.

September 16 Commission Business

ACTION ITEMS

A. TIMESHEETS

B. MINUTES FROM 02 SEPTEMBER—TABLED UNTIL 07

DISCUSSION ITEMS

OCTOBER MEETING

C. OUTSIDE COMMITMENTS—ALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

D. PROJECT UPDATES—CUBELL

E. VIADUCT COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE—9/20, 2:30 PM

F. CENTER CITY STRATEGY OPEN HOUSE—9/20, 5-7:30 PM, CITY
HALL

G. COUNCIL UDP COMMITTEE—9/22, 2 PM (TBD)—APPOINTMENTS
AND REAPPOINTMENTS

H. COMMISSIONER FAREWELL/WELCOME RECEPTION—TBD

16 Sept 2004 Project: **City Monorail Team**

Phase: Quarterly Staff Update

Previous Reviews: 17 June 2004 (Quarterly Staff Update); 18 March 2004 (Quarterly Staff Update);
18 September 2003 (Briefing); 4 December 2003 (Briefing)

Presenters: Cheryl Sizov, DPD
Scott Dvorak, DPD
Lyle Bicknell, DPD

Attendees: Chris Saleeba, DPD
David Graves, DPD
Lisa Rutzick, DPD

Time: 1 hour (SDC Ref. # 170| DC00231)

Summary: The Commission appreciates the presentation and would like to make the following comments and recommendations, particularly on the quarterly update concerning station area planning, public realm, and the new corridor task force.

- Encourages the use of strong graphics to help clarify the layers of station evaluation;
- Would like to see the art program addressed in Station Area Planning, and reinforces the idea that only artist design fees be used on the guideway and the art budget be concentrated at individual stations, rather than the column structures;
- Encourages SMP in its art plan to site art work within the framework of the public realm opportunity maps and the larger station area plans;
- Encourages the distribution of fact sheets, and states that such documents are very helpful in clarifying the direction the program is taking on key issues, and notes that the “Hide-and-Ride Parking” piece is a great example for future handouts;
- Believes the approach taken to presenting a long-range plan for each station area and moving toward more specific design potential is valid, and encourages proponents to be more specific to give people an idea of what will be seen in communities and when;
- Feels the more explicit proponents can be about what to expect both long-term and short-term, and distinguishing between what the program will be doing and the responsibilities of other City agencies, the better;
- Encourages further refinement of public realm opportunities and supports the scope of a quarter-mile context around the stations.

DPD staff updated the Commission on the latest project schedule and efforts since their last update in June.

Station Area Planning:

The last station area planning meetings were held in June. The meetings covered stations along the Green Line, and focused on developing action plans for each of the stations along the line. During the month of September the team has been attending meetings to update community members on the fall schedule, and have been handing out summaries of the draft action plans. Draft station area action plans will be presented at community meetings in October. Three open houses are scheduled to take place in

November, and will present all 19 stations. Teams will be soliciting comments on the actions plans, and will be pulling all information together into final form by the end of the year.

The team distributed an example of a draft action plan summary for the Ballard segments that includes information for each station. The summary also includes strategies for “Hide-and-Ride” options that address parking concerns around monorail stations.

Public Realm Opportunities:

The team has done extensive studies of each of the 19 monorail stations, identifying both micro and macro scale opportunities. The team requested feedback on the scale of the assessment and the potential for urban design opportunities within the station areas.

Four station areas were presented:

- **NW 65th to NW Market Streets:** Uses the concept of a boulevard to create a north/south pedestrian/bicycle corridor that will service surrounding stations. The concept makes general improvements to Ballard.
- **NW Rooms Station:** Uses the concept of a woonerf that incorporates pedestrians, bicycles, and automobiles. The goal is to design a better-defined northwest entrance that draws the residential population into the area.
- **Yesler Station:** Sees opportunity for co-development, and many different variations on appropriate design.
- **Avalon Station:** The site presents challenging grade issues, awkward station access, etc. The team proposes a general use pedestrian skybridge that services the station and provides access across 35th Street.

Corridor Operations and Streetscape Design:

Proponents are in the process of establishing a Corridor Taskforce—an IDT that presents project concepts to interagency teams. The premise behind the Corridor Taskforce is to reassert that City streets, while utilized for the operation of the monorail, belong to the City and should look and operate under certain conditions. The Taskforce will help define the City’s vision for key streets, existing conditions, context for the Green Line, etc.

