



Strategic Plan Implementation Engagement | Listening Session Notes

<i>Organization:</i>	Victory Heights Community Council
<i>Meeting Location/Format:</i>	Online - Zoom
<i>Date:</i>	August 17, 2021
<i>Number of Participants:</i>	14
<i>SPR Staff in Attendance:</i>	Jesús Aguirre, Danyal Lotfi, Selena Elmer

Notes:

Public Health & Well-Being:

- Several times our community has gone to try to host events in our park, understandably there are a lot of hurdles to host events in parks, which is a great way to be safer and healthier. We're seeking clarification on how to do that. *[specific feedback in LOB section below]*
- Concern expressed about cleanliness and health impacts of encampments nearby. Suggestion to stop encampments in the parks, which often prevents parks usage by other citizens.
- The pandemic has been hard on older adults, who faced the stress of possible severe illness via covid-19. Recommend increasing the variety of activities for older adults.

Racial Reckoning:

- n/a

Economic Recovery:

- Recommendation to give community councils (even ones that aren't official non-profits orgs) waived fees or discounts on Parks & Rec facilities like for park event permits or event space rentals.
- Discussion about the benefits of friends of groups to help foster stewardship of neighborhood parks and establish a direct line to the department for specific location-based interests or questions.

Impacts of Climate Change:

- With all the development in Seattle, our tree canopy is being reduced. Pocket parks throughout the city could help with this effort.
- With the impacts of climate change leading to warmer weather, people need open space to enjoy. Also, lower income people, who may live in a more dense neighborhood or multi-family housing without "yards", need to be able to enjoy the park space.
- Continue preserving and increasing access to natural areas, keeping them clean and natural.

Quote(s):

- "..."

Questions/Issues Raised Requiring Follow Up:

- Do community councils (even ones that aren't official non-profits orgs) qualify for any waived fees or discounts on Parks & Rec facilities like for park event permits or event space rentals?
- Is Parks & Rec doing any special planning in its Lifelong Recreation program to help this population ease back into social and physically active life? And then, ongoing, where does programming for older adults fit in your priorities?
- Is it in the plan to buy more properties to make parks with lots of trees, to help attain our 30% tree canopy goal (that provides health benefits)?

LOB-Specific Feedback:



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- Activation (event scheduling) – consider options to decrease barriers for small community groups to get permits to host neighborhood events, including increasing access to resources (e.g., list of possible insurers) to facilitate this kind of activity

Miscellaneous:

- n/a



Strategic Plan Implementation Engagement | Listening Session Notes

<i>Organization:</i>	Beacon Food Forest
<i>Meeting Location/Format:</i>	Online - Zoom
<i>Date:</i>	August 24, 2021
<i>Number of Participants:</i>	10
<i>SPR Staff in Attendance:</i>	Jesús Aguirre, Shanyanika McElroy, Brian Judd

Notes:

Public Health & Well-Being:

- The more people can feed themselves independently, the more secure each community is going to be.
- BFF “open harvest” policy (if something is ripe and ready, you may take it). This creates joy and empowerment from folks. “We need to keep normalizing this way of life.”

Racial Reckoning:

- Beacon Food Forest has gone from monocultural to a poly-cultural approach as one way to address racism in perma-culture. This has been their mission with an emphasis on belonging and developing relationships with BIPOC communities. Their end goal is to include BIPOC farming groups in the area with the Food Forest, blending cultural farming practices, to ensure an integrated, multi-cultural approach to farming.
- Important for the City to do multi-language outreach around the p-patch communities.
- How do we meet people where they are at, and not simply expect folks to fold into how we do it today? If we acknowledge racial bias, we need to change the how.
- BFF can provide land, compost, cardboard, and wood chips to provide people to get started. BFF lacks funds for plants, seeds, starters, etc. – Especially ones aligned with cultural or ethnic groups and regions.

Economic Recovery:

- Some of the questions under racial reckoning also dovetail with economic recovery.
- Need to pay the people who are volunteering their time. The luxury of volunteer time is for people who are paid via some other means.

Impacts of Climate Change:

- Beacon Food Forest needs to advertise better how it reduces carbon in the local ecology, with SPR assistance with marketing.
- BFF offers shade, habitat for creatures, cooling areas under canopy for humans and other animals.
- A good site for teaching people how to pollenate – would like to see schools work with all kinds of bees.