Using Ballard as an example, the Taskforce would look at the context of the existing street, and the operational and streetscape objectives. The Taskforce would then develop concepts from this information and outline the conditions that may exist post-construction. This information would be put into working templates that could be adopted into the street manual.

Key Commissioner Comments and Concerns

- Asks how public reception and interaction has evolved.
 - Proponents stated that they have seen many of the same people at meetings who are looking for clarification between what the team is doing and the role of the MRP. June meetings evolved to include new, more engaged members.
- Asks if there will be graphic materials in the summaries.
 - Proponents stated that graphics will be included. Matrices, times, responsible parties, and maps for each station area will also be included, and the summaries will be presented to community members in upcoming meetings.
- Asks if MRP is also examining all of the station areas in depth.

- Proponents stated that the MRP is not, but is hoping to have meetings on design and fuller drafts on station areas.
- Asks when art gets integrated into column design.
 - Proponents stated that SMP has brought on an art plan manager, and the team is ready to begin looking at where opportunities are.
- Questions if there is room in the public realm and station area planning process, and acknowledge opportunities for art.
- Asks if the approach be one where one station may warrant refining improvements, while another may warrant something more complete and comprehensive.
- States that the team is very knowledgeable about each space around each station and the spaces that may allow for future opportunities.
- Asks if there is any time when private property owners can participate in collaborative efforts in station design.
 - Proponents stated that the stations promote collaborative efforts. The Yesler station, in particular, provides opportunities because it is such a unique site.
- States that info sheet is great with regards to the “Hide-and-Ride.” Enjoys jumping between scales and states that this is exactly what is needed in order to analyze the opportunities at each station.
- Commends the team for their hard work and continued efforts.
- States that the more explicit proponents can be in the analysis of station opportunities, the better.
- Suggests that, while working at different scales is often beneficial, proponents have a common scale of reference throughout all station analyses.
 - Proponents stated that the quarter mile of analysis around each station was chosen because it is easy to work with. Establishing a common scale is in the works and has been thought of.

16 Sept 2004 Project: Woodland Park Zoo—Long Range Physical Development Plan

Phase: Design Update

Previous Reviews: 6 December 2001 (Concept Design); 4 November 1999 (Site Visit and Update Briefing); 19 August 1999 (Concept Design); 1 July 1999 (Pre-Design)

Presenters: Jim Maxwell, Woodland Park Zoo

Time: 1 hour

(SDC Ref. # 221| DC00071)

Action: The Commission thanks proponents for the update and would like to make the following comments and recommendations.

- Supports the Physical Development Plan and its five layers of intervention;
- Supports consolidating the parking at the northwest corner of the zoo, and thereby stewarding development funds;
- Encourages a creative approach to developing the parking that considers the experience from the structure and views of the structure from both the interior and exterior of the site;
- Stands by former comments from the Commission about the need for developing a pedestrian orientation at the south entry;
- Encourages proponents to think about enhancing the west entry into the zoo and how parking can contribute to that experience;
- Recommends approval of the update and continued adherence to the Long Range Plan.