Quote(s):

- “The pandemic has highlighted the importance and value of growing our own food.”

Questions/Issues Raised Requiring Follow Up:

- BFF is an all-volunteer organization. Are there ways SPR can partner with them to provide more support and resources? How do we blend this in with SPR programs?



- What is the role you (JA) see BFF playing in the future of SPR/Strategic Plan?
 - *Response offered:* All organizations participating in this round of listening sessions will be included in future communications about this effort and future planning endeavors. To SPR, meaningful community engagement required ongoing, sustained discussions with communities we serve, and we are always looking for feedback on how we can engage better, understand and meet changing community needs.
- Are there any specific resources for park that can address the homeless problem around BFF? Navigation team, counselors, other outreach?
 - *Response offered:* There are jurisdictional issues at play when it comes to encampment response, and multiple departments work collaboratively in this effort. Jesús committed to bring these issues back to the sub-cabinet on this topic and connect them with HSD, etc. We should definitely follow-up on this one.)
- Please provide contact info for a Human Services navigator. We have an immediate need for someone to help us with camping on the BFF site.
 - SPR committed to getting staff out to take a look and address encampments in the area.

LOB-Specific Feedback:

- BFF programs relate to SPR's Urban Food Systems and environmental education programming.

Miscellaneous:

- Integrated comment: Beacon Food Forest is a prime group to address all four of the crises guiding this work.
- Would welcome SPR teaching programs at the Beacon Food Forest.
- Foraging is a "complicated topic." Some p-patches not available for public. With this in mind, is a relationship with GSP appropriate? Honest question, not a leading one.
- One participant said that it is difficult to get folks to volunteer who are seeking to make a wage? "So, when are you going to pay forest stewards?" JA said he heard this and believes this concept is valid and important.
- "Open harvest: Gotta pay people for their time."
- Lots of trash and "people living at the garden," as an extension of the broader issues faced by the City.

Items from the chat

- "Some practical things that we could use help with on the BFF site: garbage removal, outreach to unhoused people living on the site, help with accessibility: ie: pathways to and from Jefferson park."
- "Yes I affirm that note on accessibility of pathways to Jefferson Park and the steep nature of the hillside throughout BFF."
- "Please provide contact info for a Human Services navigator. We have an immediate need for someone to help us with camping on the BFF site."

Strategic Plan Implementation Engagement | Listening Session Notes

<i>Organization:</i>	El Centro de la Raza
<i>Meeting Location/Format:</i>	Virtual - Zoom
<i>Date:</i>	August 26, 2021
<i>Number of Participants:</i>	35
<i>SPR Staff in Attendance:</i>	Jesús Aguirre, Selena Elmer, Danyal Lotfi

Notes:

Public Health & Well-Being:

- Community gardens, urban farms, P-Patches are a great way to support health outcomes!
- Culturally relevant: more potlucks of different ethnic communities in Seattle
 - more ethnic concerts that are free to communities, especially in local/walkable parks (neighborhood scale), not large events in regional parks
- Provide inter-generational classes (health, fitness, etc) for the whole family unit; in case families need to stay together (lack of childcare, eldercare, etc)
- Adding more exercise/fitness equipment at parks, especially in communities of color

Racial Reckoning:

- Those who provide youth programming, do we know if the community is using our parks system?
- *Superintendent comment:* we're looking at how we can increase accessibility to field reservations to more communities, especially for underserved communities. One example: the new South Park Community Center field: we've made the conscious decision to not allow reservations for the first 5 years to allow that community to build infrastructure and use that amenity.
- More BIPOC voices in project planning: important to go INTO the community to hear their voices; not always enough to ask one organization for their input on behalf of the whole community
- Increased programming for/by ethnic communities in our parks
- Major concerns from some in the community about safety at parks

Economic Recovery:

- Specific to Latinx community: a lot of folks in the community don't have social security cards, preventing them from participating in job training programming; other paperwork we can add that would make these folks eligible? (for example I-10 numbers)
 - SPR should use its position to advocate for a path to citizenship for undocumented residents of Seattle; young Latinos are often blocked out of these programs because of their citizenship status
- Sometimes SPR and community organizations provide duplicates of the same services (youth programming, etc); how can we combine our efforts to be more efficient and effective?
 - Perhaps SPR can provide training to these organizational leaders who lead programming in the community

Impacts of Climate Change:

- SPR should add recycling and compost bins to parks, in addition to garbage bins
 - Especially in older parks that were not designed with these additional bins in place



- In Washington DC neighborhood with majority Dominican/Black population: environmental youth justice program; they can earn college credits; they would explore different parks and gain hands-on experience with the environment
 - SPR should replicate this in communities like South Park
 - Language Access: making sure these programs are accessible, offered in different languages and/or translated

Quote(s):

- *“Sometimes we get requests to help doing community outreach for project planning, but the leg work should be on SPR to talk to people living nearby, rather than leaning on another organization to do that work when they may not necessarily know the specific needs of that community. It’s important to directly connect with people who live in community.”*
- *“In order to support economic recovery, we need to assess who’s providing which services and not duplicate”*

Questions/Issues Raised Requiring Follow Up:

- Parks have become very unsafe and unclean over the past year and a half with increased encampment activity: will this change in the future? Green Lake Park specifically looks like a “dumpster”
 - *SPR Response:* Much of this is related to COVID in terms of decisions the city made around encampments. Additionally, as with many organizations, we’ve had significant reductions in our staff, and we’re ramping that up. We are continuing to navigate our way through encampment response to bring our parks back to where they need to be and make them accessible to communities, but to do so in a humane way. Folks living in parks have many needs and we need to be sure to address those.

LOB-Specific Feedback:

- Comments specific to Urban Food System programs, Recreation Programs, Encampment Team

Miscellaneous:

- n/a



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<i>Organization:</i>	Urban Forestry Commission
<i>Meeting Location/Format:</i>	Virtual - Webex
<i>Date:</i>	September 1, 2021
<i>Number of Participants:</i>	15
<i>SPR Staff in Attendance:</i>	Jesús Aguirre, Selena Elmer, Danyal Lotfi
<i>BPRC Facilitators:</i>	Jessica Farmer, Kelly McCaffrey

Notes:

Public Health & Well-Being:

- Tied also to equity lens and analysis, where are the gaps? Having gaps in services, and how expensive land is in Seattle – need to understand the resources to fill in gaps, which is so expensive. At a certain point, we’re very reactive and don’t have a plan of where we’re missing things. What comes to mind is Bell Street – Belltown is very urban, but wanted to get open space, tried to make it more of a boulevard. How do we fill in the gaps – makes me feel overwhelmed as to how to keep what we have in good condition so people feel safe, and rectify the past built environment we’re living in?
- For culturally relevant programming, it's really important to have staff from within the community leading the events. If there aren't SPR staff who live in the area, then paying community partners to host events would make residents feel more welcome, and also help with local outreach.
- Improved wayfinding between parks is important, facilitate movement between parks, get people spending more time outside.
- Open up park space for more community gardens. Work with SDOT to use planter strips for similar purposes.
- Such important health benefits from trees in terms of mitigating urban heat island, but also extensive benefits of showing natural spaces for mental health – how to incorporate trees and natural elements into existing parks?
- Huge challenge to realize what the high demand is for parks, and the cost of identifying and creating new parks is such a big challenge – something we’ve talked about is trying to tie park land to development in some way. Increase density, and require some land to be set aside as a pocket park. As we increase density, don’t want to lose green space. Think creatively about ways the City can proactively increase density and use that to try to make some pocket parks.
- Forgot to mention: parks can be a leader in moving away from using second generation anticoagulant rodenticides for rodent control. SGARS have infiltrated the food web have negative impacts on wildlife, pets, and sometimes children. The City's B Contract for pest control is up for renewal, would be great to have a blanket contract with a pest company that offers less-toxic rodent control services.
- Enjoyed the gaps analysis by Parks in 2017: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/2017-parks-and-open-space-plan>

Racial Reckoning:

- Wayfinding – having good signage so people feel like they can walk through the environment, even if they’re not familiar with it. Important to have an escape route in uncomfortable or dangerous situations.
- Also wayfinding and signage in multiple languages!