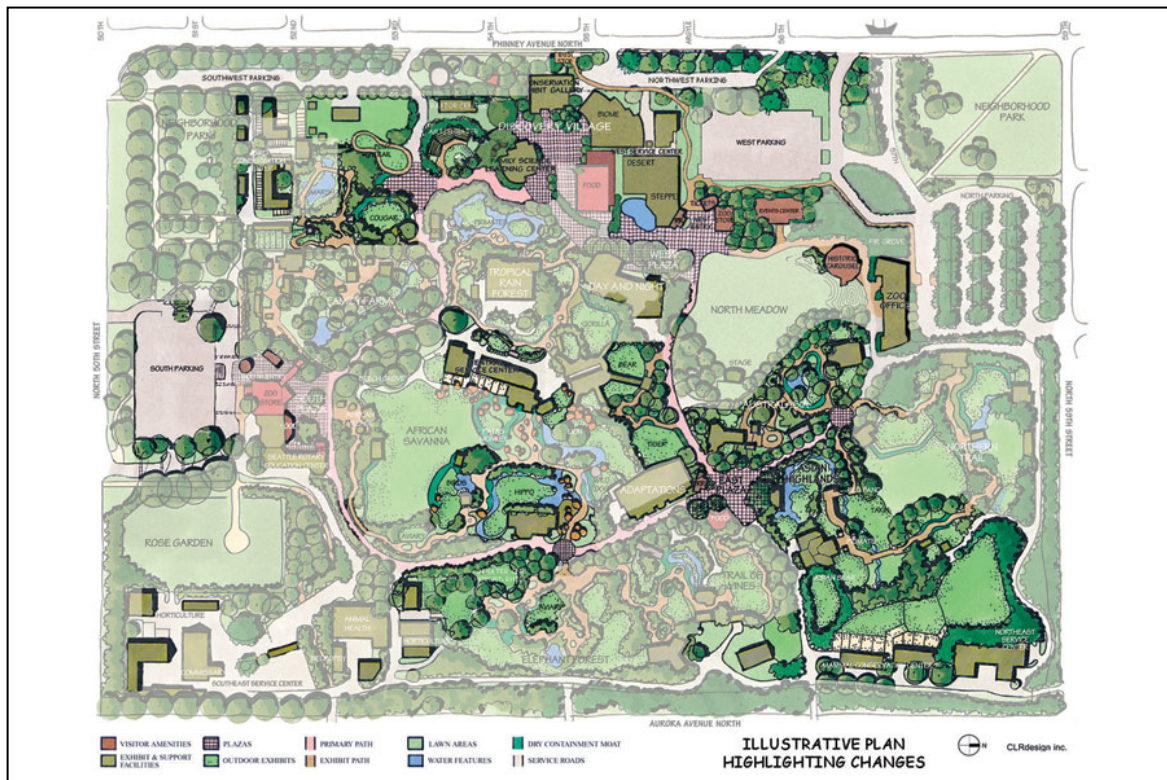
NOTE: Recommendation of the 4-person committee to the full Commission for approval at next meeting.

Proponents reviewed the Woodland Park Zoo Development Plan—an update of the 1976 plan that set the precedence for zoos around the world. The plan includes changes within the zoo, shifts in exhibit location, and which animals will move into future exhibits. Proponents are expecting City Council action in early October on the revised Development Plan.

The Development Plan outlines numerous improvements to zoo elements, including:

- Greater One-Horned Rhino Exhibit
- Partner to the Northern Trail known as Asian Highlands (snow leopards, red pandas, etc.)
- Australasia Exhibit
- Improvements for several cats (cougars, tigers, etc.) and bear exhibits (Asian bears, etc.)
- Addition of various facilities (indoor desert exhibit/reptile conservation facility, mammal conservation facility, and elephant conservation facility)
- Interpretive education element
 - Family Science Learning Center
 - Discovery Village
- Infrastructure
 - Staff offices
 - Establish service centers that support animal facilities
- Visitor amenities

- Continued improvements in orientation and circulation
 - Shorten the main loop
 - Locate identifiable hubs around the zoo through direction indicators: West Entry, East Plaza, South Plaza
- Historic carousel
- Relocating the raptor center
- Issues related to parking: location, parking garage capacity requirements, traffic impacts, etc. The south and north parking lots will remain as a surface lot, and the northwest lot will contain a 4-level, 30-foot structure. Proponents are looking to camouflage the parking garage through design and landscaping.



Long-Range Physical Development Plan

Key Commissioner Comments and Concerns

- Asks if service centers are treated similarly from outside roads as they are from public space inside the zoo.
 - Proponents stated that the buildings will be hidden from the outside as well through landscaping, façade treatments, etc.
- Asks if proponents considered constructing two parking garages that were lower in height.
 - Proponents stated that two shorter structures would cost more, and would be more disruptive to the zoo.
- Asks what the tallest structure in the zoo is.
 - Proponents stated that the elephant barn is the tallest structure at 50 feet, and is the

only building that has required the zoo to get a height variance.

- Voices support for the parking structure as proposed. Thinks that the location is appropriate. Suggests that proponents think about options to daylight the parking garage, and give access to the roof.
- Expresses satisfaction with the overall plan.
- Suggests that the parking garage be hidden from the outside, but be transparent from the inside.
- Would like to stand by comments past Commissioners have made on strengthening the regional identity of the south entrance.
- “The revised pedestrian entry from Phinney will be much less intuitive than before at either the north or west gates.” Feels that this comment deserves address in understanding the new structure that is proposed for the west entry, and what that change is.
 - Proponents stated that it clearly is one of the design challenges for that specific part of the project. Sees the gateways to the zoo as being out *there*, and the experience of traveling *through* the gateway into the zoo as being part of the experience from within.