- Hosting or supporting activities that are led by particular affinity groups. At Seattle Audubon, we lead events with specific communities.
 - *Jessica:* Recreation for all – community-led activities throughout the city, things we'd like to see continue.

Economic Recovery:

- Instead of having volunteer stewards taking care of natural areas and doing more restoration, tend to favor folks who have the means to be volunteers, having a jobs program where a lot of those kinds of jobs have a low barrier of entry and end up paying people to do that restoration work and urban forestry work to bring in a greater diversity of folks.
- As we acquire more properties, we don't always have a commensurate amount of maintenance resources. Critical to ensure we do that. One of the ways we could tie those new sites to communities is to try to recruit people from nearby communities and ensure they're doing what they want to do. Maintenance doesn't need to be a centrally-staffed approach, goes along the same lines.
- When working from home, works for some people, but not all – I don't totally understand how equipped our facilities are to be work-flexible spaces to help people who can't necessarily support the home environment.
- When it comes to economic recovery, there's going to be a lot of balancing of priorities of where money comes to. If we're talking about moving to have more paid positions for this labor – really connecting with community to ensure that they are helping shape fiscal priorities, ensure it resonates with them.
- Recruit and hire within the communities that the parks serve, especially BIPOC youth, which relates to the racial equity pillar too, and helps create a welcoming environment for local residents
- A way to remove barriers to programs could be to partner with SDOT and Metro and advertise public transportation options to events and parks. Potentially even making a free transit day to encourage ridership and visitation. This would leverage the combined strength of the parks and transit systems so people can take advantage of both.
- Youth at high schools are required, I believe, to be involved in activity - such as Parks maintenance and youth programs.

Impacts of Climate Change:

- There are lot of lawns in developed parks, which do little mitigate heat island effects. Replace some of those lawns with trees!
- Eliminate gas powered trimmers, leaf blowers, etc.
- Adding air-conditioned facilities. There are other ways to increase energy efficiency of those facilities also, like putting on green roofs. Enhance vegetation while reducing carbon footprint.
- More trees!
- Citywide assessment of the tree planting capacity of the city, figuring out how many trees we have space for, how fast could it happen, setting aspirational goals for enhancing urban forest canopy – SPR cannot solve that problem on our own. Could be something to consider that we could do an assessment of our land and identify a strategic plan for how to meet an internal canopy cover goal for Seattle Park land.
- 100 years ago, parks were the places families had to go to cool down and be healthy. With high heat, parks with trees can be life savers. Assessment of parks – are there some parks that have abundant trees and some that are not quite so abundant? We all know the plume of cooling created by one tree



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or multiple trees can drop the outdoor temperature considerably. Great opportunity to examine for the city – but it can provide a free access for health and safety.

- Trees we currently have are important assets from climate change – stresses from drought, heat, resilience – things that need to be thought about. Other cities retain tree pathologists – need a monitoring plan for tree and pest outbreaks.
- Ballfields, uses of park land – looking at more strategically distribution of resources.

Quote(s):

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Questions/Issues Raised Requiring Follow Up:

- *From Kelly:* Does SPR interact with DirtCorps? Referring back to the economic recovery and the connection between maintenance and training of forestry and stewardship. I work for the Conservation Districts, and this morning some project managers were just talking about the difficulty in accessing sufficient supply of contractors for restoration crews.

LOB-Specific Feedback:

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Miscellaneous:

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Strategic Plan Implementation Engagement | Listening Session Notes

<i>Organization:</i>	Feet First
<i>Meeting Location/Format:</i>	Virtual
<i>Date:</i>	9/1/2021
<i>Number of Participants:</i>	6
<i>SPR Staff in Attendance:</i>	Shanyanika McElroy, Mary Beth Josef, Jesus Aguirre

Notes:

Public Health & Well-Being:

- Pedestrian accessibility in the central area, benefits of accessing parks within walking distance, more emphasis with walkability and coordinating with other agencies to tie them together
- access to public transit... increase access, many parks not on public transit
- more encouragement for safe group activities, walking parties, bird watches to proactively promote healthy habits and increase visits to the parks
- Sidewalks are uneven and need repair, many are walking in the street due to uneven surfaces and not safe. Would like to see increase in walking loops. More guidance on mask protocols within parks environments even in the outside environments
- Green Lake, due to current encampment activities, safety concerns and access to the park due to encampment barriers
- Julia Lee's park – encampment activities / safety issues prevent access. Rarely see high use there, could be some opportunities to repurpose use to perhaps affordable housing (JA – discussion about initiative 42 and limits of parks lands)

Racial Reckoning:

- Many parks named after African Americans- there needs to be something in the park explaining what the history is for park naming (? Historical reminders /Interpretive signage) and fostering cultural relevance.
- Adapting to gentrification
- Do you have a plan to identify density around greenspace, gentrification, and use equity mapping tools to inform future parks development (JA answered)

Economic Recovery:

- Concerned about our small business health and resiliency, outdoor options and walkability
- Community groups need resources to create outreach (mailings, volunteers) believe there is a missed opportunities to reach these communities due to lack of resources
- East African community – ESL barriers – access to language bank to increase communication
- Difficulty accessing translation resources and bridging cultural differences (distrust of gov, creating safe place) ? Community engagement ambassador program,

Impacts of Climate Change:

- Black community mentioned effectiveness of cooling centers. Seems to be an opportunity to expand access to cooling centers.
- Pressure to preserve the tree canopy as we continue to lose our trees due to climate changes



- Looking for guidance on pedestrian equity – is there resources that you can share with our organization on overall equity resources?
- Maintenance equipment and relationship to fossil fuels. Is there a plan to get away from fossil fuel-based equipment? (JA answered e.g. pilot)
- Will there be an increase in charging station across the system? (JA answered, yes planning is underfoot)
- Golf courses – look at data and golf not as popular as it used to be – how do we expand how to use these large spaces for other recreation use (JA confirmed that this is a robust conversation on both sides of the issue) Could we move to 9 holes for quicker play as a better model and then repurpose land

Quote(s):

- n/a

Questions/Issues Raised Requiring Follow Up:

- *Send equity resources to Rob Fellows*

LOB-Specific Feedback:

- n/a

Miscellaneous:

- Discovery park, hike the woods a lot, how do you preserve the non-motorized pathways (unpaved pathways). There's clear policy but its not communicated effectively and enforce the rules



Strategic Plan Implementation Engagement | Listening Session Notes

<i>Organization:</i>	Lake City Collective
<i>Meeting Location/Format:</i>	In-Person (outdoor) at Little Brook Park; conducted in Spanish
<i>Date:</i>	September 4, 2021
<i>Number of Participants:</i>	22
<i>SPR Staff in Attendance:</i>	Jesús Aguirre and Selena Elmer

Notes:

Public Health & Well-Being:

- SDOT Stay Healthy Street pilot in front of park has been a huge benefit for keeping kids safe and increasing access to/use of park and street
- Improve access to SPR-run activity camps: some local kids don't know how to plug in and participate
- Homelessness has posed an issue for access – for example, recently someone experiencing homelessness was using the bathroom to bathe, and SPR staff locked the bathroom as a result, meaning the community did not have access to it
- The pandemic has posed major public health impacts to kids and families
- Lake City Community Center needs adequate programming – currently, not sufficient, and not relevant to community represented by LCC
- Additionally, more programming on the street could help activate
- Concerns about access to play fields across the system – they are all booked up, which restricts community use
 - *SPR Response: All fields need community hours, and we are piloting new approaches, like leaving the new field at South Park unreservable for the first 5 years of operations to allow the community to build infrastructure and activities there before it enters the reservation system*

Racial Reckoning:

- Allocate funds directly to communities identified as high priorities to be prioritized by those communities
- Parents have noticed distinct difference between level of funding for Latinx kids in Little Brook and white kids in Lake City
- Additional City investment with a cultural component to programming would make this local park feel more welcoming
 - For example, earlier this weekend, LCC organized a street fair that was very successful because it was planned by LCC, which represents this community, and therefore it was relevant
- Little Brook is not the same as Lake City. Sometimes, organizations in Lake City reference Little Brook community so their applications for funding for projects cover a diverse population, but the results of those projects do not benefit this community, so there is appropriation taking place
- Community does not feel City Council representation for D5 supports the immigrant population
- General feeling is that the voices of all those here (in attendance at this session) have not been heard for many years
- DON and SDOT are very explicit in their external messaging about their internal process of equity, and engage community partners to support that work. SPR could learn from these examples.