16 Sept 2004 Project: Woodland Park Zoo—Greater One-Horned Rhino Exhibit

Phase: Concept Design

Previous Review: None

Presenters: Jon Coe, Jon Coe Design
 Greg Dykstra, CLR Design
 Linda Sullivan, Woodland Park Zoo
 Attendees: Jim Maxwell, Woodland Park Zoo

Time: 1 hour (SDC Ref. # 221| DC00339)

Action: The Commission appreciates the presentation on the Greater One-Horned Rhino exhibit and would like to make the following comments and recommendations.

- Appreciates the discussion of the comprehensive program driving the exhibit, which has allowed for a greater understanding of the holistic context;
- Applauds the integration of the environmental, social, and conservation story into the design of the exhibit, and appreciates that the design focuses on the potential for educational opportunities;
- Recommends approval of concept design.

NOTE: Recommendation of the 4-person committee to the full Commission for approval at next meeting.

The desire to establish an exhibit for the Greater One-Horned Rhino was first stated in the 1976 Long Range Physical Development Plan. This exhibit will continue conservation efforts, and is only one element of a larger project. Proponents began the consultant selection process in December of 2002. Work began on exhibit design in July of this year, and the implementation schedule is currently under review.

The site is located at the eastern edge of the zoo. The area contains underutilized habitat, and proponents will look at how the exhibit will impact current and future development described in the Long Range Plan. Proponents hope to be able to suggest future development opportunities as the project develops.

The design calls for:

- A reworking of secondary and tertiary paths around the exhibit in order to create a node along the main loop path that will lead visitors into the Rhino habitat. Proponents suggest that there is a clockwise circulation pattern through the exhibit that will move visitors into different habitats. The loop path will provide major views into Habitats A and B.
- The elephant yard will remain intact, but will transition into a “flex habitat.”
- The landscape of the exhibit transitions into several different habitats—from forest into grassland.
- The primary destination of the path will show visitors a Rhino Rescue Center of sorts that is meant to tell a story of how the Rhino is actually cared for in India and Nepal. A courtyard or garden will

mark the building's entry, as well as defined gateways and fences. The architecture of the building will be vernacular, but contemporary with concrete or stucco block and a corrugated metal roof.

- An 800-square foot open-air pavilion will be the main focus for the public. Visitors will have access to views of the rhino/elephant habitat, views into a mud wallow, areas for demonstration, and views into stalls of the barn.
- The barn includes four stalls, a network of transfer chutes, off-exhibit yards, and space for breeding.
- Proponents will redesign the main pool area, with public views into the rhino/elephant habitat.
- The western edge will be redeveloped with grade build-up of four to five feet. This will screen views of the public paths and will begin to transition the landscape.



Conceptual Site Plan

The message-driven design revolves around the rhino, their habitat, and the work that is currently being done in India and Nepal to protect the species. Proponents have attempted to embed the message into the landscape of the exhibit. One of the stories has to do with the floods and fires in India and Nepal. This story is told by:

- The exhibit's transition from forest to floodland, and how the landscape portrays this through debris, watermarks on trees, charred timber to represent fire, etc.
- New plants featured as if the exhibit is the village's efforts at reforestation.
- Portraying the Thai village as an ecotourist welcome center, where you can begin a tour of the Rhino Rescue Center, the Asian Elephants, etc.

- Trails that look like game trails, and to portray the rhino's travels to the upland forest.

Key Commissioner Comments and Concerns

- Asks how many rhinos will be housed in the exhibit.
 - Proponents stated that they are designing a facility to accommodate a male, female, and one offspring.
- Asks if proponents could speak about the element of disorientation with relation to the exhibit project.
 - Proponents stated that the node near the exhibit will be completely identifiable to the public, but once people have entered the exhibit the trail has many twists and turns that allows for the involvement of the imagination.
- Voices enjoyment toward the presentation
- Is excited about the project and is excited to see the next step. Story-telling is engaging and graphics are beautiful.
- States that the intention of the program and the educational aspects of the exhibit are incredible.
- Feels that the exhibit is very respectful of the overall plan.
- Asks where the rhinos are shipped if the breeding program is successful.
 - Proponents stated that the young rhinos will be shipped to other zoos, but not to the wild.
- Appreciates the adaptive re-use of the Thai Village exhibit to reflect the current philosophy of the zoo.