Economic Recovery:

- In absence of City investment, community has been making small investments in priority areas itself (i.e., running a soccer camp at Little Brook park on a budget of only \$800)
- Community is concerned that park improvements will result in displacement and will be crowded/reserved by those who already have good access to amenities
- Believe it is unfair that this community needs to fundraise for its own park improvements – there should be a better pathway for community-identified projects to receive funding
- Desire for community partnerships in program development and deployment
- Opportunity to leverage youth programs like the Seattle Youth Employment Program to pay young people for work and build employment capacity

Impacts of Climate Change:

- Need additional green stormwater infrastructure near Little Brook Park, as there are runoff issues associated with dog poop that pollutes the creek (e-coli)
- Desire for additional access/enjoyment of the creek (in line with that enjoyed by higher-income neighborhoods along the same waterway)

Quote(s):

- “...”

Questions/Issues Raised Requiring Follow Up:

- Last time Jesús visited, there was a discussion of putting up more prominent signage regarding appropriate cleanup after dogs in parks, has not happened
- Maintenance concerns raised at the park – maintenance staff not emptying garbage, no new woodchips at the play area
- How are park projects decided/prioritized/built? What does a community need to do to get on that list?

LOB-Specific Feedback:

- Recreation Programming: community-informed, culturally relevant programs are needed
- Grounds Maintenance: maintenance issues at Little Brook park – garbage emptying, woodchips, signage

Miscellaneous:

- Community members do not have time to go to public meetings, nor do they know about the right meetings to attend. They are tired of finding time to attend and not seeing results of advocacy.
- Can be very challenging to get the City’s attention
- SPR needs to come to where community is to connect, not expect community to come to us
- The use of the park by dog owners in the adjacent apartment means kids don’t play in the park anymore: dog poop everywhere, recently one resident shaved his dog on a play structure and just left the dog hair all over the place
- Desire for more ticketing for dog owners who do not obey leash and scoop laws
- Smoking in the park has also been an issue
- Desire for a pool in Lake City (Meadowbrook is a one-hour walk, not convenient to this community, and Little Brook is extremely dense)



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- Community desire for an ongoing connection with a human being, not just online contact or 2-minute public comment at Park Board meetings



Strategic Plan Implementation Engagement | Listening Session Notes

<i>Organization:</i>	Seattle Immigrant & Refugee Commission
<i>Meeting Location/Format:</i>	Virtual – Zoom
<i>Date:</i>	September 7, 2021
<i>Number of Participants:</i>	13
<i>SPR Staff in Attendance:</i>	Danyal Lotfi; BPR Commissioner Marlon Herrera

Notes:

Public Health & Well-Being:

- Culturally-relevant programming at parks and facilities
- Accessibility to/from parks by transit
- Clean and functioning public restrooms
- Unhoused community needs to be a higher priority
 - How do we better share the public space; how do we better address this issue as a system?
- Better upkeep of facilities and amenities (trash pickup, etc)

Racial Reckoning:

- Ensuring our outreach and engagement is equitable and focused on those most marginalized
- Including an immigrant/refugee integration effort in our Strategic Plan; working with these communities to develop plans/programs
- Provide essential gear for youth in our programs (rain protection, boots, sun block, etc)
- SPR should consider neighborhood demographics when doing outreach
- Equity means to take resources away from certain things and put them toward other things; this is the realistic outlook that SPR should ground itself in
 - Redistribution of resources, not just from things that are not working, but programs/services that may be working in an inequitable way for Seattle residents

Economic Recovery:

- Creating more opportunities for job readiness for BIPOC communities; the trades field does not reflect the community very well
- Parks in Seattle mean a great deal to our immigrants and refugees, especially new arrivals
 - Emmanuel (Commissioner): As a refugee who has gone through so much for 10 years, fleeing my own country with many struggles, finding myself in a Seattle park is great opportunity to heal and reflect
- +1 to SPR participation in the Seattle Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Impacts of Climate Change:

- We should coordinate with other city departments on addressing climate challenges, especially in areas that have seen the biggest impact
- Using parks planning as a way to prevent gentrification
- More community gardens!! Especially ones reflecting the communities they are in (their culture, way of life, etc)



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- Incorporating more drought-resistant plants and greenery (thinking of clover lawns instead of regular grass for example)

Quote(s):

- *“Parks are a place for healing trauma”*

Questions/Issues Raised Requiring Follow Up:

- *What are the ways in which we support job readiness?*
 - *Community seems less educated on this*

LOB-Specific Feedback:

- Shout out to SPR for in-person outreach at South Park recently
 - Presumably, the CEAs?

Miscellaneous:

- Increased partnerships with other agencies in the City; having a mobile library at parks, for example
- Improving safety at parks, especially by better maintaining our restrooms



Strategic Plan Implementation Engagement | Listening Session Notes

<i>Organization:</i>	Women’s Commission
<i>Meeting Location/Format:</i>	Webex - online
<i>Date:</i>	September 20, 2021
<i>Number of Participants:</i>	13
<i>BPRC Facilitators:</i>	Andréa Akita and Jessica Vu
<i>SPR Staff in Attendance:</i>	Selena Elmer

Notes:

Public Health & Well-Being:

- People have definitely been meeting at parks – most utilized place for everyone I know – difficulty of getting a picnic shelter – utilization of parks throughout different seasons – ability to increase them would be great
- Fitness classes that are outdoors could be increased – hand in hand with more shelters
- Super relevant – I think about who I see when I go out to the parks – I bought a paddleboard during the pandemic – but these aren’t cheap things to buy, not the most accessible; having availability of water toys to rent, or credit system to get people out there so they’re not overburdened by the cost of the activity
- Potentially opportunities to address childcare deficits through summer camps, school break camps, etc.
- Resident of South Seattle – our parks are a little different than up north – maybe
- South Park work – encourage marginalized communities to not eat resident fish – helping learn to prepare salmon – cooking classes or something like that – awesome & culturally relevant way to reach people
- More partnerships with other groups, orgs, preschools to increase childcare and family programming opportunities in both parks and facilities
- And a way to help existing childcare providers to have access to enriching outdoors
- Accessibility to public bathrooms and drinking fountains

Racial Reckoning:

- Hiring & recruitment – having teachers that look like you is very important
- Not necessarily having to go big – healthy streets – putting parks where people are, even microparks – small plots of land
- Have you built relationships with BIPOC-led organizations – reach out to organizations and invite them to our meetings, be a better way to build relationships – more concerned about health initiatives – for Black community and elsewhere – give employees have more of a presence at parks to help keep it clean, security for people to feel a little more safe – sometimes people are living at the parks
- Roadshow or small business communities day by BIPOC businesses
- Hosting during spring, summer fall seasons: African American community day; Hispanic community day
- To build racial equity - doing more of this - engaging with different groups of folks to share info, solicit input, making the process for BIPOC communities to be involved in planning/implementation easier and uplifting/supporting/funding what BIPOC communities are already doing instead of bringing them into your processes/systems



Economic Recovery:

- Are there fee reductions or waivers for some programs and services? like for community groups, nonprofits, etc.
- Implementing sliding scale fees, scholarships for classes, waive fees
- More scholarships, costs reduced, offer childcare for some folks – often a barrier to engagement
- Opportunity for improved signage, also put resources on how to get there at each park – here's a map, and here's where you can find x,y,z thing
- Ensuring classes, facilities, etc. are well connected to public transportation
- Reach out to older people, part-time, light-weight stuff to keep older folks involved – young people and older people connect a little bit more, would be great
- Create paid internship programs with young people from different communities
- Might be a way to both solicit information from the community on what they would like to have (like small businesses or services) and then coordinate training to support first-time-business owners in creating those things?

Impacts of Climate Change:

- Community gardens! – adding more
- Using permaculture methods, rain catchment systems.
- More trees and green spaces in our areas that don't have as much. more p-patches. more educational opportunities, more partnerships/uplifting existing org's and group's work
- Grass – water it requires – have more sustainable surfaces, use recycled infrastructure and materials, and then use signage to talk about that for materials
- Increase in waste at parks – not enough spaces for things to throw people away – assuming that's been an issue
- Fall & winter – park usage, expect it to go down? Implementing in the spring?
- teaching self-sufficiency through urban farming